

Welcome to

# The 6th Annual Juvenile Justice Youth Symposium

Saturday, June 1, 2024 | 9:30 am – 1:00 pm  
Suffolk University Law School | 120 Tremont St. Boston MA

Co-hosts: Allyson Bolden and Gabriela Vasquez Rosado

**9:00am - 9:30am**

Breakfast and Registration

**9:30am - 10:00am**

Welcome: Migdalia Iris Nalls & Kathryn Ratey

Opening Remarks

Youth Performer Anadrea Brown

**10:00am - 11:45am**

Arraignment Proceedings in Moot Courtroom

**11:45am - 12:30pm**

Keynote Speaker & Awards

**12:30pm - 1:00pm**

Lunch & Networking

Thank you to our sponsors:



Thank you to the JJYS Co-Chair Migdalia Iris Nalls, Asst District Attorney, Chief, Juvenile Unit, SCDAO  
JJYS Committee JJYS Co-Chair Kathryn Ratey, Juvenile Diversion Director, SCDAO  
members, for all Ryan Brennan, ABCD  
your hard work Dawn Christie, DDAP  
and dedication in Lavell Fulks, BPHC

planning this Julia Friedenber, Rachel Dovek, Sheila Graham, *More than Words*  
event! Hannah Wolfield, Family Resource Center

Hannah St. Laurent, Nate Simms, Mass Mentoring Partnership

Jerry Howland, BPS

Andyeliz Papaleo, National Labor Relations Board

Cynthia Phan, Allyson Bolden, JAR, SCDAO

Gabriela Vasquez Rosado, SCDAO

Thank you to our First Justice: Honorable Gloria Y. Tan

Arraignment Demo First Justice: Honorable Helen Brown-Bryant

Participants: Clerk Magistrate: Kate Barkowski

Defense Counsel: Iashai Stephens

Asst District Attorney: Alfred A. Spencer

Victim Ellie: played by Ruth Gelaye (BLS)

Defendant Ayanna: played by Deleyah Creese (BLA)

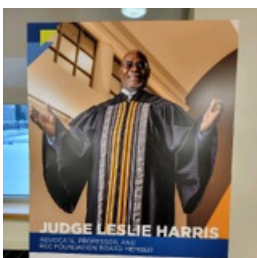
Defendant Casey: played by Olivia Pappas (BLS)

***Huge thank you to all of our volunteers!***

## THE HONORABLE LESLIE E. HARRIS AWARD

Judge Leslie E. Harris is a retired Associate Justice of the Suffolk Juvenile Court, appointed September 10, 1994 by Governor Weld. Judge Harris has served on many commissions, boards, and advisory groups for the courts and the community. He is a founding member of Citizens For Juvenile Justice, The Youth Advocacy Project (now Division) of the Roxbury Defenders Committee, Alternatives For Community and Environment (ACE), and Our Restorative Justice. He is the recipient of many honors and awards, including an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Simmons College, induction into the Wendell Phillips High School Hall of Fame, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University, the David Nelson Public Interest Award from Boston College Law School, Service Award from the Ten Point Coalition, the Hero Amongst Us Award from the Boston Celtics and Herald News Paper, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Boston College Black Law Student Association, an Embracing the Legacy award from the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, Champions of Freedom Award from Freedom House of Boston, the Susan Jane Ganz Award from CASA of Boston, the Lifetime Achievement Award from Boston College Law School, the Restorative Justice Award from the Justice Policy Coalition, and Life Time Achievement Award from Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association.

Judge Harris and his wife Beverly are the proud parents of three wonderful children and make their home in Roxbury.



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## Recipient of the Judge Leslie E Harris Award:

Leon Smith

*Executive Director, Citizens for Juvenile Justice*



Leon Smith started as CfJJ's executive director in February 2019. A 1995 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio and a 1999 graduate of New England School of Law in Boston, Leon worked as a trial attorney in the juvenile system since 2001. Leon began his career in 2001 as a juvenile court public defender, first in Providence, Rhode Island and later at the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Roxbury, Mass. He subsequently managed his own law practice devoted to juvenile and criminal court advocacy in the Massachusetts Juvenile, District and Superior courts. He then moved on to at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City, working on youth- oriented local and national public policy issues.

Leon comes to CfJJ from the Connecticut-based Center for Children's Advocacy. Previously the director of the Alternative Schools Project, he advocated reforms to improve services for Connecticut's alternative school students and to prevent drop-out. In 2013, the project helped to change state law, providing better oversight of alternative schools. In 2015, the project drafted additional legislation which offered further protections upon its passing, including a requirement that students in alternative education receive "as nearly equal advantages" as students in traditional public schools.

Leon also served as the director of the Racial Justice Project, leading a team providing legal representation to youth of color subjected to harsh school discipline, illegal school push-out, and unconstitutional targeting by law enforcement. Through legislative advocacy, litigation and collaborative work with communities and state agencies, the project advanced reform. He was also the lead facilitator and co-chair of Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) committees, which addresses disparities in the juvenile justice system in three Connecticut cities, and an appointed member of the Connecticut Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. Since returning to Massachusetts,

Leon has served on a number of statewide juvenile justice reform efforts, including the Emerging Adult Justice Task Force and the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding Commission.

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**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Cynthia K. Orellana  
*President and CEO of Mass Mentoring Partnership*



Dr. Orellana is President and CEO of Mass Mentoring Partnership, a statewide nonprofit organization focused on supporting young people by ensuring the mentoring relationships they need to develop into thriving, engaged adults. Most recently, Dr. Orellana served as the Director of the Office of Community Partnerships at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Previous roles also include serving as the Assistant Commissioner for Access and Success Strategies at the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education and Director of the Commonwealth Corps in the Office of Governor Deval Patrick.

Dr. Orellana has a history of service on boards and national and local advisory groups, including as a Founding Board Member of Chica Project. Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors for Community Catalyst.

She has been recognized for her work and leadership by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus with a Latino Excellence Award in 2023, the Commonwealth Seminar's Civic Engagement Amplifier Award in 2021, Campus Compact's Nadinne Cruz Community Engagement Professional Award in 2020, Get Konnected's 25 Influential Millennial Leaders of Color and Amplify Latinx's list of 30 Amplifiers for the Latino community in Massachusetts in 2018; and among 100 most influential people in Massachusetts to the Latino community in El Planeta Newspaper's 2017 Powermeter list.

Dr. Orellana is a native and lifelong resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts and the youngest of four children. She is the first generation born in the United States, the daughter of Salvadoran immigrants, and the first in her family to attend college. She holds a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from the University of Massachusetts Boston, an MA in urban and environmental policy and planning from Tufts University, and a BS in political science from Northeastern University.

**You can find Dr. Orellana's full bio on Mass Mentoring Partnership's website:**  
[www.massmentors.org](http://www.massmentors.org)