

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) Quarterly Meeting

Co-hosted with Cook County Justice for Children

Community Café: Bringing the Reports to Life | May 14, 2015

Café Facilitators

Juliana Stratton, Esq., Executive Director

Cook County Justice for Children | juliana.stratton@cookcountyjustice.org

Juliana Wiggins Stratton has been committed to promoting strong children, families, and communities her entire career. She has over 20 years of experience in constructive conflict, collaborative processes, interest-based negotiation and problem solving as the Founder and President of JDS Mediation Services, Inc. She has mediated over 650 disputes and has trained mediators and corporate executives in conflict resolution both locally and nationally. Juliana's service on governmental and private panels include the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. Postal Service, United Airlines, the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, the Center for Conflict Resolution, Cook County Mandatory Arbitration, and the Illinois Department of Human Rights. She has served as a Deputy Hearing Commissioner for the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection, as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City's Department of Administrative Hearings, and as a Mediator and Hearing Officer for the City's Commission on Human Relations. She currently serves on the Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission's Hearing Board and is Adjunct Faculty at Loyola University's Graduate School of Business.

Prior to joining Cook County Justice for Children, Juliana served as the Executive Director of the Cook County Justice Advisory Council and served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Cook County Board President on matters relating to public safety. In this role, she was tasked with helping advance the President's criminal and juvenile justice reform agenda, with a goal of reducing the over-reliance on pretrial detention. A restorative justice practitioner, Juliana is a trained circle keeper and served on the boards of the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center and the Community Justice for Youth Institute. She is currently the Chair of the Kenwood Academy Local School Council and is an active member of the Chicago, Illinois Chapter of the Links, Inc., Jack & Jill of America, Inc., and the Black Women Lawyer's Association. In her spare time, Juliana is a marathoner, triathlete, and Urban Adventure Racer.

Era Laudermilk, Program Director

Illinois Justice Project | era@iljp.org

Era Laudermilk, Program Director, focuses on juvenile justice systems reform with the Illinois Justice Project and serves as Program Director for the Illinois Juvenile Justice Leadership Council. Era's work is primarily focused on juvenile justice systems reform efforts.

From 2013 to 2014, Laudermilk was the Chief of Staff for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice where she oversaw the general management of the agency. From 2011 to 2013 as Associate General Counsel to Governor Pat Quinn, Laudermilk provided guidance to state agencies on various legal, legislative, policy and operations issues, and she managed the clemency process, which included reviewing clemency requests and making recommendations to Governor Quinn. From 2009 to 2011, she was an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. As an Assistant Attorney General, she defended state agencies, officers and officials in various civil litigation matters.

Her career working in the justice arena began in 2006, when she joined Hooks Law Offices in Chicago. She practiced criminal defense law and defended civil actions including medical malpractice and employment discrimination cases in state and federal court. Laudermilk has a bachelor's degree in political science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and she has earned a juris doctor degree from the University of Illinois College of Law.



Molly McCoy, Communication Intern

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Molly McCoy serves as the communications intern for CCJC. McCoy recently graduated from the University of Illinois-Chicago with a degree in Criminology, Law and Justice. She is looking to pursue a career that advocates for at-risk youth in the community.

LaCreshia Birts, Independent Contractor

YMCA's Youth Safety Violence Prevention Program | birts89@gmail.com

LaCreshia is an advocate for youth involved in the justice system and has used her unique perspective and insight to educate others on the subject of juvenile justice reform. Most recently, LaCreshia was a guest panelist at the University of Chicago Law School's Youth/Police Conference. LaCreshia is a member of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission's Youth Advisory Board and Organizing Co-chair of Black Youth Project 100 Chicago. Last year, LaCreshia along with colleagues, Liz Alexander and Sarah Yousuf, coordinated "Bridging the Divide," a project which aimed to ease tension between youth and police, through peace circles and café conversations, on behalf of the YMCA'S Youth Safety Violence Program.

Sarah Yousuf, Violence Prevention Collaborative (VPC) Coordinator

Enlace | sfyousuf@gmail.com

Sarah has also worked at the University of Chicago's Center for Violence Prevention, and the YMCA's "Bridging the Divide" program, where she facilitated discussions between youth, community, and law enforcement. Currently, Sarah serves as the Violence Prevention Collaborative (VPC) Coordinator at Enlace, located in Little Village. As the VPC Coordinator, Sarah works with community partners to address gang violence in Little Village and reform the juvenile justice system.

