

**You can make  
a difference!**

**NORM | ADVOCATE  
MALENG | FOR YOUTH**

7th ANNUAL AWARD BREAKFAST

PRESENTED BY:



**The Seattle Times**

CO-CHAIRS:

Anne Levinson & Mark Maleng

**Thursday, March 6**

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Sheraton Seattle Hotel

[www.ccyj.org/register](http://www.ccyj.org/register)

Register today at [www.ccyj.org](http://www.ccyj.org)  
or call Erika at 206.696.7503  
ext. 19. Registration closes on  
February 28th!



**Nationally lauded  
innovator will  
keynote CCYJ  
breakfast**

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# The Justice Journal



## Let's keep kids in school and out of court

Nathan Goldberg was a typical Seattle 16-year-old in the 1990s. Not a bad kid, just not too concerned with always following the rules.

Then, he found himself called before juvenile authorities for truancy, the result of being late to class 10 times. When his father took school officials to task for failing to advise him about his son's behavior before it escalated to truancy, a judge dismissed the charges.

"Because my dad was a lawyer and had the knowledge and time to intervene, I was able to avoid being expelled and having a juvenile offense on my permanent record," Nathan recalls. "I got to stay in school."

Unfortunately, most kids who miss school don't have parents like Nathan's. They live in homes burdened by poverty, mental illness, domestic violence, child abuse, criminal activity, gangs, addiction and other issues that affect school attendance.

For those children and youth, CCYJ is addressing truancy before it occurs – before a student gets caught up in a juvenile justice system that often makes it even harder for them to re-engage in school.

"Truancy is frequently the first step on the road to a life of crime and an indicator of serious problems at home. Our default response should be, 'Why is that kid missing school and how can we help?' – not 'send him to Juvie'," says Kristen Howell, chair of CCYJ Board of Directors.

Since its inception, CCYJ has managed a statewide task force that brings together decision-makers representing schools, courts, social service providers and other system stakeholders to address truancy issues.

We have also helped to establish community truancy boards, a coordinated approach to intervening early so students can quickly get back into school, avoid future bad behaviors and prevent court involvement.

And this year, CCYJ will advance proposed legislation to make more early interventions mandatory before students enter the juvenile justice system.

"I was lucky," says Nathan, who co-owns B&G Property Maintenance. "CCYJ is reforming truancy laws so every kid, no matter what their circumstances, has the same chances I did."



## Dear friends and supporters,

Because CCYJ is so relentlessly focused on improving foster care and juvenile justice, it's sometime easy to overlook the good things – and good people – who are already making a difference. Yes, the systems must change so that children and youth have the opportunities and support that they need. That's CCYJ's *raison d'être*. We are grateful that there are heroes among us who are helping us in this mission.

Five long-time CCYJ supporters were recently recognized by the online news source Crosscut as "Grownup Heroes of Foster Care". They include three of our Advisory Council members – Laurie Lippold, Public Policy Director at Partners for Our Children; Casey Trupin, Coordinator of the Children and Youth Project at Columbia Legal Services; and Jim Theofelis, Executive Director of Seattle's Mockingbird Society.

The other two honorees are long-time public policy advocates for youth – State Reps. Ruth Kagi and Mary Helen Roberts.

Congratulations to these dedicated champions for youth justice. While their recognition is well deserved, I don't want to overlook the many other heroes for our cause – you, the generous donors and supporters of CCYJ. Your heroic support

of CCYJ has enabled us to accomplish so much in the eight years since our organization was founded.

I look forward to being able to thank many of you in person at the 7th annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast. See you on March 6!

Yours very truly,

**Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.)**  
*CCYJ Founding President & CEO*

## Advancing the mission of better systems, better lives

Your support drives CCYJ's success. Here are updates on a few major projects.

- The **Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs** completed a plan to implement a comprehensive response to gang activity, ensuring cooperation among schools, law enforcement and other service providers across different city jurisdictions.
- With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the **Shirley Bridge Girls+Justice Initiative** is proposing a pilot program for the state's first Girls Court, a gender-responsive and trauma-informed juvenile court.
- Task forces from key regions around the state are implementing CCYJ's **Project Respect** sex-trafficking protocol, a coordinated approach to identify, engage and serve prostituted youth as victims, not criminals.
- **Supporting Early Connections** is expanding to serve infants and toddlers throughout King County. This nationally-recognized program provides training, support and mental health services to families of young children who come to court because of abuse and neglect.
- **Models for Change** is working to protect juvenile justice-involved youth from self-incrimination when they complete mental health screening and assessments.



## Honoring an advocate who lives the values of Norm Maleng

When CCYJ set out to choose the 2014 recipient of the Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award, we knew he or she would have big shoes to fill.

Norm was so much more than King County's Prosecuting Attorney for nearly three decades (and a co-founder of CCYJ). When he passed away in 2007, he left a legacy of caring and advocacy for youth that was every bit as remarkable as his legal career.

In 2014 honoree Joel Benoliel, we found someone who would make Norm proud.

Joel was appointed by Governor Chris Gregoire to the Washington Council for Children and Families (formerly the Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) in 2005, where he served as Vice Chair. As a tireless advocate for children in foster care, Joel serves on boards and committees of many different nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping vulnerable children and youth.

A Seattle native and University of Washington Law School graduate, Joel has had a notable local legal career. He joined Costco in 1992 and served as Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, retiring from the company in September 2013 and currently serving as an emeritus officer.

"We look forward to bringing the community together on March 6 to celebrate Joel's community service and to support CCYJ's work to improve the lives of kids in the foster care and youth justice systems," says CCYJ Founding President and CEO Bobbe Bridge.

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## Nationally lauded innovator will keynote CCYJ breakfast

Judge Jimmie M. Edwards, recipient of the prestigious William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence and an innovative champion of children and youth, will be the keynote speaker for CCYJ's fundraising breakfast on March 6.



Frustrated by seeing kids leave his courtroom only to return to the streets and to home lives filled with problems, the St. Louis judge opened Innovative Concept Academy in 2009 as the first community partnership school in the nation overseen by a judge.

The Academy has been recognized in national media including the Wall Street Journal, NPR and The Today Show. People Magazine named Judge Edwards one of its 2011 Heroes of the Year.

Don't miss hearing Judge Edwards' incredible story!

Register today at [www.ccyj.org](http://www.ccyj.org) or call Erika at 206.696.7503 ext. 19. Registration closes on February 28th!



center for  
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**Details Inside!**

*The center for Children & Youth Justice is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.*

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center for  
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The Center's mission is to advance justice for and enhance the lives of children and youth through juvenile justice, child welfare, and related systems reform.

**Our mission**

Through the work of the Center for Children & Youth Justice, more children and youth will be diverted from entering Washington's juvenile justice system. Those children and youth who are involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare and related systems will maximize their potential to become more successful and work more effectively and efficiently for children and youth. Our goal is to create systems that are integrated, unbiased, fueled with revolutionary ideas, and backed by programs proven to achieve the best results.

**Our vision**

Children & Youth Justice, more children and youth will be diverted from entering Washington's juvenile justice system. Those children and youth who are involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare and related systems will maximize their potential to become more successful and work more effectively and efficiently for children and youth. Our goal is to create systems that are integrated, unbiased, fueled with revolutionary ideas, and backed by programs proven to achieve the best results.

**Our history**

Founded in 2006, CCYJ is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to changing government programs in foster care and youth justice to make them work more effectively and efficiently for children and youth. Our goal is to create systems that are integrated, unbiased, fueled with revolutionary ideas, and backed by programs proven to achieve the best results.

## Thank you for your support!

The Center for Children & Youth Justice is creating a promising new future for kids in foster care and the youth justice system. But we're not just making their lives better. We're making our communities better. Yes, we work to change systems. But we're really all about changing lives – today, tomorrow, forever.

## About CCYJ