

For Immediate Release
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Loyola's Center for Juvenile Law & Policy Selected for MacArthur Foundation's Justice Initiative

Los Angeles — Loyola Law School's Center for Juvenile Law & Policy is part of a California team selected from among nationwide applicants to participate in the MacArthur Foundation's "Models for Change" Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network. The program, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, was designed to develop innovative strategies to better fulfill the legal needs of juvenile defendants.

The CJLP is part of an eight-member California consortium that includes the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children and the Courts; the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center; the Youth Law Center; the LA County Public Defender's Office; the San Francisco Public Defender's Office; and Human Rights Watch, long-time leaders in the juvenile defense community. The California team was selected along with groups from New Jersey, Massachusetts and Florida from a among 18 applications. The California team will work with existing "Models for Change" sites in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Washington and Louisiana.

"We are thrilled to be a part of this elite group and trust that we can work toward the change that we think is so necessary," said CJLP Executive Director Cyn Yamashiro. "We see this as an extension of the dialogue we began last April in our symposium, "Crime Prevention through Effective Juvenile Justice Programming," which brought together national figures in the movement to reform juvenile justice."

According to the grant letter from the foundation, the California group's selection was based on the team's demonstrated commitment to improving juvenile indigent defense policy and practice; its ability to bring together critical decision makers and stakeholders; and its readiness to work with other network members to implement change and provide leadership to other states.

The California proposal urged the need to broaden access to training and support services for attorneys representing children in juvenile justice cases; develop juvenile practice standards for California; improve tracking and data systems to evaluate system performance; and address resource needs. The proposal also focused on the need to increase defender capacity for involvement at a youth's earliest points of contact with the system, and for counsel to remain involved during the post-disposition period when programs and services are supposed to be provided. Specific tasks for the project will be developed at an Oct. 2-3 meeting in Washington, DC.

For more information about the CJLP, its "Crime Prevention through Effective Juvenile Justice Programming" symposium or to arrange an interview, contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213.736.1444 or brian.costello@lls.edu

About the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy

The CJLP was created to foster systemic reform of the LA juvenile justice system by participating in and encouraging research, discussion and advocacy. It provides a place for stakeholders to meet and discuss issues in an atmosphere that promotes constructive cooperation. It also provides resources for research

and gather information not readily available elsewhere. Finally, the Center participates in developing policy initiatives for systemic change.

About Loyola Law School Los Angeles

Located in downtown Los Angeles—a legal, financial and media capital—Loyola Law School is Home to prominent faculty, dedicated students and cutting-edge programs. Committed to legal ethics and the public interest, it has produced top attorneys for nearly a century. Please visit www.lls.edu for more information or contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213.736.1444 or brian.costello@lls.edu.

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