

# Coalition for Juvenile Justice National Awards



June 11, 2015  
Washington, DC

*Each year, Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) leaders, members, and allies gather to recognize and celebrate individuals who exemplify excellence, dedication, and commitment to CJJ's core mission to reform the juvenile justice system and improve the lives of children, families, and communities nationwide. CJJ hopes these outstanding individuals inspire others to serve their communities with the same distinction.*



# Spirit of Youth Award

*Give light and people will find the way.*

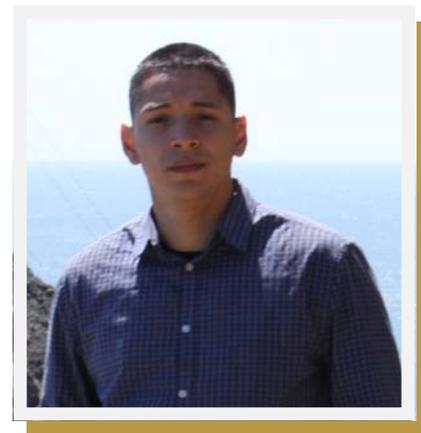
*- Ella Baker*

**CJJ's 2015 Spirit of Youth Award is presented to Raul Antonio Barreto of California for his personal triumphs, professional achievements, and extraordinary service to others.**

The Spirit of Youth Award is given annually by CJJ to recognize and celebrate a young adult, under the age of 28, who made great strides after involvement with the juvenile justice system and is now making significant contributions to society.

This award offers the opportunity to learn from a young person's experience about the hard work and dedication it takes to build a better life, and how those in the juvenile justice system and at the community level can help. Each year, CJJ's National Youth Committee coordinates, reviews, and selects the recipient the award.

Raul Barreto embodies the true essence of a Spirit of Youth awardee. With prior involvement in both the juvenile and criminal justice systems, he uses this life experience to better serve his work and community.



"Raul Barreto has completely transformed his life and is paving a better, safer path for those who follow him," says Dan Seaver, Founder of Manifestworks. Mr. Seaver nominated Mr. Barreto for this award: "Because of the title of the award: The Spirit of Youth. Raul has that spirit and he is amazing in the way that he impacts people."

Since his release, Mr. Barreto has completed job training in areas such as solar panel installation and commercial, TV, and film production. He has attended Los Angeles Community College and he currently works as a production coordinator for 9Blocks, a Los Angeles-based film production company.

Mr. Barreto has found time, on top of these personal commitments, to make a difference in the lives of young people. He volunteers as a counselor for camping trips with children at risk for gang involvement. He visits probation camps and prisons nationally to talk to incarcerated young men and women. He also participates in Inside Out Writers, an organization working to reduce the juvenile recidivism rate using creative writing as a catalyst for personal transformation, and at Manifestworks, a workforce development organization and a media-oriented social enterprise.

For the last two years, Mr. Barreto has been one of the most active members of Los Angeles' Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC). In 2014, he researched and co-authored the Children's Defense Fund report on the status of juvenile incarceration in Los Angeles County.

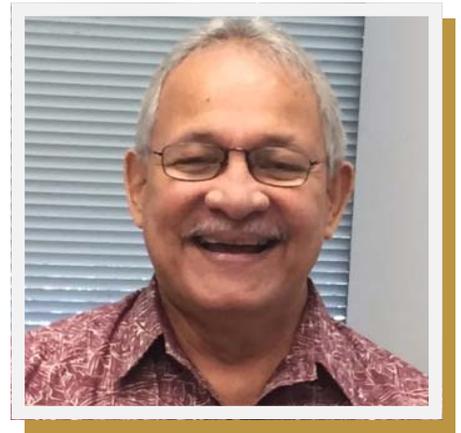
Mr. Seaver says, "If you are looking to recognize someone doing the work for systems change, Raul Barreto is your man. He is the embodiment of what CJJ champions."

# Tony Gobar Outstanding Juvenile Justice Specialist Award

CJJ's 2015 Tony Gobar Outstanding National Juvenile Justice Specialist Award is presented to Edward B. Chargualaf of Hawaii, for his leadership through service and for reminding us all that every child is indeed special.

With this award, CJJ recognizes a State Juvenile Justice Specialist who exemplifies excellence in service to others, is dedicated to improving the juvenile justice system, and demonstrates compassion and concern.

Edward B. Chargualaf has served as a Juvenile Justice Specialist for 25 years. He frequently uses his own experiences growing up in Guam, with his exposure to various island cultures, to further his work with those who are impacted by, and those who care about, improving Hawaii's juvenile justice system.



"Ed is keenly aware of the powerful role that culture plays in strengthening our youth, families, and communities," says David Hipp, Executive Director of the Office of Youth Services in Hawaii. "This sensitivity is critical to how he carries out his duties as the state's Juvenile Justice Specialist [and has] resulted in the planning and implementation of programs and services that reflect and integrate a culturally-based, trauma informed approach grounded in practicality and usefulness."

Mr. Chargualaf has dedicated his career to serving youth with a focus on improving the juvenile justice system. Working with the Hawaii Office of Youth Services, he was deeply involved in the pilot implementation of a culturally-sensitive juvenile arrest diversion program. He has been a leader in pursuing and obtaining grants to support technical assistance and training for Hawaii's law enforcement and youth correctional officers. These trainings focus on issues such as implicit bias, adolescent brain development research, and the importance of taking a developmental approach to interactions with youth.



*This award is named for Tony Gobar, a longtime Juvenile Justice Specialist from Mississippi. He was honored posthumously by CJJ in 2004 for his exemplary service in the field of juvenile justice reform. He was known for his selflessness, his dedication to his community, and his unceasing compassion for youth.*

*We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.*

*- Dakota Proverb*

Jay Kimura, Chair of Hawaii's State Advisory Group, says, "Ed embodies excellence in service in many ways. First, he is a living example of empathy, active listening, and caring interactions with youth and families, community-based programs, and government partners. Ed is the one who sets the tone at meetings, creating connections between new migrant families, service providers, and government agencies charged with serving the needs of youth who are struggling to make the transition to life in Hawaii. He invites us to a place of common understanding."

Most recently, Mr. Chargualaf has taken the lead in supporting the State Advisory Group's work on disproportionate minority contact (DMC) and the relationship between school disciplinary practices and contact with the juvenile justice system. He is often the lead in discussions that focus on training for School Resource Officers (SRO)s and how SROs can work with school administrators and staff to identify and support the needs of struggling students. Last year, he initiated the Community Youth Justice Program which awards grants to informal community organizations that often find it difficult to secure state funding.

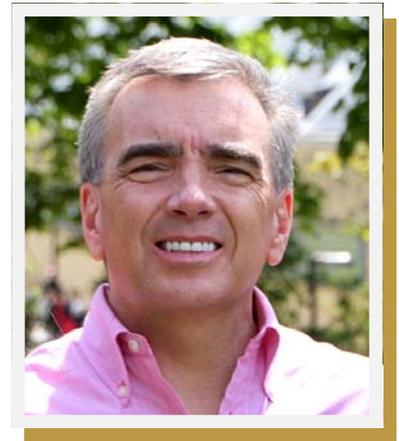
Mr. Kimura summarizes Mr. Chargualaf's contribution to juvenile justice in Hawaii, "He demonstrates persistence and perseverance to make a way when a clear path does not exist. His compassion and concern for the children of Hawaii and their advocates is evident in his words and actions."

# A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award

**The 2015 A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award is presented to Judge Michael J. Mayer of Minnesota for being a champion of youth with courage, compassion, and commitment.**

This award is presented annually by CJJ to an individual who makes outstanding contributions to youth, the improvement of juvenile justice, and in the broader area of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

Judge Michael J. Mayer is a Juvenile Court Judge in the First Judicial District of Minnesota. He has served as a member of the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (State Advisory Group) since 1995. He has served as the Chair of the SAG and presently serves as Vice Chair. He also sits on the CJJ Executive Board as Chair of the Midwest Region



Karen Henke, a veteran juvenile prosecutor, in her letter supporting Judge Mayer, said: "I have always respected his dedication to seek justice and to reach children ... his compassion is palpable in court."

Linda Hayes, a former CJJ board member and past recipient of the A.L. Carlisle Award, describes Judge Mayer as, "always [using] great judgment in his decisions. [He is] willing to ponder the points, hear everyone else's thoughts, and then come to the best decision for children."

In 2009, Judge Mayer and the Minnesota State Advisory Group convinced legislators to pass a statewide disproportionate minority contact policy. In 2014, they convened a forum on incarcerated youth sentencing practices and the need to make changes to state law. The forum resulted in a statewide push for the elimination of juvenile life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In addition to his duties on the bench, Judge Mayer chairs the Eliminating Racial Disparities Committee for the Juvenile Court and sits on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Executive Committee. He served as the Chair of the Juvenile Court Process Committee in an effort to streamline the court process to get children and families in and out of court as quickly as possible. Judge Mayer serves on the Board of Tree House, an organization aimed at helping at-risk youth and youth who are suffering from mental health and chemical dependency issues.



*This award is named in honor of A.L. Carlisle, CJJ's founding force. "She was a volunteer activist who strived to ensure that the nation's most troubled and vulnerable children would have secure futures. She served as the first CJJ National Chair and Northeast Regional Chair from 1979 through 1987. The saying goes that, in its formative years, "the national coalition was run out of A.L.'s kitchen in Maine!"*

*Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.*

*- Garrison Keillor*

Judge Mayer is an active member of Easter Lutheran Church, where he serves as a mentor for youth in the confirmation process. He gives presentations to his congregation and community about the consequences of juvenile records and young people who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

Carrie Wasley, the Juvenile Justice Specialist for Minnesota, says: "Mike has always been accessible to everyone and this attribute is particularly critical when dealing with youth. He is more than approachable [and] he has the ability to sit down and relate to kids [who tend to] open up to him, trust him, and are willing to listen to him. He talks to them in their language and looks them in the eye when speaking to them. [His] guiding light is the desire to do what is best and fair for the children impacted by his decisions."



1319 F Street NW, Suite 402  
Washington, DC 20004  
P: 202.467.0864  
F: 202.887.0738

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