

STRIVE
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TO WORK
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YOUTH REPRESENT
JUSTICE FROM COURTROOM TO COMMUNITY

Youth Represent (New York) and STRIVE International Select CCA Attorney Marisa Halm for Hartford Youth Reentry Fellowship

July 7, 2017

Youth Represent works to improve the lives and futures of young people affected by the criminal justice system. A conviction, an arrest, or even a simple interaction with police can have lasting consequences for young people, threatening the stability they need to thrive.

When the justice system creates barriers to success for youth, Youth Represent uses the law to help them leave the stigma of a criminal record behind. A community-lawyering model ensures that youth age 24 and under have access to reentry legal representation to be able to pursue the cornerstones of stability—housing, employment, education, and family support—both during and after involvement with the justice system.

A new initiative to support justice-involved youth will provide advice and legal assistance in Hartford, Baltimore and New Orleans. **The Center for Children's Advocacy has been selected for the fellowship awarded in Hartford, CT, with the award going to CCA attorney Marisa Halm.** Attorney Halm will provide direct legal representation, and Youth Represent will provide support to collect data and monitor results.

About Youth Represent

Youth Represent attorneys travel to different community-based organizations where young people feel safe and comfortable, and work on-site with youth, staff, and families to provide reentry legal services to secure the best possible solutions for each young person. By breaking down legal barriers to community reentry, the partnership increases a young person's chance for success.

About Strive

STRIVE provides job training and placement services to individuals who face substantial barriers to employment. STRIVE's mission is to help people acquire the life-changing skills and attitudes needed to overcome challenging circumstances, find sustained employment, and become valuable contributors to their families, their employers, and their communities. From its headquarters in East Harlem, NY, STRIVE is an international leader, helping individuals from underserved communities receive the training and support they need to obtain meaningful employment and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

About Center for Children's Advocacy

Center for Children's Advocacy attorneys provide legal representation and systemic advocacy on behalf of the most at-risk children and youth in Connecticut. The work is difficult and it is critical: abuse and neglect, juvenile justice, racial justice, community reentry, homelessness, immigration, access to medical and mental health care. The Center has offices in Connecticut's largest and poorest cities, and a mobile office to reach youth directly in their own communities.

Youth Represent Reentry Fellowships are funded by the U.S. Department of Labor in partnership with STRIVE.