

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2014



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THE COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE NAMES MARIE N. WILLIAMS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) has announced that Marie N. Williams, J.D. has been named the new Executive Director. As Executive Director, she will be responsible for the execution of CJJ's strategic goals, cultivating external relations, and fundraising and resource development. Ms. Williams will lead CJJ as it celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2014.

"I am thrilled to welcome Marie to her new role," said CJJ National Chair Alfred Martin, Ph.D. "It was important that CJJ chose an Executive Director that not only would hit the ground running, but one who also shares in the coalition's long term vision where fewer children are at risk of delinquency; and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. I know Marie has the strength, vision, and insight to lead CJJ in a new and exciting direction in the years to come."

Ms. Williams has served as Interim Executive Director since the departure of longtime Executive Director Nancy Gannon Hornberger in August. Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, she served as Deputy Director and Director of State Strategies and was responsible for developing, managing and implementing nationwide initiatives in juvenile justice leadership and reform with CJJ's state members and partners across all 56 states, territories, and DC. She is also the project director for the CJJ on status offender reform project, and ushered the launch of the recently released *National Standards for the Care of Youth Charged with Status Offenses*.

"We are particularly pleased that Ms. Williams will lead CJJ as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and the 40th Anniversary of the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act," said Susan Kamp, Chair of the Search Committee and Vermont State Advisory Group member. "We had many qualified applicants from all over the country and Ms. Williams was clearly the best choice for CJJ."

Prior to her work with CJJ, Ms. Williams amassed over a decade's experience in public policy including lobbying for a variety of social justice causes as part of a boutique Washington DC

consulting firm, acting as a senior lobbyist and Deputy Director of Affiliate Development at NARAL Pro-Choice America, and a policy writer for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform. Ms. Williams received her B.A. from Vassar College, and her J.D. from George Washington University's National Law Center. She is active in a number of volunteer efforts, including acting as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children in the District of Columbia and a volunteer mediator in Prince George's County, Maryland.

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The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) envisions a nation where fewer children are at risk of delinquency; and if they are at risk or involved with the justice system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. CJJ is a nationwide coalition of State Advisory Groups (SAGs) and allies dedicated to preventing children and youth from becoming involved in the courts and upholding the highest standards of care when youth are charged with wrongdoing and enter the justice system.