

# CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH COURTS

June-July 2022 Edition

**ACT NOW  
TO HELP TRANSFORM  
“PIPELINES-TO-PRISON”  
INTO  
“STAIRWAYS-TO-SUCCESS.”**



“Justice for Youth by Youth”

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FEATURING CONTENT FROM:

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## Overview of the 16th Annual CAYC National Youth Summit

Every year, CAYC holds its annual youth court summit where community leaders in juvenile justice assemble to hear from speakers, to network, and to engage with the developments in the field.

This year, we are pleased to report that the CAYC Youth Summit took place with over 150 people in attendance throughout the two-day event. Our two plenary keynote speakers this year were Director Katherine Lucero of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, and Professor Elizabeth Cauffman of UC Irvine. Both of whom offered special insights into the field of restorative justice and community. Both also received very positive feedback from our participants and left our participants inspired and impacted. We also had a variety of workshops and sessions focused around a wide plane of issues within juvenile justice.

A new development and highlight of this year’s summit was the promotion of youth engagement and advocacy in our systems. One of the themes for this year’s summit was: “A Seat at the Table”, referencing the lack of youth voice on major decision making bodies impacting youth. Members of the youth advisory board hosted the summit, facilitated Q&As, held debrief sessions, and even participated

in a youth circle. In addition to all of that, our Youth Advisory Board team also produced a short skit painting a picture of youth in decision-making bodies. You can check out this well-curated skit [here](#).

Moreover, we have assembled a repository of resources from the summit available for your viewing. This includes the summit recordings (with the exception of certain confidential segments of our summit), and some resources the speakers have passed along including their powerpoint presentations, research, and more. You can access that [here](https://www.calyouthcourts.com/?page_id=66) ([https://www.calyouthcourts.com/?page\\_id=66](https://www.calyouthcourts.com/?page_id=66)).

For those whom we missed at the summit this year, don't fear! We will be hosting our 17th Annual CAYC Youth Court summit next year, so please look forward to that.



**Welcome the New Youth Advisory Board!** This April, CAYC welcomed six new members to its youth advisory board (YAB). The YAB is in charge of representing the interests of all youth in California, particularly those that are system-involved or interested in juvenile justice and peer diversion programs. This year's YAB is made of youth from all over the state, from Los Angeles to Humboldt County, with a diverse array of perspectives and life experiences. However, they all have one thing in common—their shared passion for ending the school-to-prison pipeline. Already, the YAB has offered feedback on website design, newsletter organization, and youth membership to CAYC's adult board of trustees. In addition, many members of the advisory board assisted the team from Facilitative Solutions in planning CAYC's annual youth summit. Some youth were even able to co-host the event, introduce speakers, and moderate discussions. Here is a complete list of this year's new board members and the organizations they represent:

- Hanna Partovi (Rising Senior): Marin Youth Transforming Justice
- Angelina Parker (Rising Senior): San Mateo County Peer Point & Marin Youth Transforming Justice
- Wesley Liu (Rising Junior): San Mateo County Peer Point & Marin Youth Transforming Justice
- Jacob Lawson (Rising Senior): Los Angeles County Teen Courts
- Edan Saedi (Rising Senior): Los Angeles County Teen Courts
- Gemma Caruso (Rising Freshman): Humboldt County Teen Court

The YAB looks forward to continuing to reshape CAYC's direction over the course of the next year!

# "JUSTICE FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH"

## Promoting Youth Voice:

CAYC takes great pride in being an advocate for providing youth 'a seat at the table,' and empowering youth. This newsletter features a poem by Jacob Lawson, one of our Youth Advisory Board members.

*Talking and mingling as they decide our fate  
Shaking and tingling, all we can do is contemplate  
For we have no seat at the table, no true voice  
We have been made unable, we are given no choice*

*This brings great consequences and harmful ramifications  
It is peers that best know circumstances and complex relations  
Thus it is pertinent that youth be given input too  
To bring out the truth and benefit me and you*

*Let us all come together and do what is just  
Let us make great change forever, our generation must  
Help all who are involved and promote welfare  
Our system evolved shall be much more fair*

## FEATURED PERSON



**Dr. Elizabeth Cauffman**

*UC Irvine Professor of Psychological Science, Education and Law  
Stanford University Postdoctoral Fellow*

Elizabeth Cauffman is a Professor in the Department of Psychological Science in the School of Social Ecology and holds courtesy appointments in the School of Education and the School of Law. Dr. Cauffman received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Temple University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center on Adolescence at Stanford University. At the broadest level, Dr. Cauffman's research

addresses the intersection between adolescent development and juvenile justice. She has published over 100 articles, chapters, and books on a range of topics in the study of contemporary adolescence, including adolescent brain development, risk-taking and decision-making, parent-adolescent relationships, and juvenile justice. Findings from Dr. Cauffman's research were incorporated into the American Psychological Association's amicus briefs submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roper v. Simmons*, which abolished the juvenile death penalty, and in both *Graham v. Florida* and *Miller v. Alabama*, which placed limits on the use of life without parole as a sentence for juveniles. As part of her larger efforts to help research inform practice and policy, she served as a member of the MacArthur Foundation's [Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice](#) as well as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on the Neurobiological and Socio-behavioral Science of Adolescent Development and Its Applications. Dr. Cauffman currently directs the Center for Psychology & Law (<http://psychlaw.socceco.uci.edu/>) as well as the Masters in Legal & Forensic Psychology program (<https://mlfp.socceco.uci.edu/>) at UCI. To learn more about her research, please visit her [Development, Disorder, and Delinquency](#) lab website.

Dr. Cauffman is a distinguished public speaker on the topic of juvenile justice. In addition to speaking at CAYC's annual summit, Dr. Cauffman gave a deeply impactful TedTalk on youth development and justice system involvement in 2016 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUaobIqZoXU>) that has since gone viral. Her research is often cited when discussing the impact neuroscience should have on redesigning the criminal justice system.

Dr. Cauffman recently completed a study titled "Psychosocial Maturity and Desistance From Crime in a Sample of Serious Juvenile Offenders" in collaboration with esteemed psychology professors Laurence Steinberg and Kathryn Monahan, which was featured in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention bulletin. Here are some highlights of their research:

*The Pathways to Desistance study followed more than 1,300 serious juvenile offenders for 7 years after their conviction. In this bulletin, the authors present key findings on the link between psychosocial maturity and desistance from crime in the males in the Pathways sample as they transition from mid-adolescence to loop early adulthood (ages 14–25):*

- *Recent research indicates that youth experience protracted maturation, into their mid-twenties, of brain systems responsible for self-regulation. This has stimulated interest in measuring young offenders' psychosocial maturity into early adulthood.*
- *Youth whose antisocial behavior persisted into early adulthood were found to have lower levels of psychosocial maturity in adolescence and deficits in their development of maturity (i.e., arrested development) compared with other antisocial youth.*
- *The vast majority of juvenile offenders, even those who commit serious crimes, grow out of antisocial activity as they transition to adulthood. Most juvenile offending is, in fact, limited to adolescence.*
- *This study suggests that the process of maturing out of crime is linked to the process of maturing more generally, including the development of impulse control and future orientation.*

## Membership Updates

We are currently on a membership drive, and working hard to increase our numbers.

If you attended a CAYC sponsored Summit either in-person or virtual in the last 5 years, your first annual membership is free. If you are a fulltime student whose school actively participates in one or more Youth/Teen/Peer court, your membership is free. If you are a member of CAYC's Youth Advisory Board, your membership is free.

If you are a new sponsor/applicant for CAYC membership and the above doesn't apply to you, annual dues are as follows:

- \$20 new member dues\* (Includes custom CAYC lapel pin)
- \$100 Corporate membership\* (Includes custom gold metal CAYC lapel pins - x10)
- \$500 Lifetime membership\* (Includes custom gold metal CAYC lapel pin + plaque)

Membership benefits include invitation to quarterly roundtable exercises/training, invitation to annual Summit, quarterly Newsletter, membership only access to website, and notification/invitation to annual board meeting. Corporate sponsorship includes advertising on CAYC website. ([www.calyouthcourts.com](http://www.calyouthcourts.com))

As a member you will have access to a secure e-location which will allow you to collaborate and share information, including experiences of participating in one form or another in the Teen Court arena. Sponsors and donors can look forward to recognition not only in our newsletter, but our website as well.

Members of CAYC, including the Youth Board, will be attending and representing CAYC at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in Reno, NV, where we will have a booth promoting CAYC and Youth Courts in California. The current count for attendees is around 900+/- . We will report back on the success of our attendance in the next issue of this newsletter.

If you are reading this and not a member of our Association , you can find our application form on our website at [www.calyouthcourts.com](http://www.calyouthcourts.com).



## Featured Program: Santa Barbara Teen Court

JUNE 2022



COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

### A Notice of Retirement

Eduardo Cue'



Eduardo Cue' with his Daniel Bryant Center Team

It seems like yesterday, but in June 1998 I started my career with The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA). For twenty four years I have had the honor to serve this agency and the communities of Santa Barbara County. While I will be remembered for leading the Teen Court Program. I also served a Director to other CADA programs such as; Fighting Back Mentoring, Daniel Bryant Treatment Center, Parent Program, Friday Night/Club Live, Substance Use Prevention Education and Resources (SUPER), and Santa Barbara North County Services.

Teen Court is a program of second chances, and CADA gave me that by hiring me and my staff to work under the umbrella of this great agency. My previous career as a Correctional Officer with the California Youth Authority taught me how to work with court involved youth at the far end of the Juvenile Justice Continuum. Teen Court gave me an education on how to effectively work with teens at the front end of this same system.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Adams, who initiated the program in Santa Barbara, became my mentor and advocate to promote the program. CADA Director, Penny Jenkins, who is a forward thinker, could see how Teen Court could be an integral program in CADA's continuum of care. She took on Teen Court in 1998 after it was ready to close for lack of funding and helped the program become one of the most innovative diversion programs in America.

Along this journey there have been so many individuals and organizations that have actively embraced Teen Court. Teen Court was not a program that was designed to compete with our Courts or Probation, but it was designed to complement and become an effective extension of these agencies. The goal of Teen Court was to reduce early offender cases in the system, thus, allowing Probation and the Courts to focus on more serious offenders who were or could potentially cause harm in the community.

Like many programs at CADA, the success of Teen Court is built upon the collaboration of many people in the communities it serves. Teen Court has partnered with Law Enforcement, The Courts, attorneys who volunteer on the bench, the teens that make up the Jury of Peers, Community Leaders, District Attorneys, Public Defenders, School Administrators, Kiwanis, the adults who volunteer to help facilitate services, and most importantly, the staff.

It has been a true honor to work with everyone who has partnered with me to make Teen Court successful and make Santa Barbara County a better place to raise their children.

## Featured Program: Humboldt County Teen Court



### Field Trip to Mendocino Teen Peer Court

Teen Court conducted a field trip to Ukiah, CA on June 21-22, 2022 to participate in the Mendocino Teen Peer Court. Humboldt Sponsors donated generously to help make this opportunity a reality.

This field trip was an opportunity for our youth to share ideas and learn about best practices in the youth justice movement. Through participation in Mendocino's hearing on Tuesday, June 21 and a mental health training on Wednesday, June 22, Humboldt teens were energized and inspired to deepen their commitment to our local peer court.

*"It was definitely a learning experience to see how another town does their youth court, and we are excited to bring back home a few new ideas"—Kimberli, youth representative*

*"It was a fun bonding experience and a way to get to know some of the other student volunteers in the program that I'd only gotten to engage with professionally prior to our trip" – Cayden, youth representative*

Without the sustained support of Humboldt Sponsors, it would be very difficult to consistently offer enriching experiences like these to our Teen Court youth.

## PLANET FITNESS JUDGEMENT FREE SCHOLARSHIP

One of our Teen Court members, Ari, was just recently recognized on a national scale as one of the scholarship recipients of Planet Fitness's Judgement Free Scholarship. This award goes to those who are dedicated to spreading kindness, raising awareness around bullying, and being their awesome selves. Congratulations Ari!!



## YOUTH OF THE YEAR DINNER CELEBRATION

Established in 1947, Youth of the Year is Boys & Girls Clubs' premier recognition program for Club members, promoting service to Club, community and family; academic success; strong moral character; life goals; and poise and public speaking ability.

Cat, from BGCR's Teen Court program is our Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Youth of the Year recipient for 2021. Cat will be honored at a celebration dinner at the Red Lion Hotel on June 30th, 2022.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of local sponsors, this dinner is a **FREE** event and invitation only for Club supporters and families.



## In The News

### Redding Field Trip

On Feb 23-25, Teen Court took 5 teen Leaders on a field trip to Shasta Youth Court in Redding. This 2 night, 3 day trip had been much anticipated. The teens had a fantastic time getting to know other students and getting the chance to observe another court in action was very inspiring to them.

### Career Fair at St Bernards

On May 19, Teen Court attended the career fair at St. Bernards. Teens from many different high schools attended. We were able to spread the word about Teen Court, and recruited several new volunteers. This is an awesome annual event, and we are pleased to be included as an organization that supports career pathways into social work, justice and legal fields, and more.



### Volunteer Appreciation Party

On May 19, Teen Court hosted an end of the year party at Fresh Freeze. Both Judge Wilson and Judge Killoran attended this fun filled yummy afternoon along with teen volunteers.

### Teen Court Leaders Program

On May 24, we held our year end Leaders celebration at Sushi Spot. All of our Leaders attended along with Judge Wilson. We shared our appreciation of each other, laughed over the struggles of the pandemic and sent well wishes to those going off to college next year. We will resume the Leaders program in the new school year on September 8th. We have 4 new applicants to onboard in the fall.

## New Teen Court Sign

This spring, the Teen Court Leaders worked with Chuck Ellsworth at **Allpoints Signs** to create a new sign for Teen Court at our BGCR administrative offices. He helped the teens with design concepts, choosing the proper font, showed them around their work space, and shared about how he got started at this fantastic local business.

**Thank you  
Allpoints Signs!!!**



## OUTSTANDING DONORS

**Challenge Match Jonathan and Erin Flyer** donated \$6,000 to Teen Court in hopes of inspiring others to match their donation. We have promoted this on Teen Court's social media, email lists, and in our everyday doings. We are heading towards our goal and hope that you will help us in matching their funds. **Click the donation button below!**

We send out a huge thank you to the Flyers for their dedicated support of Teen Court.

## THANK YOU for your support!!

Some of our donors that are included in the challenge match are Dale Warmuth, Chrstina Allbright, Richard Hendry, Phillip Nicklas, Tim Canning, Michael Davies-Hughes, Jana Ganion, Catalina Pacheco Ramirez, Karen Marini, several anonymous donors and growing.

The **Humboldt County Bar Association** is also a sustaining donor. Thank you for your generous support!!

## Community Updates: Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods

In other news, on July 2nd, the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods held the National Boys & Girls Club Week Celebration in Eureka. The celebration was well received by the residents of Humboldt County. The celebration was also in close partnership with the Humboldt County Teen Court. We are excited about the work of Boys and Girls Clubs across the state, and their continued collaboration with youth courts.

**Donate today and keep CAYC strong!**

Visit our website: [www.calyouthcourts.com](http://www.calyouthcourts.com)

Follow us on Instagram @cayouthcourts and @caycyouth!

**We care about your opinion: share your feedback today!**

Form: <https://forms.gle/nKBs7iPYonis8fyR6>

**Want your youth court featured in our next issue?**

Fill this out: <https://forms.gle/vsFhSd1b76J5tPCz8>

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*"Justice for Youth by Youth"*

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