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## CJJ Applauds ELC Chair, Aaron Toleafoa, and his Testimony Before Congress!

On Tuesday, May 13th, CJJ's [Emerging Leaders Committee](#) Chair, Aaron Toleafoa, testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. He was joined by Bryan Stevenson the Executive Director for [Equal Justice Initiative](#), Marsha Levick the Chief Legal Officer for [Juvenile Law Center](#), Brett Peterson the Director for [Utah's Division of Juvenile Justice Services](#), and Jessica Vaughan the Director of Policy Studies for the [Center for Immigration Studies](#), for a panel entitled "[Juvenile Justice Pipeline and the Road Back to Integration](#)."



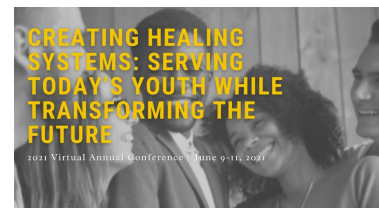
Aaron talked about the importance of job training programs, housing supports and other related services to ensure that young people are able to get back on track and be successful. Without these supports, he told Congress, young people may exit to homelessness or cycle back into the system. "[I]t's almost as if we're hoping for a flower to bloom in a dark room," he said.

Aaron has dedicated himself to becoming a better person while in the youth legal system and serving time at Green Hill School in Washington State. He says he's committed to helping other young people also find a better course for themselves. As part of that work, he has helped pass two bills in his home state of Washington to ensure that young people are able to remain in youth facilities instead of being sent to adult prisons.

To watch Aaron and the other witnesses' powerful testimonies, click [here](#).

## Early Registration for CJJ's 2021 Annual Conference Ends Soon

Don't miss out! CJJ's 2021 Annual Conference, "[Creating Healing Systems: Serving Today's Youth While Transforming the Future](#)" will be held virtually on **June 9th - June 11th**.



**All content will be recorded and available for participants to view at their leisure for up to one year after the event.**

**Early registration ends May 31st.** To register for the conference, click [here](#).

A draft of the conference agenda can be viewed [here](#).

Early Bird Registration  
Now - May 31

\$200/ Member  
\$250/ Non-Member  
\$95/ Student

Regular Registration  
June 1 - June 8

\$250/ Member  
\$300/ Non-Member  
\$100/ Student

## Congratulations to CJJ's 2021 Annual Award Recipients



**Marcy Mistrett  
(Washington,  
D.C.)**



**Callie Hargett  
(Minnesota)**



**Kyla Woods  
(Washington,  
D.C.)**

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) is honored to recognize leaders in the youth justice field during our [annual awards luncheon](#) on June 10th from 12:40pm-2pm Eastern. The ceremony will take place during [CJJ's 2021 virtual annual conference](#). **This year's awardees are:**

- The [A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Awardee](#) is **Marcy Mistrett**, Senior Fellow at The Sentencing Project. As co-chair of the Act4JJ Coalition, Marcy helped spearhead the reauthorization of the JJDP, the primary federal legislation on youth justice in the U.S.
- The [Tony Gobar Outstanding National Juvenile Justice Specialist Awardee](#) is **Callie Hargett**, National Juvenile Justice Specialist for Minnesota. Additionally, Callie also performs the roles of Minnesota's Compliance Monitor and R/ED Coordinator. She is truly a leader and role-model in her field.
- The [Spirit of Youth Awardee](#) is **Kyla Woods**, Co-Chair for Youth Leaders in Action. Kyla is a community organizer who has served as the District's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Fellow for almost two years.

Each year, CJJ leaders, members and allies gather to recognize and celebrate individuals who exemplify excellence, dedication, and commitment to CJJ's core mission to improve the youth justice system and create better outcomes for youth, families, and communities. We are excited to continue that tradition this year.

To view the 2021 Awards Booklet click [here](#). To view the conference agenda and/or register for the 2021 conference, click [here](#).

**Register Now for CJJ's 2021 Youth**

# Summit

Join us **August 9th-10th** in **Tacoma, Washington** for CJJ's 2021 Youth Summit, "[Curating Brighter Futures: Paving the Way for the Next Generation.](#)"

Each year, CJJ's Youth Summit brings together young people from across the country who are interested in juvenile justice reform. The summit aims to cultivate and empower the next generation of leaders by providing them with the tools they need to leverage their passion and lived expertise. Participants will learn about juvenile justice policy and have the opportunity to delve into key topics in the field. The summit's theme, agenda, and content are created by the [CJJ Emerging Leaders Committee](#).



We are excited to be joined by Nell Bernstein, the author of [Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison](#), for this year's summit.

**Attendees will have the option to travel in person to Tacoma, Washington OR enjoy the conference virtually via livestream.**

**In person attendance is limited.** The summit will take place at the [Hotel Murano](#). To make hotel reservations, click [here](#).

To register for the summit, click [here](#). A draft of the agenda can be viewed [here](#).

Early Bird Registration  
Now - May 30

\$80/ Member  
\$95/ Non-Member  
\$50/ Virtual

Regular Registration  
May 31 - Jun 30

\$95/ Member  
\$110/ Non-Member  
\$50/ Virtual

Late Registration  
Jul 1 - Jul 31

\$110/ Member  
\$130/ Non-Member  
\$50/ Virtual

## Join us for CJJ's Racial and Ethnic Disparities Conference

CJJ's 2021 R/ED Conference, "[A Call for Justice: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities](#)" will take place at the [Omni Louisville Hotel](#) in **Louisville, Kentucky** on **November 1st - 3rd**.

- To register for the conference click [here](#).
- To make your hotel reservations click [here](#).
- To view a draft of the agenda click [here](#).



**NOTE: Registration is limited. All registrants will be asked to pre-register for workshops to ensure social distancing.**

### Unsure about traveling?

Choose our livestream registration option to receive virtual access to a limited conference agenda including, conference plenaries, the awards ceremony, and one workshop session per time slot. To register for our livestream click [here](#).

Early Bird Registration  
Now - July 31

\$295/ Member  
\$425/ Non-Member

Regular Registration  
Aug 1 - Oct 11

\$325/ Member  
\$455/ Non-Member

Late Registration  
Oct 12 - Nov 1

\$355/ Member  
\$485/ Non-Member

\$150/ Student Member  
\$200/ Student Non-Member

\$200/ Student Member  
\$250/ Student Non-Member

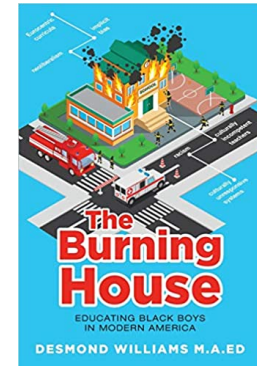
\$250/ Student Member  
\$300/ Student Non-Member

## Join CJJ's Book Club

### Second Quarter:

Join us **Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 3pm-4pm Eastern** for a conversation with Desmond Williams about his book, [The Burning House: Educating Black Boys in Modern America](#), which confronts issues pertaining to Black boys from the perspective of a teacher, principal, parent, and concerned citizen.

To purchase the book click [here](#). To register to join click [here](#).



### Third Quarter:

Join us **Monday, August 2, 2021 from 3pm-4pm Eastern** for a conversation with author Sherri Jefferson about her book, [The Houses That Raise Our Girls](#), which is a smart and practical examination of the 6Ps (parents, pastors, principals, police, prosecutors and prison) that house girls in America.

To purchase the book click [here](#). To register to join click [here](#).



### Fourth Quarter:

Join us **Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 4pm-5pm Eastern** for a conversation with author Daphne Robinson about her book, [Delinquent: How the American Juvenile Justice System is Failing Black Children](#), which focuses on the racial and ethnic issues surrounding the youth justice system and what we as professionals can do today to reduce the number of black youths arrested tomorrow.

To purchase the book click [here](#). To register to join click [here](#).



**Become A CJJ  
Member!**

[Click here to learn more  
about CJJ memberships.](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

### Raising the Bar on R/ED Collaborations

**Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 3pm-4pm ET**

Building local partnerships within the community is an essential part of youth justice. However, awareness around Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) is limited due to funding and other challenges. Join us on July 8th to discuss innovative solutions to extend local partnerships and further collaborations to advance awareness and reduce R/ED within the justice system.





**Presenters:**

*William Jernigan*, Director of Prevention Strategies and Maryland's Statewide R/ED Coordinator

*Anna Lopez*, Division of Criminal Justice and Colorado's Statewide R/ED Coordinator

*Craig Hargrow*, Deputy Executive Director and Tennessee's Statewide R/ED Coordinator

This webinar is free for CJJ members. To become a member click [here](#).  
To register for this webinar click [here](#).

**Rebuilding Positive Relationships Between Justice System Professionals, Youth, and Communities**

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 3pm-4pm ET**

Join us for a conversation on the importance of building and maintaining positive relationships between law enforcement, child-serving agency practitioners, youth, and communities. Positive relationships can serve to eliminate implicit biases in decision making and foster empathy. This webinar will discuss how rebuilding these relationships can ultimately work towards accomplishing our main goal of keeping youth out of the justice system.

**Presenters:**

*Jill Ruggiero*, Co-Founder, We Are the Gatekeepers, Inc.

*Andre Parker*, Co-Founder, We Are the Gatekeepers, Inc.

This webinar is free for CJJ members. To become a member click [here](#).  
To register for this webinar click [here](#).

## Federal Update:

The week of April 26th, members of the House introduced a package of three youth justice and child welfare bills. These bills include:

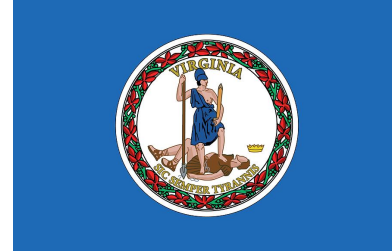
- [HR 2834](#), was introduced by Rep. Tony Cardenas (D-CA) and aims to provide improved Miranda protections and other protections for young people who are being interrogated.
- [HR 2908](#), was introduced by Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) and would amend the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act. The bill sets a minimum age of 12 for federal jurisdiction, a minimum age for transfer of 16, and prohibits direct file for young people who are facing charges in the federal courts. The bill also includes grant incentives for states that improve collaboration between their child welfare and youth legal systems.
- [HR 2858](#), was introduced by Rep. Bruce Westermen (R-AR) and aims to end extreme sentences for children in federal court.

The [Coalition for Juvenile Justice](#) (CJJ) has joined with the [Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth](#) (CFSY), [Anti-Recidivism Coalition](#), [Human Rights for Kids](#), [National Juvenile Justice Network](#) (NJJN), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Rights4Girls](#), and [The National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition](#) (NJJDPC) in supporting these bills.

## Member Spotlight: Virginia

Since the passage of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, which reauthorized the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice

Services (DCJS) has continued to develop strategies for compliance with the JJDP.



DCJS first focused its attention on the new requirements for the valid court order (VCO) exception prohibiting the detention of youth charged with status offenses. With the assistance of the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), DCJS convened a workgroup consisting of representatives from several child-serving state agencies, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES). The workgroup was charged with focusing on the following major areas: data gathering, legislation, outreach, awareness, and Title II funding.

Using statewide data, DCJS provided technical assistance to local court service units to assist in the development of alternative interventions for youth charged with status offenses, both through Title II funding opportunities and in the context of the stakeholder roundtable discussions.

During the 2020 Virginia General Assembly session, Virginia was successful in passing legislation. [House Bill 1437](#) strengthened Virginia's VCO exception requirement. This legislation mirrors some of the changes to the VCO exception in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018.

Virginia has also embarked on two new Title II-funded initiatives that address racial and ethnic disparities. In the fall of 2019, Charlottesville Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court participated in the 5-day certificate program conducted by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, entitled "[Transforming Juvenile Probation](#)." Charlottesville has initiated a series of virtual meetings with local and state stakeholders. The goal is to build a collective purpose and create momentum around probation transformation endeavors. The meetings will cover five sessions: Introduction, Understanding the Current Landscape, Purpose of Probation, a Deeper Dive into Probation Practices, and Maintaining Focus on Race and Equity in Juvenile Justice.

In addition to the Charlottesville Project, DCJS has provided Title II funding to support the [Virginia Department of Education's](#) (VDOE) "Push Out Initiative." In recent years, Virginia data has shown that while Black girls make up about 25% of the female student population, they accounted for 57% of the referrals to law enforcement. In order to address the disparate discipline rate, VDOE was awarded funds to pilot an alternative suspension program for Black females in three school districts. It is expected that this project will reduce the number of Black female students receiving suspensions and/or referrals to law enforcement or court services. Additionally, VDOE believes that this project will increase teachers' overall satisfaction in their working conditions and environment by creating a systemic collaboration process among community agencies.

## **New Breakthrough Series Collaborative on Transforming the Youth Justice System**

The [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) (CJJR) at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, in partnership with the [Center for Children's Law and Policy](#) (CCLP), has released a '**Request for Applications**' for a new program: [Transforming the Youth Justice System: Promoting Equity, Community, and Wellbeing for Youth of Color Breakthrough Series Collaborative \(BSC\)](#).

This BSC is designed to address issues of racial equity and justice for youth who are involved or are at risk of becoming involved with the youth justice system. The BSC methodology is aimed at helping jurisdictions impact the disparities youth of color experience in the youth justice system by shifting the long-standing differentials in power that exist in the system improvement process – rebalancing that power to give equal weight to youth, families and communities as improvements are considered and ultimately adopted.

In this regard, participating jurisdictions will be required to partner with communities most deeply impacted by the system as they develop, test, and implement evidence-informed strategies for diversion and other community-based alternatives and approaches. This is not just a training or planning initiative, it will require jurisdictions to move into action as they test practice and process changes in real time across six domains over an 18-month time period. The use of the BSC methodology is particularly critical to achieving the goals of this program, as it allows for ideas to grow from the community, youth, and family-level to system-level policies and practices.

Additionally, selected teams will participate in a weeklong Certificate Program exploring issues related to race, equity, and socioeconomic disparities.

**Participants in this Certificate Program will receive an official Georgetown University Executive Certificate.**

To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).

Two **informational webinars** will be held on **June 8, 2021 at 1 pm ET and July 12, 2021 at 1 pm ET**. While attending the webinars is not required, we recommend interested jurisdictions to participate. To register for the June 8th webinar, click [here](#). To register for the July 12th webinar, click [here](#).

The BSC application can be found [here](#) and is due **August 20, 2021** by midnight of the applicant's time zone.

If you have any questions about this BSC, please contact CJJR's Deputy Director for Multi-System Operations, Macon Stewart at [macon.stewart@georgetown.edu](mailto:macon.stewart@georgetown.edu).

## Would You Like to Blog for CJJ?

CJJ is looking for bloggers for [CJJ Today](#) to author stories and posts about juvenile justice. We're particularly interested in stories from [State Advisory Group members](#) or staff, [CJJ individual](#) or [youth members](#), and [CJJ organizational members](#), about issues at the state or local level, interesting programs or approaches, and perspectives about the course of juvenile justice reform at the local or state level. We also welcome blog posts from other juvenile justice system stakeholders. Blog posts can be between 400-750 words in length. Click [here](#) to see our other guidelines for blogs.



Suggested topics could include:

- School to Prison Pipeline
- Girls in the Juvenile Justice System
- Remedying Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Adolescent Brain Development
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Status Offenses
- Family and Youth Involvement
- Promising Practices or Program Spotlights

## Events and Trainings

National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (NCYOJ) announced a virtual train-the-trainer event June 7 - July 26 for individuals to become Certified Trainers in Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice (MHT-JJ). Click [here](#) to learn more.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) will hold their 84th Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO, July 18 - 21, 2021. Click [here](#) to register.

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) will host their 44th National Child Welfare Law Conference virtually and in Denver, CO on Aug. 13 - Aug. 17. Click [here](#) to learn more and/or to register.

## New Publications and Resources

The Alliance for Resource Equity created three new toolkits:

- [The Education Combination: End Inequity, Unlock Opportunities.](#)
- [Diagnostic: Understanding the State of Education Resource Equity in your Community.](#)
- [Guidebooks: Explore Underlying Causes and How to Make Change in your System.](#)

The Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) released, [Juvenile Arrests, 2019](#).

The Black Public Defender Association (BPDA) released, [Disrupting Carceral Systems: BPDA's Recommendations to the Biden-Harris Administration](#).

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the State Justice Institute (SJI) launched an all-new [Bench Card Resource Center](#).

The Urban Institute released the report, [Transforming Juvenile Probation: Restructuring Probation Terms to Promote Success](#).

Bellwether Education Partners released a new publication, [Investing in Healthy Transitions to Adulthood: The Role of Schools](#).

The Leadership Conference Education Fund released a [Police Don't Belong in Schools](#) video and toolkit.

## Jobs and Opportunities

The Columbia Justice Lab, within the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at [Columbia University](#), seeks to hire a Staff Associate I (SA) to work with the Emerging Adult Justice Project (EAJP). To view and/or apply to this position click [here](#).

**CJJ invites you to share news from your  
SAG, organization, state, or region!  
Inclusion and editing of submissions are  
subject to CJJ editorial guidelines.**

[Contact the Editor](#)

The Juvenile Justice Monitor is brought to you by staff and volunteer leaders of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and supported by membership fees paid by CJJ's State Advisory Group Members, Members at Large, Organizational Members, and allies. We are grateful to all for their ongoing support.

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