



January 17, 2018

Dear Friends,

After more than a decade at the helm of Center for Children & Youth Justice, and many more decades working on bringing justice to the most vulnerable members of our community, CCYJ Founding President and CEO Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) has announced to the CCYJ Board of Directors that she would like to retire at the end of 2018.

CCYJ has become a strong and vital organization, with a staff that is unsurpassed in its expertise and its passion for CCYJ's mission. CCYJ's efforts to reform the child welfare and justice systems to better the lives for generations of children and youth have already led to: statewide protocols for improving responses to sex-trafficked children & youth & LGBTQ youth; a network of lawyers providing free legal services to young adults leaving foster care; community truancy boards mandated by statute; multi-disciplinary teams providing intervention plans for gang-involved youth throughout King County; and, more. CCYJ is uniquely positioned to lead the way to meaningful and lasting change in systems affecting children and youth in Washington State. But there is much more work to be done!

Over the next several months, the Board of CCYJ will conduct a national search to find the right leader to take CCYJ into its next decade. Our search committee and search firm will share that job announcement soon. We would welcome your suggestions for identifying candidates who can build on the amazing work that CCYJ has done under Justice Bridge's leadership. During that search, and in order to assure a smooth and seamless transition, she will continue as CEO until her successor is on board, and then in advisory role throughout the transition.

The Board members have expressed to Justice Bridge their profound gratitude for the dedication, leadership, commitment and vision she has given to CCYJ, and for her passionate belief in CCYJ's future. There will be many opportunities later in the year to thank Justice Bridge for her work at CCYJ. In the meanwhile, please join us at CCYJ's annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award breakfast on March 14, when we will honor the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on the Delivery of Services to Children & Families which developed recommendations for wide-ranging improvements in the State's assistance to our most vulnerable children, youth and families, most significantly the recommendation for the creation of the State's first-ever Department of Children, Youth and Families. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Thank you for believing in and supporting the work of CCYJ.



Ellen Dial
CCYJ Board Chair



Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.)
Founding President/CEO

Please address any questions or suggestions that you may have to Ellen Dial at ellenmdial@gmail.com. Thank you.