



March 24, 2016

Modeled on the success of our ClassACT New Orleans gathering last year, we're planning a fun May 14-15th ClassACT Washington, D.C. weekend of creative mingling, yummy meals and conversation, art and culture, justice and support of a great cause.

Among the activities:

JusticeAid concert May 15th

Follow the 48 piece Duke Ellington School Band through the streets of Washington, D.C. and join classmates for a fabulous concert mounted by ClassACT Bridge Project **JusticeAid**, founded by classmate **Steve Milliken**. The theme for this years' concert is "Juvenile Justice." 100% of the proceeds for the concert benefit The Center for Fair Sentencing of Youth, fighting life without parole for children; and the National Juvenile Defenders Center, focused on the right to counsel for children. Bands Ozomatli and Trouble Funk will be rocking the Lincoln Theater. Tickets www.justiceaid.org. More info below!

Gallery tour with Andrea Kirsh

Classmate and art historian **Andrea Kirsh** will lead us through an exhibition by leading postwar American artist Robert Irwin "All the Rules Will Change" at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

Ideas for other activities, fun places to eat and drink, are welcome!

See you in May! **Let us know you're coming** and more information to follow. Contact us at classacthr73@gmail.com.

And/or contact:

Marion Dry: mdry@wellesley.edu

Therese Steiner: tsteiner@thereseiteiner.com

For more on JusticeAid, Steve Milliken: stephen.milliken@icloud.com



Join JusticeAid for our "Year of the Child" concert. 100% of the ticket proceeds will support the incredible work of our two beneficiaries, the [Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth \(CFSY\)](#) and the [National Juvenile Defender Center \(NJDC\)](#). Read about our beneficiaries and the stories they share.

[BUY TICKETS HERE!](#)



"It's a blessing that I had great lawyers to help me at an early age and continue to be my mentors in life."

Jim St. Germain, the National Juvenile Defender Center



"I am a firm believe that no child is born bad, and all children - including those who have made horrible mistakes - deserve another chance for positive change."

Xavier McElrath-Bey, the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

Jim St. Germain INSPIRED BY HIS MENTORS

When he was 13-15 years old, Jim St. Germain was regularly arrested in New York City, mostly for minor offenses, but on a pathway toward Rikers Island. Jim was represented by a team of attorneys who practiced holistic and robust juvenile defense and made the juvenile delinquency system care.

Their advocacy helped protect him from a future in criminal court and allowed for the development of lifelong connections with his attorneys who mentored and supported him into adulthood.

Xavier McElrath-Bey MOTIVATED BY A SIMPLE MANTRA

By the time Xavier McElrath-Bey was arrested for a gang-related murder at age 13, he had been shot in the face once, and arrested 19 times, the first when he stole a candy bar to assuage his hunger.

Serving 13 years of a 25 year sentence, Xavier earned a college degree while in prison and developed remorse for his role in the crime. He also committed his life to working for change on behalf of the victim in the case.

Since leaving prison, Xavier earned an MA in

Jim is now the co-founder of Preparing Leaders of Tomorrow, Inc. (PLOT), a nonprofit mentoring organization that provides mentors to justice involved and at-risk youth, and is pursuing a Masters in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Jim's passion for public service comes from his life experiences and personal responsibility to society. Read his impactful op-ed and learn more [here](#).

Counseling and Human Services at Roosevelt University. He has worked in various positions designed to help keep children out of the criminal justice system. He serves as Youth Justice Advocate with CFSY, speaking to groups throughout the country in support of CFSY's public education and advocacy efforts. He also launched the Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network (ICAN), uniting formerly incarcerated youth through social media. Watch Xavier's [powerful story](#).

THE NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER (NJDC)

OUR MISSION

To promote justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense.

Too many youth enter into blind plea agreements without consulting an attorney. For a child, access to justice at its very core requires access to counsel. The NJDC was founded to ensure that every child facing prosecution in juvenile court is represented by an attorney, a specialized attorney trained to defend children. "NJDC protects children's constitutional right to counsel, and we're so appreciative of JusticeAid for standing by us and raising awareness about our work. We need more groups like JusticeAid," said NJDC Executive Director Kim Dvorchak.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FAIR SENTENCING OF YOUTH (CFSY)

OUR MISSION

Bar the imposition of life without parole for people under age 18.

The US is the only country in the world that sentences children to life in prison without parole. The CFSY uses a multi-pronged approach to end this practice, which includes legislative advocacy, litigation, public education, and coalition building.

The CFSY is home to a first-of-its-kind national advocacy network comprised of individuals incarcerated for murder as children, who served time, and are now living productive lives and giving back to their communities.

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