



COLORADO JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER
===== WE BELIEVE IN YOUTH =====

CJDC Staff Testifies Before Judiciary Committee in Support of HB 20-1079



The 2020 legislation session has begun. CJDC is working with our criminal justice partners to effectuate reform in the juvenile justice system. **Our Executive Director, Kristin Ladd, and our Skadden Fellow, Emma Mclean-Riggs, provided testimony on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 in support of [HB 20-1079](#).**

[HB 20-1079](#) would end lifetime registration for juveniles who are adjudicated for committing a sexual offense before their 18 birthdays. Judges would have discretion to not require registration both at the time of sentencing and at the end of a juvenile sentence based on the level of risk and the SOMB provider's recommendations.

Emma shared two of our clients' stories with the Judiciary committee to show how the current system for juvenile registration in Colorado harms kids and does not keep communities safer. CJDC's program, [Believe in Youth](#), is one of only two legal aid programs in the country that helps kids get off the sex offender registry. **CJDC supports [HB 20-1079](#). It helps our current clients and is a big step towards ending juvenile sex offender registration in Colorado.** The bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee 9-0 and is headed to appropriations. Stay tuned!

Watch a clip [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for a link to the full bill's text.

When Are You Really an Adult?



The law in Colorado currently provides that kids can be sentenced to life in prison long before they can buy a beer. This disconnect is getting national attention, too. In a January 19, 2020 [New York Times](#) article, CJDC board member Dr. Apryl Alexander was one of the prominent experts across the nation quoted in an examination of the effects of the United States' inconsistent definitions of adulthood.

Professor Alexander joined the University of Denver as a psychology professor in 2016. Her work on children, youth and families has already been honored three times by the American Psychological Association since 2017. Last month, she received The Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) for her research, advocacy, and service work with justice-involved youth. CJDC is very fortunate to have her voice on our Board of Directors.

You can read the full article in the *New York Times* [HERE](#).

Nominate an Outstanding Colorado Juvenile Advocate



Do you know of an outstanding juvenile advocate in Colorado who has made a significant impact over the past year? Nominate them for the 2020 Juvenile Advocate of the Year awards. We are accepting nominations now for the following awards:

- **Juvenile Defender of the Year**
- **Juvenile Social Worker of the Year**
- **Juvenile Investigator of the Year**
- **Juvenile Pro-Bono Law Firm of the Year**

Awards will be presented at our Annual Celebration and Fundraiser on April 23, 2020 from 5:00-7:00PM in Denver. Purchase fundraiser tickets [HERE](#).

SUBMIT A NOMINATION

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!

Make sure to reserve your spot today for an earlybird discount. Earlybird registration closes February 16!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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, Pro-Bono Law Firm, and Volunteer of the year.

\$30 - INDIVIDUAL EVENT TICKETS

Purchase single tickets to the event for \$30, admission includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and libations.

\$100 - YOUTH JUSTICE COUPLE SPONSORSHIP

For \$100 total, receive 2 tickets and acknowledgment in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$250 - YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNER SPONSORSHIP

For \$250 total, receive 4 tickets, name or logo on CJDC website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in board remarks at event, and recognition in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$500 - YOUTH JUSTICE ADVOCATE SPONSORSHIP

For \$500 total, receive 6 tickets, name or logo on CJDC website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in board remarks at event, name or logo on table display tents, and recognition (3 months) in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$1,000 - YOUTH JUSTICE CHAMPION SPONSORSHIP

For \$1,000 total, receive 8 tickets, name or logo on CJDC website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in board remarks at event, table space for organizational promotions and marketing to guests, and recognition (6 months) in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$2,500 - OFFICIAL JUVENILE DEFENSE MANUAL SPONSOR

For \$2,500, receive 10 tickets, name/logo on website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in remarks at event, table space for promotions/marketing to guests, recognition in monthly newsletter, and "Supported By"i n the *4th Edition Colorado Juvenile Defense Manual*.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

CJDC Members Volunteer at the 2020 Womxn's March

CJDC was at the Denver Womxn's March IMPACT Expo, discussing our work and how it intersects with gender justice. We talked with so many passionate community members and young advocates about justice for girls, productive responses to sexual violence, and decriminalizing childhood. Thank you for letting us share our CJDC programming and thank you to everyone who expressed interest for getting involved. We hope to see you all next year!



ReFUND CO Highlights an Easy Way to Support our Mission this Tax Season

If you get a Colorado state income tax refund in 2020, you will have a new opportunity to donate some or all of it to support our ongoing work in the community. The new program described by the [ReFUND CO initiative](#) puts you in charge of where your donation goes.



- I. Decide how much of your refund to donate.
- II. Enter **Colorado Juvenile Defender Center** and our registration number, **20113035527**, in the Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund line on your state income tax return or tax software – or just give this info to your tax preparer when you share your tax documents.
- III. Smile knowing you've helped a cause that matters to you

With this new program, you can re-energize our important work for another year. Learn more about this program at [RefundWhatMatters.org](#). *As always, we're grateful for your past support and hope you'll consider donating again through this new program to maintain our mission.*

Our Contact Information

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