



**2024**

# **HEROES OF CHILD JUSTICE**

*CREATING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN IN MARYLAND AND BEYOND*





# EVENT SCHEDULE

## **4:00PM**

Hors d' oeuvres, wine/beer, and live music by Bootsie & The Groove

## **5:00PM**

Dinner buffet opens, find a seat\*

## **5:30PM**

Stage program begins; awards presentation

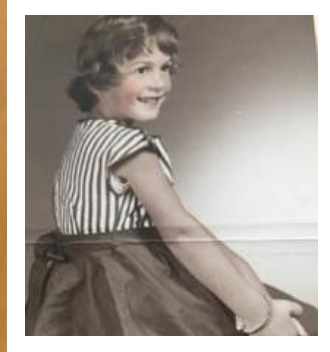
## **7:00PM**

Dessert and coffee; music resumes

*\*Seating is open, except for tables marked otherwise.*



# WELCOME



## EILEEN KING

*Child Justice, Inc. Founder and Executive Director*

Welcome! I am so honored and thrilled to have you here. Thank you for your interest in protecting Maryland's children.

When I founded Child Justice in 2012 and opened our doors for business in April 2013, I trusted that we would find others who shared our passion and commitment to protect children and support their safe parents in cases of intrafamilial abuse. I can recall many conversations with Anne Hoyer planning how to move forward and the critical changes needed to protect abused children in family court litigation. The first law firm that agreed to take a case was O'Melveny & Myers - they are here tonight.

Congressman Steny Hoyer has enthusiastically supported our work and attended every Heroes Celebration. I will never forget Congressman Hoyer's warm introduction of renowned singer Johnny Mathis during our 2018 Heroes of Child Justice Celebration. So much has been accomplished in the last 11 years and we are deeply grateful to each awardee, donor, and guest for supporting us as we move forward into the next decade *Protecting Children, Providing Support, and Promoting Change.*

# WELCOME



*My sisters watch as Dad was sworn in as President of the Maryland State Senate in 1975. Clearly, I was very excited!*



*My beautiful daughter Alexa. She is my light!*

## ANNE HOYER

*Event Chair and Child Justice, Inc. Board Vice Chair*

Following my own personal case in 2005, I became very involved in seeking out organizations and people that address the trauma associated with abuse, the complexities of abuse cases and the necessity for family court reform. Unfortunately, I learned my case was not unique. Since then, I have made it my life's mission and work to help protect our most vulnerable through providing support, awareness and fighting for policy reform.

I met Eileen King pre-Child Justice, while she worked for Justice for Children. We became fast friends and I knew she was someone special. I remember inviting her and Paul Griffin to my house to share information about VOCA funding - at my urging, they applied for a grant and were awarded a significant amount. This grant propelled Child Justice's growth and to this day, VOCA still makes up the majority of our funding. I joined the board from the start, and have remained committed to Child Justice. I believe that protecting children from harm is our number one responsibility. Thank you for showing up.

# WELCOME



## PAUL GRIFFIN

*Child Justice, Inc. Legal Director*

I first met Eileen King in 2001, while I was an associate at O'Melveny & Myers, which had accepted a child sexual and physical abuse custody case for pro bono representation. That experience led to 15 years of pro bono work on behalf of protective parents and their children. I had found my calling.

In August of 2016, I was hired as Legal Director of Child Justice, where I continue to advocate for abused children and their protective parents. Some of you may recognize me from recent legislative sessions, as I regularly testify in front of the Maryland General Assembly concerning proposed changes in Maryland's laws on abuse and domestic violence, child custody, and child access. The latest bill had to do with the training of custody evaluators, which is so important. I hope you will support it in the next session. By working together, we can change laws to better protect children in Maryland and beyond.

Thank you for being here.

# OUR MISSION



*To protect and advocate for children who have been abused or affected by family violence or coercive control; to support them and their protective parents; and to promote justice for them through legal services, community outreach, education, and policy recommendations.*

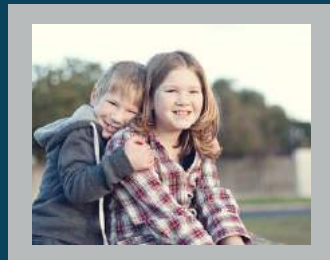
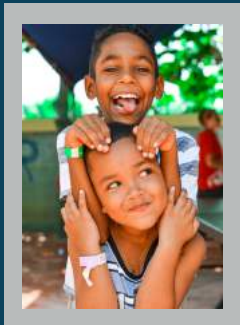
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At the intersection of criminal and civil law, a serious problem exists. Each year, up to 58,000 children in the United States are court-ordered into unsafe situations with abusive parents. Custody and access of children is widely ignored when victims of crime receive services. Due to this gap in services, 984 children have been murdered in this country by a divorcing or separating parent since 2008 (when tracking of these crimes began). Of these child murders, 139 are known to have occurred after a court ordered the child to have contact with the dangerous parent over the objection of a safe parent or caregiver.



In Maryland, twenty-one (21) children have lost their lives at the hands of a parent/caregiver - five (5) of these deaths were due to a court making an unsafe order. Since 2012, Child Justice has worked to protect Maryland children from unsafe and unsupervised access with a dangerous parent by providing free legal representation, support and resources to non-offending protective parents/caregivers.

We receive funding from the Governor's Office on Crime Prevention and Policy (subaward numbers VOCA-2021-0070, VOCCG-2024-0026, and VOCCG-2024-0151) and Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC), and gratefully accept donations from the public.



## CHILD ABUSE IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN OUR COUNTRY

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- According to the National Children's Alliance, more than 600,000 children are abused in the U.S each year. In 2021, an estimated 1,820 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States.
- Most child victims are abused by a parent. In 2021, a reported 452,313 perpetrators abused or neglected a child. In substantiated child abuse cases, 77% of children were victimized by a parent.

***Child Justice works throughout Maryland to protect children from abusive parents.***



### CHILD JUSTICE'S FY25 GOALS



- Represent protective parents/caregivers in thirty (30) to forty (40) long-term complex family law litigation cases in order to safeguard children.
- Represent petitioners in seventy-five (75) to one-hundred (100) protective order cases filed on behalf of minor children.
- Provide brief legal advice, information and referral to three hundred (300) to four hundred (400) individuals.
- Provide legal consultations, including *pro se* preparation and form assistance, to fifty (50) to one hundred (100) litigants who will be self-represented in court.

**Since its inception in 2012, Child Justice has helped more than 3,200 caregivers and children.**



# A STATEMENT FROM **SENATOR CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

I'd like to express my gratitude to Child Justice and all of the leaders you are honoring this evening. Each of you play a vital part in ensuring Maryland's children have a nurturing upbringing that empowers them for future success.

It is particularly fitting that my friend Steny Hoyer is among those you are recognizing. Protecting vulnerable young Marylanders and helping them thrive has been a central tenet of his distinguished career in public service – whether it's fighting to strengthen the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, improve reporting of online child sexual exploitation crimes, secure critical federal resources on the House Appropriations Committee, or bolster training for child custody evaluators. But perhaps the most visible and lasting example of his commitment to this cause is his work to establish 'Judy Center' early childhood and family learning hubs – a concept practiced and proven by his late wife, Judy. In a fitting tribute to Judy's inspiring legacy, Steny worked alongside state leaders to build upon her model for providing full-day, year-round education and support services to young children from low-income families. Thanks to his tenacity, there are now more than 80 Judy Centers shaping the futures of over 15,000 children across Maryland.

Maryland is truly fortunate to have a leader like Congressman Hoyer fighting for our children, and I look forward to continuing to partner with him for years to come! My congratulations to Steny, and to all of the Heroes for Child Justice being recognized this evening. I will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you all as we work together to ensure every child can grow up safely.

— U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen



Many years ago, Child Justice worked to protect a young girl in a custody case that involved abuse. Following her case, we received the impactful drawing and poem that is printed below.

**IT IS FEATURED ON THE AWARDS WE WILL GIVE OUT TONIGHT.**



I found my heart in a loving place  
I found my heart in a happy place  
I found my heart in a perfect place to be  
Because of you, I am free  
Because of you, I can be anything I want to be  
And I'd like to thank you for all the wonderful  
things you've done  
'Cause you helped me fight the clouds  
and bring the sun.

-Art and poem by Swiftflyinghorse,  
a child helped by Child Justice

**FOR TONIGHT'S EVENT, SHE SENT THIS UPDATE:**

*"From the ages of 2 to 8 I lived two lives; One in a safe and loving home, and one in a very scary place where horrible things happened. I wrote this poem at age 8 when, thanks to Child Justice , the courts finally listened, and stopped forcing me to go to the place where I was abused. I was, and am, so grateful for the help I had to get safe. That safety enabled me to finish out my childhood in a safe and loving home.*

*Many years have passed since then. I have a rich and full life. I went on to college to major in physics and dance, where I received awards for community service and excellence in teaching science. Now, as I finish up my time as a college student, I am about to embark on a career as a high school physics teacher.*

*I have a loving family, wonderful friends, and I'm actively involved in my community. I am grateful for so much - especially for people like YOU - who stand up to protect children like me."*

# A STATEMENT FROM **SPEAKER ADRIENNE A. JONES**

ADRIENNE A. JONES  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

10th Legislative District  
Baltimore County



H-101 State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991  
410-841-3800 • 301-838-3800  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3800

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991



May 18, 2024

Greetings:

It is my absolute honor to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, a true champion for Maryland's children. He will be recognized as an incredible leader who continuously supports the mission of Heroes of Child Justice, ensuring the protection and advocacy for children.

Child Justice offers vital legal assistance to non-offending protective parents in Maryland and beyond, addressing cases documented child abuse, neglect, and/or interpersonal violence (IPV). Their work operates at the intricate intersection of civil family law, criminal justice, and child welfare legal systems, striving to secure a safe and stable future for children, where nurturing care is provided and their rights to dignity and selfhood are safeguarded.

Celebrating Congressman Hoyer's unwavering dedication and passion for Maryland's children is a privilege. As you commemorate this remarkable moment, I wish Congressman Hoyer continued success and eagerly anticipate the positive impact he will undoubtedly continue to make in the years ahead.

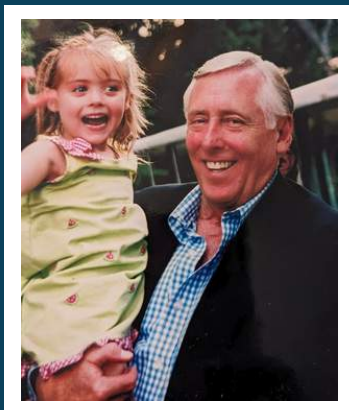
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne A. Jones".

Adrienne A. Jones  
Speaker

# CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

*The Honorable  
Steny H. Hoyer*



Congressman Hoyer has attended all of Child Justice's Heroes Celebrations including introducing living legend Johnny Mathis in 2018. He has consistently demonstrated his outstanding commitment to effective programs that contribute to safety, dignity, and selfhood for victims of child abuse and domestic violence. Too few politicians know how common child abuse is, how many children suffer, the heavy challenges they and their safe parents face in our custody courts, and how the trauma and harm ripple out into our families, communities, and society.

Congressman Hoyer stood strong in support of the *VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021* which addressed the steeply falling levels of funding for Crime Victims throughout the United States. Many nonprofits, including Child Justice, would have been severely affected by the anticipated steep cuts to state budgets.

On a more personal note: Jake Griffin, son of Child Justice's Legal Director, graduated in the Baltimore LAB School Class of 2021, and Congressman Hoyer not only addressed the graduating class virtually, but invited Senator Benjamin Cardin to be there to salute the students and their achievements in person.

These are only a few examples of Congressman Hoyer's warm support for Child Justice and the children and safe parents we serve. Our gratitude and appreciation know no bounds: thank you, Congressman Hoyer!

THE HONOREES

# HERO AWARD

## *Beth Brent*

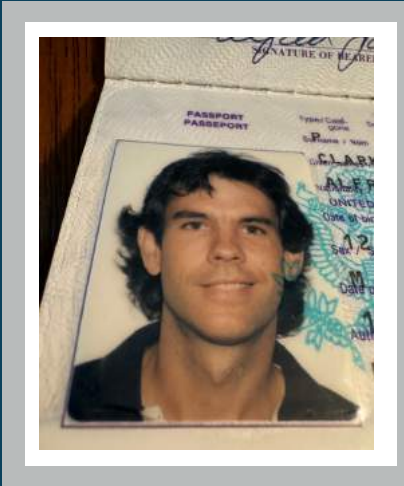


Beth's work between 1988 and 1997 challenging the statute of limitations on claims being made by adult survivors of child sexual abuse was the impetus for the founding of Child Justice. Through her networking, writing and personal testimony she brought attention to the prevalence of child sexual abuse and the inadequacies of the U.S. legal system in protecting children and holding offenders accountable.

Between 1997 and 2015 Beth worked at The Faith and Politics Institute (FPI) serving as its interim Executive Director, Director of Finance and Development, Vice President and then consultant. In her roles at FPI she worked closely with Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) and Congressman Amo Houghton (R-NY) coordinating the annual Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimages to Selma, AL on the Anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Since 2009 she has served as a consultant to non-profits with a primary focus on voting rights and election security.

# HERO AWARD

## Brad Clark



### **BIG NEWS!**

In honor of Brad,



**A. JAMES & ALICE B.  
CLARK FOUNDATION**

has granted CJJ a  
**\$100,000 operating  
grant!**

I first became interested in the protection of children when I met Eileen King over 25 years ago. She was then working at Justice for Children. Having children of my own, I couldn't imagine anything much worse than the abuse of children in any form- emotional, physical or sexual. So I became involved as an outsider to this work and quickly realized that what they were doing was actually saving the lives of many vulnerable children. Though abuse affects children in so many ways through their lives, the act of protecting them early on and removing them from the source of that abuse, gives them the best chance of living a healthy and fruitful life. For me this has become a mission that I am fully behind and in support of. Child Justice stands exactly for what it says. Over the years I've been involved, I've come to realize they are one of the most efficacious organizations in protecting our children and will take a place in my heart for the rest of my lifetime.

# HERO AWARD

*David  
Dorey, Esq.*

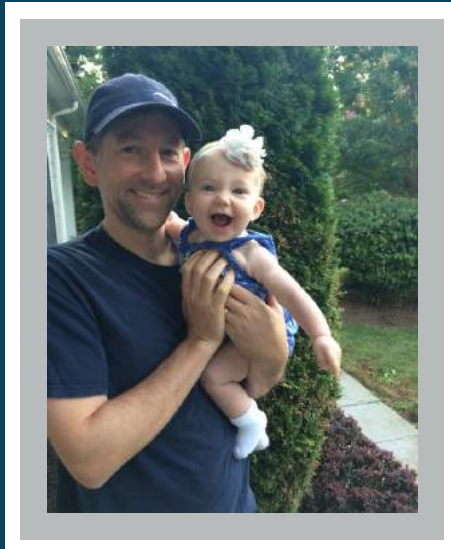


In law school Dave ran a clinic dedicated to the protection of children. It's probably no surprise that at the first opportunity at a big law firm he teamed up with Eileen King and Greg Jacob for an eight-day child protection trial in Maryland.

The rest is history: a dozen years later Dave acts as Child Justice's pro bono appellate counsel and is a member of its board. Dave cares deeply for the welfare of children and helping see to a bright future.

# HERO AWARD

*Gregory  
Jacob, Esq.*

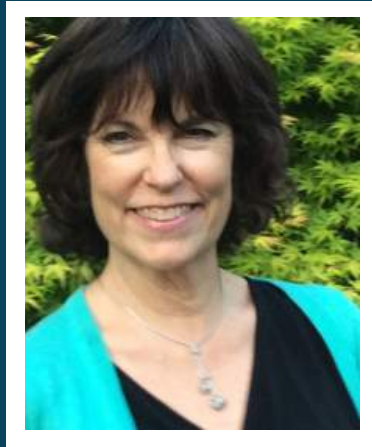


Greg never took family law in law school—he thought it too depressing—but after his first case with Eileen in 2001, he found an unexpected calling that sparked more than two decades of child protection work. His second case went to Maryland's highest court and then its legislature, changing child representation law in Maryland. He broke barriers to child protection representation both by federal government and big law firm attorneys, facilitating many fruitful collaborations with Child Justice. From state Supreme Courts to trial courts, Greg cares equally for case, client, and child, and transforming lives through effective counseling and advocacy.

THE HONOREES

# HERO AWARD

*Claudia Remington*



Claudia M. Remington, J.D. served as the Executive Director of the Maryland State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN) from 2010-2022 and currently sits on the board of Maryland Essentials for Childhood (EFC). SCCAN advises Maryland's Governor and General Assembly on systems' improvements to prevent, detect, prosecute, and treat child abuse and neglect. In that role she provided consensus-building leadership, research, writing, and organizational support to SCCAN. She continues to facilitate the collaborative work of multiple organizations representing diverse perspectives, sectors, disciplines, and communities through her work with EFC.

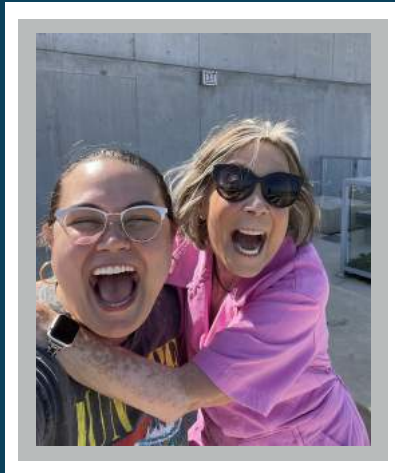
When Anne Hoyer spearheaded the *Workgroup to Study Child Custody Court Proceedings Involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations*, Claudia, along with Paul Griffin, were appointed by Governor Hogan to serve. They continued working together to advocate for bills recommended by the Workgroup, including *Training for Judges* which passed in 2022, and *Qualifications and Training for Evaluators* which will be taken up again in 2025.

THE HONOREES



# HERO AWARD

## Garland Waller

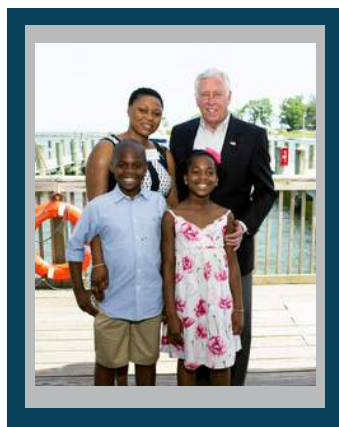


In 2001, filmmaker Garland Waller produced **Small Justice**, a stunning documentary about how easily abusive fathers obtained custody of their children in the dysfunctional family courts. Her shocking interview with Richard Gardner, the creator of *Parental Alienation Syndrome*, helped make clear just what “junk” his “science” really was.

Her later documentary **No Way Out But One** was based on a case she learned about at the Battered Mother’s Custody Conference. It won awards all over the country. Through it all, she says she depended on Eileen King for advice and counsel. “What I got from her, was simple brilliance from a kind heart.”

# PROTECTIVE PARENT & FORMER CLIENT

*Dr. Karine Fouth, M.D.*



**Dr. Karine Fouth is a mother of two who met Child Justice 11 years ago following a divorce, and during a legal battle, in which she encountered several barriers. One major barrier was securing adequate legal representation in a sensitive legal matter where the protection and custody of her two children were at stake.**

**As a foreign trained physician, Dr. Fouth struggled to find employment due to regulations in place for foreign physicians in the United States, however was able to secure gainful employment in Germany where she was trained and previously lived and was practicing medicine. However, she was prevented from relocating for employment by the court at the request of her children's father who lived in Europe at the time.**

**Child Justice provided legal counsel, experts and support over several years. Dr. Fouth was able to retain custody of her two children who are both healthy and successful.**

**Her son was recently awarded a full scholarship by the POSSE Foundation to study engineering beginning this fall and her daughter is a rising senior planning to study medicine. Dr. Fouth is contributing to public health and research as MD, MPH.**

MISSION STATEMENT



# MEET OUR **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



*From left to right:*  
Dave Dorey, Esq.; Anne Hoyer, Vice Chair;  
Steven Schneebaum, Esq., Treasurer;  
Cynthia McCann, Esq., Secretary; Brandon Thomas;  
Dan Campos, Board Chair



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



*"Children have many ways of telling who hurt them and how. Our legal system has many ways of silencing them."*

*-Eileen King,  
Executive Director, Child Justice, Inc.*



# MUSIC PROVIDED BY **BOOTSIE & THE GROOVE**

*Featuring Paul “Bootsie” Bernfeld, Kemi Adegoroye,  
Chris Hon, and Andrew Mussleman*

**Bootsie & The Groove** is a music collective from Vienna, Virginia that treats popular songs like jazz standards. They cover artists such as Stevie Wonder, Bill Withers, Amy Winehouse and Vulfpeck, and open up song forms to include solos.

**Catch Bootsie every Friday night** as the house band at Hawk & Griffin Pub, or out and about at community events, private parties, and performance venues across the DMV.

**For inquires, visit: [www.paulbernfeld.com](http://www.paulbernfeld.com) or email: [Bernfeld.paul@gmail.com](mailto:Bernfeld.paul@gmail.com).**



# LET'S WORK TOGETHER



There are many ways to get involved in this work. Become a monthly or annual donor, sign up for our newsletter, share our mission with a friend, and be sure to vote for leaders who care about the safety and well-being of children. Together, we can protect children.



**(301) 283-1762**

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**Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

**Tax ID: 46-2493549**

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*“To me, the most crucial responsibility of any community is the protection, education, and mentoring of its children. As adults, guardians, and parents, we must offer as many opportunities as possible to ensure the success and development of our children. If we can do this, we will have met our most fundamental obligation to ourselves, our families, and our communities.”*

*- Judy Hoyer*

