



HEROES OF CHILD JUSTICE 2025

*Celebrating the heroes that make our
mission to protect children possible*



*Art by Swiftflyinghorse,
a child helped by Child Justice*



EVENT SCHEDULE

6:00PM

Bar opens, live music by
Pretty Big Deal

6:30PM

BBQ buffet opens, find a
seat* and enjoy dinner

7:15PM

Stage program begins;
awards presentation

7:45PM

Dessert; networking;
music resumes

9:00PM

Event concludes;
get home safely!

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

**Thank You to
Tonight's Emcee!**

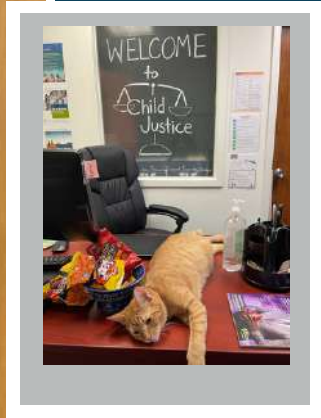


**JOHN C.
WOBENSMTIH**

Maryland Secretary of State,
2015-2023



WELCOME



EILEEN KING

Founder and Executive Director

We are delighted that you are here to celebrate Heroes of Child Justice and so grateful for your support of our work to protect Maryland's children. Many thanks to Anne Hoyer, our Vice Chair, for all of her help with tonight's event!

We have come a long way from our beginning when we started with one contract employee - me - to twenty-one full-time staff members and four consultants. Child Justice continues to advocate with passion and compassion for those who are struggling to protect themselves and their children from abuse and family violence.

Last year, we honored Greg Jacob and O'Melveny & Myers. This year, we are proud to recognize Chas and Kasey Atkinson - the children whose case was the very first pro bono matter O'Melveny accepted. Chas and Kasey bring the vital perspective of lived experience that our communities and leaders need to hear. Indeed, each of our Awardees shares unparalleled expertise and insight.

We will miss Congressman Steny Hoyer's warm presence tonight but so appreciate the video he recorded for us - be sure to scan the code below to view it! Thank you all for being here - we can't do this work without you.



Scan this code to watch Congressman Hoyer's pre-recorded message of congratulations and support.

WELCOME



DANIEL CAMPOS

*Chairman,
Board of Directors*

I've had the honor of serving on the Child Justice Board of Directors for over a decade, watching it grow from a fledgling startup to a fully operating nonprofit law firm. Child Justice plays a vital role in Maryland by providing legal advocacy for children, striving to create safer, more stable futures for those in vulnerable circumstances.

My connection to Child Justice began during my 2010 Maryland House of Delegates campaign when domestic violence was a key issue, especially in light of Maryland's then "clear and convincing" evidence statute on protective orders. During that time, I met Eileen King, and inspired by her vision, leadership, and commitment to Child Justice and its success, I joined the board.

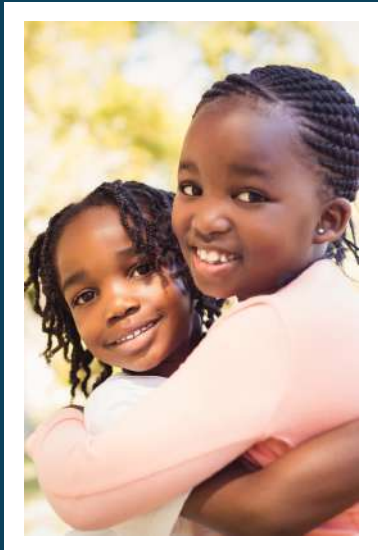
We continue to seek passionate supporters and advocates, especially attorneys, to join our board and help strengthen this critical work. If you are committed to protecting children and shaping justice in Maryland, please consider lending your voice and expertise. Thank you for joining us tonight.

To learn more about joining our board of directors, please email us at: info@child-justice.org.

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.



Child Justice was founded by Eileen King in 2012. Back then, cases were handled entirely by corporate law firms on a pro bono basis. Thanks to a generous donor, in 2016, we were able to bring on Paul Griffin as our first legal director. Since then, we have grown to 21 full-time employees, including eight attorneys and ten paralegals.

Since our founding, 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 number VOCC-2026-0040), Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC), Montgomery County Community Grants, and also rely on the generosity of the public. Donations are accepted on our website, via Donor Advised Funds, or simply mail a check (our address is on the back of this program).

Text to Give!
Text **HERO25** to 53555 to
donate tonight.



Scan to donate and
support our mission.

LEGAL DIRECTORS' REPORT

At Child Justice, our Legal Department - led by Paul G. Griffin, Esq. and Luanne P. McKenna, Esq. - works tirelessly to protect children and their caregivers. Together, they oversee a team of more than 20 attorneys, paralegals, and assistants (many are here tonight!) who advocate in emergency hearings, complex family law cases, and selective appeals to drive systemic change across Maryland.

Each year, we receive hundreds of calls from families navigating a legal system that too often overlooks the realities of abuse and coercive control. Through trauma-informed representation, our team ensures the voices of children and survivors are heard and protected.

The impact is clear: last year alone, we handled over 430 requests for help, reaching 815 children and 1,300 household members. We provided direct legal services to 402 individuals, including courtroom representation or comprehensive legal consultations for 194 survivors, while many others received brief consultations, referrals, and technical assistance.

With your support, Child Justice can expand this vital work and ensure no child or caregiver facing abuse is left without an advocate and a path to safety.



PAUL GRIFFIN

Legal Director



LUANNE MCKENNA

Deputy Legal Director



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

O'Melveny & Greg Jacob

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Thanks to the generosity of tonight's sponsors, every dollar of your donation goes to supporting our mission.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Development Director, Lisa Dowell, at lisa.dowell@child-justice.org.

HERO AWARD

Chas Atkinson



My connection to Child Justice comes from my family's own experience. My mom, my sister, and I went through the family court system during one of the most difficult times in our lives. We quickly learned how unprepared the system can be to address complex abuse and child safety concerns.

Eileen King, Paul Griffin, and Greg Jacob stood by us, providing guidance, resources, and unwavering support. They fought for us when it felt like no one else would. Their tireless efforts gave us the strength to keep going when it seemed impossible, and we would not have made it through to the other side of the system without them. Their dedication was especially critical when my mom was struggling to fight for us.

Their mission to empower families, reform the family court system, and educate those making life-altering decisions for children is critical. I support Child Justice so more families can find the hope, safety, and justice that my mom, my sister, and I were given.

THE HONOREES

HERO AWARD

Kasey Atkinson



My connection to Child Justice is deeply personal. When I was just five years old, my family faced a painful and unjust legal battle. My mom, unable to afford the legal support we desperately needed, turned to Eileen, Greg, and Paul—advocates and attorneys who would change the course of our lives. For six years, they provided exceptional legal services, standing beside my mom, my brother, and me when the system felt overwhelming and unfair.

They didn't just fight for our legal rights, they fought for our safety, our stability, and our future. Through their advocacy, I learned the power of having strong voices in your corner, especially for children who often have the least say in matters that affect them most.

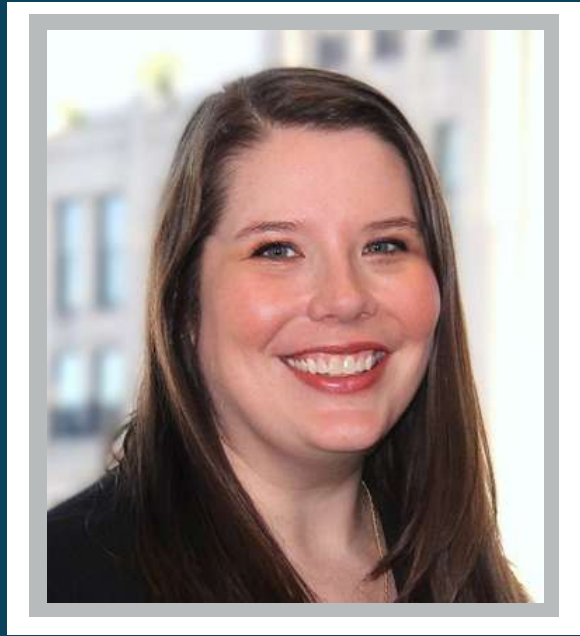
Child Justice's mission to protect vulnerable children and ensure inclusion in the legal process mirrors exactly what my family experienced. I know firsthand how life changing it is when an organization steps in to protect a child's well being and to challenge systems that fail them.

Today, my connection to Child Justice is fueled by gratitude, lived experience, and a commitment to ensuring that no child faces such battles without the protection and inclusion they deserve.

THE HONOREES

HERO AWARD

*Alanna Clair,
Esq.*

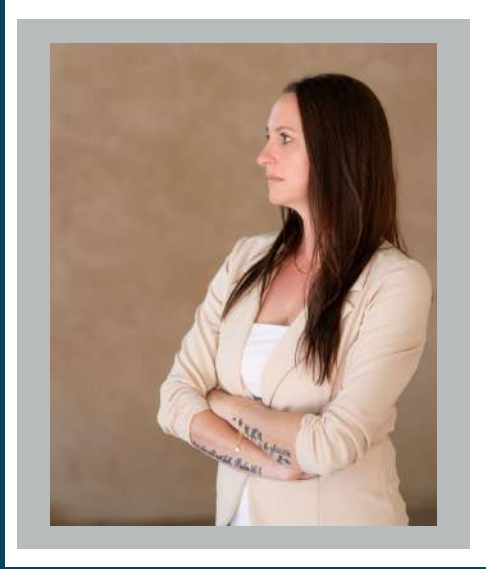


Alanna is a partner at Dentons, a Washington, DC law firm that has supported our cases for more than a decade. She has worked pro bono with Child Justice for more than ten years on appellate and trial matters, specializing in defending vulnerable families from litigation abuse and systemic ignorance.

“I have always been so amazed and inspired by Child Justice's tireless dedication to the legal rights and protection of children.”

HERO AWARD

Annie Kenny



Annie Kenny is a divorce coach, victim/child safety advocate, and founder of Bloom Consulting Solutions. She helps protective parents find clarity, strength, and strategy as they navigate the often overwhelming world of family court.

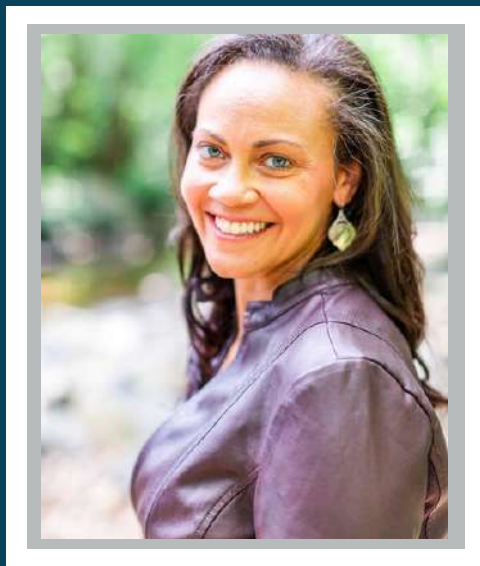
Annie first connected with Child Justice while gathering support for a child safety bill she was working on, and not long after, they became her attorneys in her own custody case. That experience left a lasting impact. Since then, she's testified alongside Child Justice on several pieces of legislation and continues to fight for safer outcomes for kids and the parents who protect them.

She's especially proud to have helped pass Maryland laws requiring training for judges and increased accountability for child sexual abuse offenders. Her advocacy has been featured in the Washington Post, WJLA, and she was a speaker on the Allen v. Farrow panel series. She is co-author of *Stop the Silence: Thriving After Child Sexual Abuse* and is a repeat presenter at the Battered Mother's Custody Conference.

Annie believes that no parent should be punished for trying to keep their child safe and is grateful every day for the people and organizations, like Child Justice, who are changing that reality.

HERO AWARD

Hera McLeod

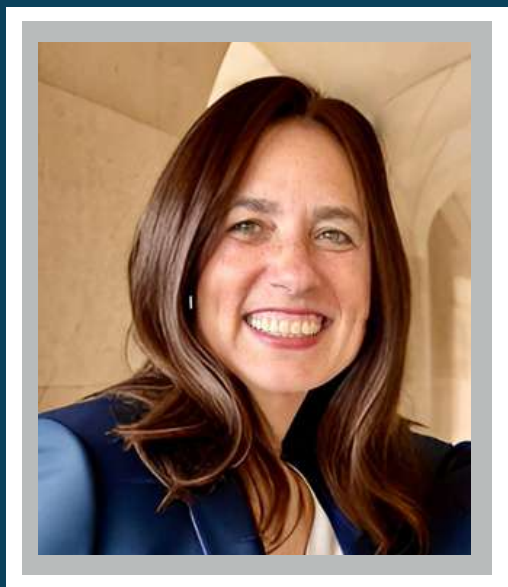


Hera McLeod is a writer, speaker, and civil rights activist. Hera became a fierce advocate for children's rights and family court reform after her son Prince was murdered by his father during a court ordered unsupervised visitation. In the years since her son's death, Hera has used writing as a mean to drive systemic change. She's the author of the book, "Defying Silence: A Memoir of a Mother's Loss and Courage in the Face of Injustice" and has published Op-ed pieces in The Washington Post, The Seattle Times, and The New York Times.

Hera has also testified before the United States Congress on the topics of civil rights and the protection of children. She testified in front of the Maryland Family Court Reform working group as well as Maryland Legislators. Her advocacy helped lead to the passage of legislation in Maryland for Judicial education on the topic of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence. She is on the board of The Supervised Visitation Network, a non-profit organization that champions a world where all children have safe access to their families. Hera became connected with Child Justice just before her son was murdered, while pursuing information on the appeal process.

HERO AWARD

*Danielle
Pollack*



I am honored to be recognized for this special award from Child Justice, an organization which shares with me a deep commitment to advancing child safety and justice.

In my work as policy manager of the National Family Violence Law Center at GW (NFVLC), and co-founder of the National Safe Parents Organization (NSPO), I see such need for organizations like Child Justice, fighting every day to make things right for abuse survivors.

Together we make the change.

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HERO AWARD

Dr. Kathryn Spearman



Kathryn Spearman, PhD, MSN, RN is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the Pennsylvania State University Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing and a faculty member of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network. Dr. Spearman earned her PhD in May 2025 from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Her dissertation was funded through an F31 training grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development and focused on understanding how post-separation abuse impacts children's health.

Dr. Spearman's broad program of research examines how experiences of abuse and legal system responses impact social determinants of health. Dr. Spearman uses mixed-method study designs to center survivor perspectives and needs and translate these findings into actionable policy change and interventions that promote the health, safety, and well-being of children and their protective parents. Her scientific inquiry is informed by clinical experience working as a pediatric nurse with abused children in inpatient and residential treatment settings. Her BS and MSN are from the University of Virginia and Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, respectively. She earned a graduate certificate in maternal child health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dr. Spearman was first professionally connected with the Child Justice Team when she began attending the Maryland Workgroup to Study Child Custody Court Proceedings involving Child Abuse or Domestic Violence Allegations in 2019. Since then, she has collaborated with Child Justice, providing evidence-based research resources and expert insight to assist with amicus briefs and advocating for legislative change to protect children.

THE HONOREES



MUSIC PROVIDED BY

PRETTY BIG DEAL

PRETTY BIG DEAL is a rock-n-roll-with-a-splash-of-oomph band out of Annapolis, Maryland. They cover everything from The Beatles to Foo Fighters, and they play regularly in and around the Annapolis/Baltimore area. Michael K. started the band in 2010 as an excuse to jam with some of the finest musicians in and around Annapolis including Todd Kreuzburg, Brian Bolly, Joe Glumscic, and Brian Goddard (just to name a few).

Michael K. is an award-winning songwriter in his own right and has had his original songs placed in TV shows and movies. When he's not rockin' with the band, he also performs solo gigs and as a duo with Todd Kreuzburg.

**For booking information, please visit:
www.prettybigdealband.com**

LET'S WORK TOGETHER



There are many ways to get involved in our 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.



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