At the Child’s Side
LawyersForChildren

Executive Director’s Message

I was humbled and honored by the incredible display of support for Lawyers For Children at our recent 30th Anniversary Celebration. Not only did we sell out the event and exceed our fundraising goals, but the outpouring of enthusiasm and passion from our supporters for what we are accomplishing together was overwhelming.

I am inspired by all of you, who make our work possible with your faith in our mission, and by the children who come through the doors of our office every day in need of our protection and advocacy. My hope for Lawyers For Children for the next 30 years is that we can continue to honor and cherish the indomitable spirit of our clients, like Jaden, Trey, and Angela, whose stories you will find in this newsletter.

Thousands of children in foster care count on LFC, and we at LFC count on you. With your help, we can continue the fight to protect the rights of all of New York City’s children.

—Karen J. Freedman, Esq.

With LFC’s Support, Siblings Thrive After Trauma

Jaden was three and Trey was four when their mother was diagnosed with advanced cancer. With no family or other support, she had no choice but to place them in foster care when she was admitted to the hospital for treatment. LFC was assigned to represent Jaden and Trey as soon as they were placed in care, and their social worker and attorney worked with their foster mother to ensure that they could visit their mother as often as possible in the hospital. In addition, because both children had severe speech delays, their social worker ordered evaluations, and their attorney went to court to ensure that their foster care agency provided them with speech therapy.

When their mother passed away six months later, their LFC team made sure they were enrolled in play therapy so that they could work through the trauma. Now, two years later, their foster mother has adopted them, and they are thriving and reaching all of their developmental goals. On the day of their adoption, they proudly posed for photos with the judge, their mom and their LFC team.
Thanks to the generosity of LFC Board member Allison people in creating this video.

Youth Advocate helped her apply for summer jobs in retail. Angela was ecstatic to be called back for an interview as a sales associate at a clothing store—her first-ever job interview. However, when she was told to bring her New York State identification and social security card with her, she was distraught. She didn’t have copies of the documents, and neither did her agency caseworker.

Angela called her LFC Youth Advocate, who quickly guided her through the bureaucratic process necessary to obtain copies of these documents. Then Angela’s LFC team prepared her for the interview, securing funds from the Atlene Joseph Fried Memorial Fund to pay for a haircut and helping her select professional attire from LFC’s Threads to Impress closet. Proud of her appearance, feeling prepared, and with the necessary documents in hand, Angela arrived at the store for her interview and was hired on the spot.

Angela plans to save the money she makes this summer for college, where she will study fashion design.

LFC Selected to Host 2016-2017 Skadden Fellow

We are thrilled to announce that Lawyers For Children will be hosting Skadden Fellow Maya Brodziak beginning in September of 2016. Maya comes to us from Harvard Law School, and she will spearhead the new School Disciplinary Hearing project.

Lawyers For Children's new video features five current and former LFC clients, who tell the bittersweet story of finding their way, with the help of Lawyers For Children, to a bright future. They describe feeling hopeless, trapped, and not knowing where to turn, until they came to Lawyers For Children. For the first time in their lives, they felt someone was actually listening to them and cared about what they had to say. As one client says, “I didn’t know what happiness was until I really found Lawyers For Children. When you actually have consistency, and you have people that are there for you, this is real happiness.”

We are honored to have worked with these incredible young people in creating this video. Check out the video at lawyersforchildren.org.

LFC Celebrates 30th Anniversary

This March, Lawyers For Children held our first ever gala to celebrate 30 years of protecting the rights of New York City’s most vulnerable children. Our honorees for the evening were John M. Shapiro and Loeb & Loeb LLP. Mr. Shapiro, LFC’s board chair, has served on our board for almost 30 years and Loeb & Loeb has been a pro bono partner to Lawyers For Children for over 15 years. Seth Gelblum, a long-time LFC Board member and a partner at Loeb & Loeb, accepted the honor on the law firm’s behalf. Both Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Gelblum, in addition to being generous supporters of LFC’s work, are invaluable sources of guidance, wisdom, and leadership.

Thanks to the generosity of LFC Board member Allison Levine Stillman and her husband Michael Stillman, we were able to hold this event at the beautiful Park Avenue Winter restaurant. With a delicious menu, live music, an exciting program, and a live auction, the evening was a celebration of the amazing difference LFC has made in the lives of thousands of children.

Special thanks to Honorary Hosts Lin-Manuel Miranda and Vanessa Miranda Naldi, and to our Benefit Co-Chairs, Alisa and Dan Doctoroff, Thomas and Denise Stern, and Merry and James Tisch. This was a team effort, and clearly we had the all-stars!

In order to preserve client confidentiality, names and other details have been changed. Volunteer models appear in all photographs to depict LFC clients. Special thanks to Ben Frank Shapiro Studio and to Noel Sutherland for original photographs.
LFC Welcomes 2016 Summer Interns

Each summer, LFC offers an intensive internship opportunity to highly qualified law and college students. These students develop an understanding of the child welfare system in New York City and the vital role that our interdisciplinary teams play in effectively advocating for children in foster care. We are proud of the broad range of experiences that our extraordinary interns bring to their work at LFC, and we thank them for sharing their many talents with us and with the children we represent.

Social Work Interns
Jeremy Burton
Princeton University
Hailey Lauren Cayne
Cornell University
Anya Chen
Johns Hopkins University
Rachel Geller
Brandeis University
Jordana A. Gardenswartz
Yale University
Scarlett Grabowska
Princeton University
Daniel S. Kim
Wesleyan University
Ellis D. Klein
Connecticut College
Harrison Mita
Cornell University
Anne Nelson
Yale University
Abigail S. Rieger
Wesleyan University
Allison Rosenbaum
Brown University
Sasha Stahl
Wesleyan University
Sophie Weil-Roth
Pomona College

Legal Interns
Christopher N. Bobby
University of Chicago Law School
Dalya Bordman
Syracuse University College of Law
Michael Chen
New York University School of Law
Maya Cohen
Harvard Law School
Himani K. Gupta
CUNY School of Law

Emily Jessep
New York University School of Law
Alexa Nicole Joyce
Hofstra University School of Law
Neha Patel
Columbia Law School
Marielle Elizabeth Sanchez
Harvard Law School
Gillian B. Schaps
Harvard Law School
Kathy L. Walter
Fordham University School of Law

www.lawyersforchildren.org