



March 2017

CCA at Forefront of Critical Legal Advocacy for Immigrant Children

There are growing numbers of undocumented immigrant children in Connecticut and CCA attorney Edwin Colon is an expert on the law that can help. Many children fled abuse and neglect and live in constant fear of being returned to life-threatening conditions. They arrive alone, without a parent or guardian. Education is hampered by trauma.



The Center's critical work includes:

- Legal representation for children who qualify for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Pro-bono training to provide free legal representation for undocumented children
- Improving school districts' practice and policies to protect immigrant children from increased ICE enforcement action
- Developing best practices model with Norwalk Public Schools to address unmet needs of immigrant and refugee children who experienced trauma and interrupted education
- Deploying our mobile legal office to migrant farm communities to provide education on legal rights
- Pursuing state legislative initiatives to protect undocumented children

Attorney Colon is building a pro-bono legal brigade to provide representation for these children. The Center's March/April training in Stamford is sold out, but we will offer another series in May/June in Hartford and are planning for the fall in Fairfield County. Please email bberk@kidscounsel.org if you'd like us to alert you when new sessions are scheduled.

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Center Trains Waterbury Police and Youth to Reduce Arrests

Funded by the Court Support Services Division of the Connecticut Judicial Department, CCA attorney Leon Smith and Hartford Retired Chief of Police Daryl Roberts led meetings between Waterbury youth and police.

The Center's Police-Youth trainings have taken place across the state. The recent day of workshops in Waterbury saw two groups that arrived with frustra-



tion and negative perceptions of each other, and finished with understanding and friendly interactions. Officers and youth trained on adolescent development and the impact of trauma on interactions and decision-making.

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Huge Systemic Win - Medical Transportation for Children who Rely on Medicaid



CCA Attorney Bonnie Roswig continues in her successful efforts to compel the state to address problems with medical transportation. Attorney Roswig's Complaint, filed with the Justice Department, resulted in new state policy that protects the health and safety of all children who rely on the state's non-emergency medical transportation.

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SpeakUp! Workshops Help Girls Find Strong Voices to Advocate for Themselves

As a result of a grant from the National Girls Initiative, through the CT Juvenile Justice Alliance, CCA Attorney Zoe Stout worked with a group facilitator to conduct eight weeks of workshops with girls at Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR), an after-school juvenile justice diversion program. The workshops teach girls to be strong advocates for themselves, develop a focus for their efforts and a strategy to meet their goals.

The girls focused on their school's discipline policy and met with Jackie Davis, Waterbury School's Director of School Based Diversion Initiatives, to advocate for specific changes.

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Important CCA Webinar on Trauma and Legal Dangers of Sexting

Like other online content, texts and images do not go away. There are legal consequences and youth are vulnerable. There is enormous trauma and long-term impact for adolescents whose privacy is violated.

The recent webinar reached a statewide audience of educators, lawyers, medical and mental health providers, parents, law enforcement and more. Presenters included students from Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Looking In Theater (shown in photo with theater director Jonathan Gilman), Julian Ford, PhD, UConn Health Center, and Attorney Leon Smith, Center for Children's Advocacy.



Presentations and Video

Important 2017 Legislative Initiatives - Get Involved!

Each year, the Center for Children's Advocacy writes and advocates for new legislation to protect children and youth across the state. This years efforts focus on child abuse, homeless youth, juvenile justice, racial profiling, health and education. To date, nine of the Center's initiatives have been raised by legislative committees.

Find Out More

Impressive Company!

Impact Fund Class Action Conference 2017
Thank You To Our Nonprofit Partners

The image displays a grid of logos for various nonprofit partners. The logos are arranged in five rows and four columns. The first row includes CELA (Fighting for Employees Rights), a logo with a scale, Center for Children's Advocacy (with a photo of a child), and CIVIL RIGHTS (LAWYER COMMITTEE FOR). The second row includes DISABILITY LAW CENTER (DCLC), DRA (DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATES), DREDF (Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund), and another DREDF logo. The third row includes EQUAL JUSTICE SOCIETY, EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES, LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW, and LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY. The fourth row includes LDF (DEFEND. EDUCATE. EMPOWER), NATIONAL HOUSING LAW PROJECT (ADVANCING. BRIDGING. JUSTICE), NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER (EXPANDING THE POSSIBILITIES), PUBLIC ADVOCATES (MAKING RIGHTS REAL), and PUBLICCITIZEN. The fifth row includes PUBLIC JUSTICE (IMPACT CHANGE), CENTER FOR JUSTICE, SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Center), TENANTS TOGETHER (California's Statewide Organization for Renters' Rights), WESTERN CENTER (ON LAW & POLICY), 50 (CENTENNIAL), and workplace fairness (IT'S EVERYONE'S JOB).

Attorneys Marisa Halm, director of the Center's Juvenile Justice Project, and Leon Smith, director of the Center's Racial Justice Project, were part of the annual Impact Fund Conference, an invitation-only event that brings together leading plaintiffs' class action practitioners to discuss important developments, share knowledge and ideas, and develop future strategies with like-minded advocates across the country.

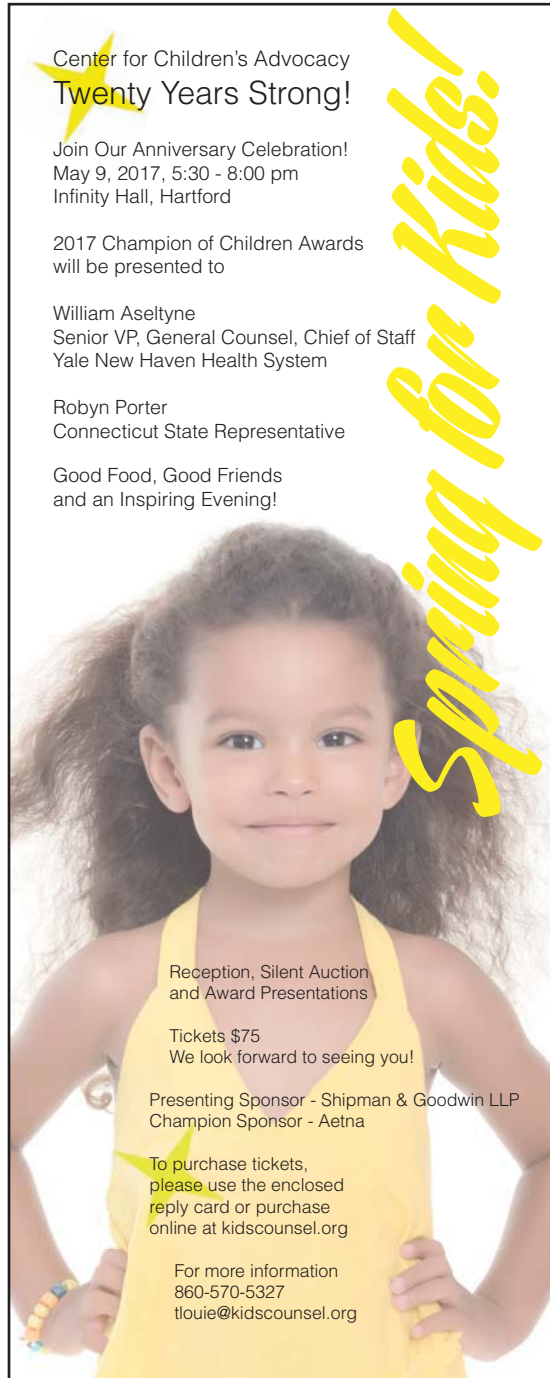
Read More about The Impact Fund's Annual Conference

Center for Children's Advocacy Twenty Years Strong!

Spring for Kids event is May 9 - Join Us!

Anniversary Celebration, Champion of Children Awards and Reception

Click for tickets and info!



Center for Children's Advocacy
Twenty Years Strong!

Join Our Anniversary Celebration!
May 9, 2017, 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Infinity Hall, Hartford

2017 Champion of Children Awards
will be presented to

William Aseityne
Senior VP, General Counsel, Chief of Staff
Yale New Haven Health System

Robyn Porter
Connecticut State Representative

Good Food, Good Friends
and an Inspiring Evening!

Reception, Silent Auction
and Award Presentations

Tickets \$75
We look forward to seeing you!

Presenting Sponsor - Shipman & Goodwin LLP
Champion Sponsor - Aetna

To purchase tickets,
please use the enclosed
reply card or purchase
online at kidscounsel.org

For more information
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