



20

*Coalition for Juvenile Justice*

**ANNUAL  
AWARDS  
LUNCHEON**

MAY 19th, 2022

22



*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

## YUSEF PRESLEY



The 2022 Spirit of Youth Award is presented to Yusef Presley of Kansas.

The Spirit of Youth Award is given annually by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) to recognize and celebrate a young adult under the age of 28, who has made great strides after involvement with the juvenile justice system, has overcome personal obstacles, and is now making significant contributions to society. The award is given by CJJ's Emerging Leaders Committee.

Yusef works as a youth leader with Progeny of Destination Imagine, working to close the last youth jail in his state and change policies that impact young people. He sits on committees on both a local and national level. Along with Progeny, Yusef serves on a national level as a youth representative on the CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy) Team, and is a youth leader for the national organization, Youth First. Additionally, Yusef is a Changemaker for A New Deal for Youth (ND4Y), a youth-led, youth-centered effort advocating for the creation of new systems, policies, investments and structures that reimagine life for young people in America.

As a part of his work with Progeny, Yusef assisted in creating their 2021 report, "From Harm to Healing: The Blueprint to Healthier Outcomes for Kansas Youth," which called on the state of Kansas to follow suit on

# SPIRIT OF YOUTH



successful programs in other states and close its state-wide Juvenile Correctional Complex located in Topeka. Yusef stressed the importance of having the report come directly from youth saying, "our youth's voices are unheard time and time again and have not been given a seat at the table. How can we talk about the future of the youth justice system without hearing directly from those most affected?" Yusef is currently working to change the Kansas Department for Children and Families' policies to ensure youth do not end up in juvenile intake when they are in need of medical support.

Yusef is a mentor and role model for how youth can overcome tough situations. He dreams of being a little league coach and opening his own foster care home. Yusef recently won the prestigious Sorors grant to do a documentary about the foster-care-to-prison pipeline, an issue close to his heart.

In addition to being committed to Progeny's work, he is fully committed to Destination Imagine as a whole and is now a youth ally to the young people they mentor. Yusef has a passion to mentor young people and show them positive pathways in life.

## YUSEF PRESLEY

# A.L. CARLISLE CHILD ADVOCACY AWARD

## LISA GARRY



The 2022 A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award is presented to Lisa Garry of Maryland. We honor Lisa for her dedication to justice reform.

This award is presented annually by CJJ to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to youth, the improvement of juvenile justice, and the broader area of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. It is named in honor of CJJ's founder, A.L. Carlisle, who created the Coalition for Juvenile Justice from her kitchen table in Maine in 1984.

Lisa Garry is the embodiment of this award. Lisa has dedicated her life to advocating for children, and has been a leader in both youth legal system policy and practice for over a decade.

Lisa has been instrumental in the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services' (DJS) work to reform the use of secure detention, a significant driver for the disproportionate representation of youth of color in the system. Although DJS adopted the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) as a reform strategy in 2000 in Baltimore, MD, Lisa is credited with re-starting the Baltimore JDAI site when she joined DJS in 2011. Lisa's work at DJS helped to prioritize the initiative for the State of Maryland.



# A.L. CARLISLE

Lisa is a data-driven leader who has promoted the use of objective detention screening instruments in Maryland, starting with Baltimore City and Prince George's County — the two largest jurisdictions in the State with the highest number of youth detained. From 2013-2016, Lisa worked to ensure that the state of Maryland implemented a statewide, validated objective screening tool for detention decision-making across all 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. During Lisa's tenure at DJS, the average daily population has consistently been below capacity, an achievement marked by her work to implement objective screening statewide.

Lisa began racial and ethnic disparities work in 2003 after receiving training from the W. Haywood Burns Institute to develop and implement local strategies to reduce racial and ethnic inequities. She has served as the Director of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) for the Center for Children's Law and Policy. Currently, Lisa serves as a senior-level subject matter expert and consultant with more than two decades of professional experience helping to coach, train, and create systemic environments that are racially equitable, diverse, and inclusive. She specializes in the framing of barriers and solutions to racial and ethnic disparities through organizational policy and practice reforms.

# LISA GARRY

# TONY GOBAR OUTSTANDING JUVENILE JUSTICE SPECIALIST AWARD

## MELISSA MILCHMAN



The 2022 Tony Gobar Outstanding National Juvenile Justice Specialist Award is presented to Melissa Milchman of Washington, D.C. for her constant compassion and support of all youth, especially those who have experienced challenges and barriers throughout their lives.

The Tony Gobar Award recognizes an individual that has served as a State Juvenile Justice Specialist within the last five years, who exemplifies excellence in service to others, is dedicated to improving the youth

legal system, and demonstrates compassion and concern. This award is named after Tony Gobar, a longtime Juvenile Justice Specialist from Mississippi. Tony was known for his selflessness, his dedication to his community, and his unceasing compassion for youth.

Melissa Milchman goes above and beyond when it comes to this compassion for the children she works with. It is this dedication to youth that makes her the essence of the Tony Gobar Outstanding Juvenile Justice Specialist Award.

After working as a law clerk at the National Juvenile Defender Center,

# TONY GOBAR

Melissa brought her legal experience to the D.C. Department of Youth and Rehabilitation Services. She drafted briefings and recommendation memorandum within a framework of promoting best outcomes for youth. In her current role as Juvenile Justice Specialist/Grants Management Specialist she has demonstrated the ability to form strong collaborations among stakeholders within the District to ensure that critical programs are implemented, and that there is progress in the implementation of District law and policies that are created to improve and transform how vulnerable young people are engaged in the youth legal system.

Her efforts have greatly contributed to the District's juvenile justice system through the guidance she provides to organizations and agencies on best practices in serving youth and the proper management of grant funds. She provides technical assistance and training to help empower program staff members, and recommends evidence-based approaches, along with connecting those staff with resources and more training to enhance their outcomes with vulnerable youth. Her dedication to the youth and thorough knowledge of the juvenile justice system has contributed to the increase of youth diversion programs in the District, the implementation of The Youth Rehabilitation Act, and recommendations for Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) youth and alternatives to justice involvement through the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

**MELISSA MILCHMAN**



# MARION MATTINGLY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## BETSY CLARK



The 2022 Marion Mattingly Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to Elizabeth (Betsy) Clark of Illinois for her ongoing dedication to youth justice.

The Marion Mattingly Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the reform of the juvenile justice system and advocacy for the cause of youth who are involved in it. The award is given to an individual, regardless of profession or vocation, who has given a life of service through dedication and achievement in the

field of juvenile justice, as an agent for change, and and a person who challenges the conventionality of the system. The award is named in honor of Marion Mattingly, CJJ's first Executive Director, who passed away in 2021.

Betsy is the inaugural recipient of this award. She has been a role model for the youth who she represented and advocated on behalf of for her entire career. Her service to youth makes her the essence of the Marion Mattingly Lifetime Achievement Award.

Betsy served as the Founder and President of the Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI) of Illinois for 22 years. Although she has just recently stepped down in her leadership role, she continues her contributions at JJI as a member (and Treasurer) of the Board of Directors. In addition to JJI, Betsy co-

# MARION MATTINGLY AWARD



founded the Midwest Juvenile Defender Center, and the North American Juvenile Justice Network, and was a founding member of the National Juvenile Justice Network.

Betsy has collaborated on numerous pioneering youth initiatives. Through JJI, she spearheaded the creation of Juvenile Redeploy Illinois, the state's primary diversion tool to keep children out of the juvenile prison system and, instead, to give them access to an array of personalized services based on need. Betsy currently serves on the oversight board for Redeploy, where she is a fierce advocate for its continued expansion across the state.

Betsy has always made it known that by bringing advocates together, the sum could be greater than the parts. Her devotion to the work of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and her efforts to support and enhance Illinois' State Advisory Group have been nothing short of exemplary! Betsy has been a leader on the international stage as well.

Before the pandemic, Betsy organized and hosted a group of youth justice leaders to visit Ireland to explore restorative justice practices, and to Germany to learn about their youth system, which has included 18 to 20 year-olds since 1953. Betsy brought the concepts of international human rights to her advocacy efforts in the U.S.

## BETSY CLARK



# PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

## *Spirit of Youth Award*

Past award winners of the Spirit of Youth Award include:

KYLA WOODS,  
DERRICK BEDFORD,  
COREY KEAN,  
SHELLEY ATKINS,  
T. NICOLE WRIGHT,  
RITA NARANJO,  
JEREMY ESTRADA,  
ANTOINE PERRY,  
MARVIN GUMBA,  
KEANALU CHARTRAND,  
LANCE GARNER,  
MICHAEL M. COX,  
BRANDON MCMILLIAN,  
ANDREW PETERMAN,  
JABRIERA HANDY,  
HERNAN CARVENTE,  
MARQUIS PARKER,  
RAUL BARETTO,  
SANG DAO,  
DALTON GORDON,  
RAUL BARRETO,  
AMANDA CLIFFORD,  
THE YOUTH ADVOCATES AT GREEN HILL SCHOOL,  
AND EZEQUIEL VASQUEZ.



# PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

## *A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award*

Past award winners of the A.L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award include:

MARCY MISTRETT (DC),  
DOREITHA MADDEN (NJ),  
ROBERT M. HUNTER (CO),  
BIRCH BAYH (IN),  
TERRY EDWARDS (NJ),  
BERNARDINE (HALL) ADAMS (LA),  
GEORGE B. RASIN, JR. (MD),  
FRANK A. ORLANDO (FL),  
ALLISON FLEMING (IA),  
STACEY F. ATKINSON (SC),  
IRENE ABERNETHY (NE),  
ROBERT MARDIS (IN),  
LINDA W. HAYES (NC),  
ROBERT E. SHEPHERD, JR. (VA),  
SHARON HARRIGFELD (ID),  
B. THOMAS LEAHY (NJ),  
JOHN DEWESE (SC),  
WILLIAM R. BYARS, JR. (SC),  
LINDA O'NEAL (TN),  
VINCENT N. SCHIRALDI (DC),  
ROBERT G. SCHWARTZ (PA),  
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY (CT),  
RICHARD J. GARDELL (MN),  
ROBIN JENKINS (NC),  
DAVID SCHMIDT (NM),  
HON. MICHAEL MAYER (MN),  
LAURIE GARDUQUE (IL),  
HON. GEORGE W. TIMBERLAKE (IL),  
SEN. CHARLES GRASSLEY (IA),  
CECELY REARDON (MA),  
AND KEN SCHATZ (VT).



# PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

## *Tony Gobar Outstanding Juvenile Justice Specialist Award*

Past award winners of the Tony Gobar Outstanding Juvenile  
Justice Specialist Award include:

CALLIE HARGETT (MN),  
EDWARD CHARGUALAF (HI),  
SUZANNE TOGUCHI (HI),  
PAT CERVERA (CO),  
LARRY CARTER (NV),  
RICHARD LINDAHL (NM),  
SANDY REMPE (MO),  
CHRISTIAN KERVICK (DE),  
JOSEPH B. VIGNATI (GA),  
ALAN MILLER (ID),  
VALERIE LAMOTTE (CT),  
REG GARFF (UT),  
EDWARD CHARGUALAF (HI),  
ROBERT VICKERY (IL),  
MEG WILLIAMS (CO),  
JENNIFER G. WITHROW (KY),  
MICHAEL D. PENNINGTON (PA),  
AND JESSICA WHEELER (MD).



# AWARD RECIPIENTS

## *Marion Mattingly Lifetime Achievement Award*

The Marion Mattingly Lifetime Achievement Award  
was created in 2022 and we are honored to have Elizabeth Clarke be it's first recipient.

ELIZABETH (BETSY) CLARKE (IL).





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