



## COLORADO JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

WE BELIEVE IN YOUTH



### Thank You for the Support!

Thank you for supporting the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center this year on Colorado Gives Day - Colorado's Largest Day of Giving! This year, CJDC raised over \$6,000- doubling our efforts from last year and doubling the numbers of individual donors! **Your donation helps to ensure excellence in juvenile defense and justice for all youth in Colorado.** The Colorado Juvenile Defender Center has two strong direct client services programs - **Believe in Youth** and **Education First**.

Our program, **Education First**, is the one of the only non-profit programs in the state that provides direct legal representation for Colorado youth in school suspension, expulsion and special education proceedings. Our program, **Believe In Youth**, provides direct legal representation for juvenile expungement and deregistration cases thus removing barriers to education, employment and housing. CJDC is one of only three organizations nationwide providing pro bono deregistration representation for youth.

**None of our work would be possible without your generous contributions. We are excited to continue to serve the youth of Colorado in the 2020!. We couldn't do it without you!**

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## De-criminalizing Childhood, One Case at a Time



Tomas was eight when his older brother started sexually abusing him. He finally told his mom when he was thirteen, after it got too heavy to hold. Only a few months after he disclosed, Tomas was wrestling with a girl in the hallway at his middle school and grabbed her butt. The girl reported the contact to a teacher, and the teacher called the police. At that moment, Tomas's whole life changed. In the eyes of the government, thirteen-year-old Tomas became a sex offender, a perpetrator, and only those things – not a traumatized child, an eighth grader, or a boy who liked to draw more than he liked to play video games.

**Tomas received a deferred adjudication to a first-degree misdemeanor, meaning that if he did everything he was told, the conviction would disappear from his record. Everything he was told, turned out to be a lot.** Tomas had to complete sex offender specific therapy, take regular drug tests, report to his probation officer weekly, and go to school online (he was expelled from his original middle school, due to the conviction). Unlike most teenage boys, any mistake Tomas made could jeopardize his entire future. His family was terrified that any small slip could derail him.

**And every year, on Tomas's birthday – when he turned fourteen, fifteen, sixteen – Tomas and his family had to go to the police station, walk up to the window labeled "Sex Offender Check-In" in big capital letters, and pay \$75 for his annual registration fee.**

When Tomas finished probation and treatment – early, with flying colors – he called CJDC. Staff attorney Emma Mclean-Riggs picked up the case, and gathered all of Tomas's records. She put together Tomas's story –

explaining to the court what had been happening in Tomas's life at the time of his offense and all the amazing work Tomas and his family had put in over the next three years. She talked to his provider and his probation officer, both of whom expressed unconditional support for deregistering him. Emma also compiled research on the punitive and ineffective nature of juvenile registries to educate the court about the reality of this classification.

**When Tomas went to his hearing and faced the District Attorney, he stood next to a CJDC lawyer. He and his family were not alone.** Tomas spoke movingly about how he learned in treatment that his impacts have actions and that women just want to be treated like people. His mom cried. And once the judge looked at everything Tomas had done, all the progress he had made, she found that she should be deregistered. Not only that, Tomas's judge made a point of finding, on the record, that juvenile registries don't prevent sexual violence and hurt children.

**Now, when Tomas turns seventeen, he won't go to the police station to register on his birthday. Maybe he'll go to a theme park with his girlfriend or have cake with his mom. When he goes to college to get the business degree he wants, he can spend that \$75 on textbooks instead of registration. Tomas has been a lot of things: a victim, a perpetrator, a sex offender, a delinquent. Now he gets to be whatever he wants, without carrying the trauma and disruption of his childhood.**

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## **CJDC/OADC Detention Advocacy after the 2019 Juvenile Justice Reform Bill CLE**

**January 15, 2020 | 3:00-4:30pm**

**Live in Denver & via webinar**

In 2019, the Juvenile Justice Reform Bill significantly changed the standards for detaining children. Recognizing the harm caused to children by detention, it made clear that detention should be a last resort and only used when absolutely necessary for the safety of the community. Attendees will learn about the statutory changes such as the removal of "danger to self" as a reason to detain a child, changes to risk screening procedures, and areas of litigation surrounding the new law.

**REGISTER HERE**

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## ***8th Annual Excellence in Juvenile Defense Conference***

**April 23 and 24, 2020**

**Denver, Colorado**

Our 2020 conference is going to be one for books with a comprehensive agenda boasting topics ranging from ethics, to sentencing advocacy, sex offense cases, direct file and transfer, working with experts, education advocacy and beyond. Co-sponsored by CJDC, OADC, OCR, and OSPD, the 8th Annual Excellence in Juvenile

Defense Conference has a little something for everyone with four breakout tracks and two full days of CLE/CPDH!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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## 2020 CJDC Celebration and Fundraiser

April 23 2020 | 5:00-7:00pm  
Denver, Colorado

Our 2020 Celebration and Fundraiser will be held in the Atrium of the Colorado Supreme Court from 5:00-7:00 pm on Thursday, April 23, 2020. We anticipate over 100 attendees, including attorneys, legislators, community organizations and agencies with outreach to thousands more. We invite you and your organization to sponsor our reception and join us for an evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres, libations, and award presentation for the 2020 Juvenile Defender, Social Worker, Investigator, and Volunteer of the year.

[GET TICKETS HERE](#)

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## CJDC/OADC Immigration Consequences CLE

Thank you to everyone who joined us in person and via webinar for December's Immigration Consequences training. And a very special thank you to Hans Meyer at the Meyer Law Office, PC and Ashley Harrington at the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network for sharing their expertise with all of us and to the The Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel for partnering with us to host this important event!



## Workplace Giving Made Easy

CJDC is proud to partner with **Community Shares of Colorado** in workplace giving campaigns. Making charitable donations via paycheck contributions is a convenient option that allows incremental gifts to add up over the course of a year. ***A paycheck contribution of \$1 a day – \$5 each work week-adds up to a \$260 annual donation! That would pay the costs associated with holding a two-hour continuing legal education session for juvenile defense attorneys.***

Do you have an employee giving campaign at work? If yes, please choose CJDC as the recipient of your workplace giving pledge. If your company hosts workplace giving fairs and presentations, request CJDC be a featured nonprofit! If Community Shares is not included in your giving campaign, email [giving@cshares.org](mailto:giving@cshares.org) to discuss adding more diversity and choice to your campaign.

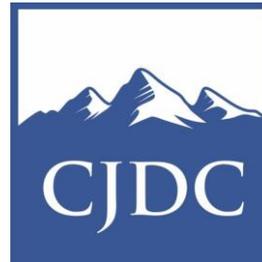
If you don't have an employee giving campaign, let your HR or Community Investment contact know you want to support CJDC through Community Shares. Contact Community Shares to help you start a campaign at [giving@cshares.org](mailto:giving@cshares.org) or 303.861.7507.

**Workplace giving is a great way to support CJDC! CJDC's community shares number is 5214.**

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### Our Contact Information

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