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*50th Anniversary Event celebrants toast the JJC*

Dear alumni,

Greetings from the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative! **This year, we welcomed the 52<sup>nd</sup> class of students into the JJC family. We are still feeling the excitement, joy, and love you all showed at our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and for your years of support for the work we do. Thank you to all who were there in person and in spirit.**

Building on a foundation that is a half-century old, this year's students continue to provide the exemplary representation for which the JJC has become nationally and internationally recognized. In the face of systems and bureaucracies that seem to be designed to further the interests of adults rather than the needs of children, our students continue to fiercely advocate for the rights and interests of our clients in the courtroom, in the classroom, and beyond. And while our clients are still children and deserve to be treated as such in the eyes of the law, we continue to marvel at their wisdom, tenacity, and resilience. They are too often required to take on the weight of responsibilities and experiences far beyond their years but persistently rise to the challenge. Our students and clients continue to inspire us, and we are honored to have the opportunity to work alongside them every day.



*JJC team and Dean Treanor at 50th Anniversary Event*

Consistent with national trends, DC itself has witnessed a 35% reduction in violent crime this year to date. Notwithstanding this decrease, too many politicians continue to scapegoat our children and propose drastic legislative measures to increase their surveillance, detention, incarceration, and punishment. Fortunately, there are many colleagues, partners, and District residents who recognize that significant mental health challenges, great anxiety, persistent intra-family loss and trauma, educational gaps, poverty, and systemic racism are the real drivers of crime. Together we are working hard outside the courtroom to push back on false narratives and advocate for solutions that address these root causes, promote thriving children and communities, and ensure a lasting and just blueprint for safety.

We have also deepened the impact of our racial justice work by continuing to train and support youth defenders locally, regionally, and nationally. In June of this year, we hosted our week-long **Youth Defender Advocacy Program (YDAP) Summer Academy**, in partnership with the Gault Center. Through the Summer Academy, we invite leading youth defense experts to join us in training over forty front-line defenders from across the country. New and experienced defenders learn innovative strategies that incorporate the unique aspects of representing youth in delinquency cases. Summer Academy increases defenders' racial justice advocacy skills and builds community that lasts long after the program concludes. Each year, defenders return home with information and resources they can share with local colleagues.



*YDAP Summer Academy 2024*

**This year the Initiative also welcomed our fifth cohort of our year-long Ambassadors for Racial Justice program (ARJ)**, again in partnership with the Gault Center. ARJ provides a select group of youth defenders with the resources, training, and support they need to raise race in their advocacy in both individual cases and broader systemic reform. Every month Ambassadors participate in webinars on topics like participatory defense, utilizing racial justice experts, and strategies for fighting the transfer of youth to adult court. In addition to the webinars, Ambassadors joined us twice on campus for training and community-building. At the beginning of the year, we hosted an engaging three-day orientation followed by a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Ambassadors returned to campus in July to prepare to share their knowledge and expertise with others by completing a Train-the-Trainer workshop. Our 2024 Ambassadors hail from Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. They are currently hard at work designing their own capstone projects. For example, one Ambassador is developing a first-of-its-kind state-wide training for defenders who represent indigenous youth. Our alumni across all cohorts stay connected to the ARJ community, returning for webinars and gathering at the Gault Center's annual national Youth Defense Leadership Summit. They have gone on to lead defender organizations, spearhead training initiatives, campaign for legislative reforms, and a few have even joined the judicial bench.



*Ambassadors from ARJ at the Gault Center's Youth Defender Leadership Summit*

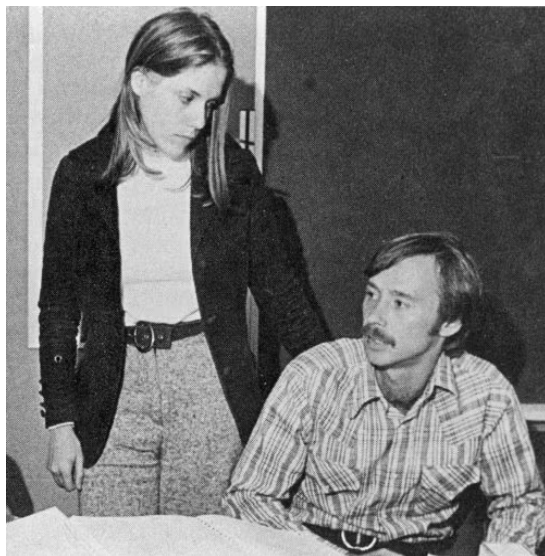
Our commitment to equipping defenders with tools and resources to support their advocacy extends through our **"Racial Justice for Youth: A Toolkit for Defenders"** (<https://defendracialjustice.org/>), created in partnership with the Gault Center. We continue to expand the toolkit by regularly adding new case law summaries, expert reports, and sample motions and pleadings. We recently created a sample motion to suppress that used research on Black people's fear of police to bolster an argument that police coerced the child's consent to search. We ensure defenders have access to the latest social science research to support their advocacy by regularly adding to our annotated bibliographies on topics like implicit racial bias,



stereotype threat, and the traumatic impact of policing on youth of color. We use many of these resources in our trainings, and the toolkit allows us to reach to even more defenders. The Georgetown Law students who work with us to develop these resources during their summer internships gain experience in research and advocacy with a racial-justice lens.

GJJCI also supports youth defenders in case and policy advocacy through the **Mid-Atlantic Region of the Gault Center (MARGC)**, which is housed in our Initiative. In response to the MARGC community's desire to invest in the future of youth defense, we created new learning opportunities for law students in 2024. Over 160 students registered to attend our Careers in Youth Defense webinar in January, where youth defenders from across our region shared insights gained through their own professional journeys. This summer we welcomed the third cohort of our Racial Justice and Youth Defense Internship Program. Three law student interns not only assisted their attorney supervisors (based in DC, Maryland, and Virginia) with traditional casework, but also lead racial-justice-focused projects. For example, our intern based in Norfolk, Virginia created a template to track proxies for race used in the local juvenile legal system and then trained attorneys on how to use the template. Her attorney supervisor, who is an alumna of our Summer Academy program, said that she had long wanted to analyze these racial disparities and the Racial Justice and Youth Defense Internship Program gave her the resources to finally make it happen. She hopes to expand the project throughout the state.

This year marks the end of an era as Wally Mlyniec – our founding director, Senior Counsel, and incredible mentor – will retire June 30<sup>th</sup>, after more than 50 years of service to the JJC, to Georgetown, and to DC's children. His legacy is vast, and the impact he has had on so many is immeasurable. While winding down, he continues to train fellows at Georgetown, new clinical faculty at the AALS/CLEA national conference on clinical education, and throughout South America at the Law School Global League conference in Bogota, Colombia. While we are incredibly happy for Wally, his kindness, guidance, and brilliance will be missed in the basement of McDonough.



*Wally Mlyniec with JJC founder Judy Areen*

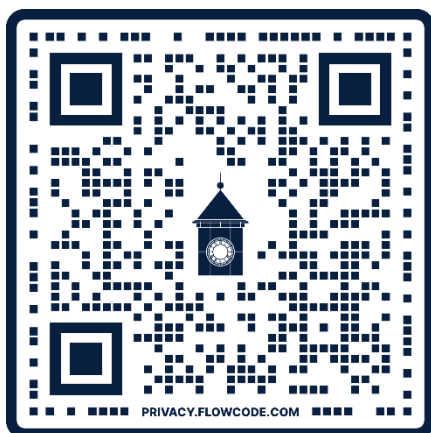


*Wally Mlyniec in 2024 at 50th Anniversary Event*

While we will miss his support, Wally leaves the Clinic in great hands. Kris Henning continues as Director of the Clinic and Initiative, somehow finding time to teach, supervise students, give speeches, train defenders, write books and law review articles, and shift the false narrative told about our Black children in this country. Eduardo Ferrer serves as the Policy Director and was recently appointed to the faculty of the Law Center as a tenure track associate professor. Rebba Omer continues as our wonderful Senior Staff Attorney and Lead Program Manager, coordinating our regional initiatives, particularly the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Gault Center. Karla Talley joined us in August as the 2024-26 Youth Defense and Racial Justice Fellow. Eloisa Cleveland, our 2nd year Prettyman Fellow, is now supervising students along with the faculty, and Alijah Futterman is the new 1st year Prettyman Fellow. Katrecia Banks continues to wear tons of hats in the Clinic – including that of “Clinic mom” – and was recently married!

We also said goodbye this past summer to two amazing fellows – Alina Tulloch and Kelsey Robinson. Alina completed her term as the Youth Defense and Racial Justice Fellowship and is now working as an appellate defender in New York. Kelsey, last year’s 2nd year Prettyman Fellow, has completed her fellowship and is now working with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in Prince George’s County.

As seasons change, years pass, and programs evolve, we remain grateful for our JJC family. We could not do this work without your emotional, practical, and financial support. Equally important, your generosity spreads a message of hope for hundreds of children throughout the country – hope for freedom and justice, hope for a safer world and greater opportunity, and hope for a life that every child is entitled to live. Please consider making an end-of-year gift to the JJC to help further our mission of defending DC’s youth, training law students and attorneys, and fighting for racial justice in the juvenile and criminal legal systems. You can donate using the enclosed envelope, scanning the QR code, or by visiting: [give.georgetown.edu/juvenile-justice](https://give.georgetown.edu/juvenile-justice).



Sincerely yours,

*Kris*

Kris

*Wally*

Wally

*Eduardo*

Eduardo

*Katrecia*

Katrecia