



Coalition for Juvenile Justice
2021 Awards Luncheon

Nov. 3, 2021 - 12:00 p.m., Mountain



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.

CJJ is honored to present the 2021 Andrew Smith Award to William Jernigan of Maryland. This award recognizes the legacy of Andrew Smith who made significant impacts as a Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator and was the creator of the Mirror Project, an effort to bring together law enforcement and youth. This award is given annually to an individual that continues Mr. Smith's legacy.



William Jernigan, 2021 Andrew Smith Award Recipient

This year's awardee is William Jernigan who serves as the Statewide Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator and Director for Prevention Strategies at the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services in Maryland. He also serves on CJJ's Executive Board as National Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator.

While serving in his position as a Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator for the State of Maryland, William has provided training and built awareness about R/ED within his state's youth legal system, and across the country. He has helped the field increase their focus on root causes such as Adverse Childhood Experiences and the impact of trauma.

William Jernigan

2021 Andrew Smith Award Recipient

Earlier in his career, William served as a Caseworker at the Baltimore City Department of Social Services. Many of the young people William worked with regarded him as a mentor and someone to model themselves after. In her nomination form, Maryland Juvenile Justice Specialist, Jessica Wheeler, stated that young people who William worked with as a caseworker continue to contact him, asking for guidance and support. He takes every call.

William serves as a mentor to those he works with in his current role as well. He has provided guidance and assisted with professional development for junior level staff and new Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinators across the country.

William is committed to addressing the systemic racism that exists in the youth legal system. He is committed to creating and developing new ideas to help move the field forward and create better, more equitable outcomes for young people in Maryland and across the country. William Jernigan embodies Andrew Smith's legacy and it is an honor to present him with this year's award.

Past Awardees

2020 - Anna Lopez, Colorado

2019 - Andrew Smith, posthumously, New Hampshire