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State of Utah Utah Board of Juvenile Justice

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Nominations for Youth Advocate of the Year Award

On May 15, 1967, the United States Supreme Court announced in In re Gault that children have the same basic due process rights in America’s courtrooms as adults when they are prosecuted, including the right to counsel. In the Gault opinion, Justice Abe Fortas wrote, “Under our Constitution, the condition of being a boy does not justify a kangaroo court,” and asserted that children need the guidance of a counsel throughout their case.

Court involvement affects almost every aspect of a child’s life. The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice wants to ensure the entire justice system and the public, from teachers to service providers to faith leaders, understand the role of the juvenile defender and why access to counsel is not only constitutionally required, but also critically important to achieving better outcomes for youth.

The UBJJ Youth Advocate of the Year Award is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to youth, the juvenile justice effort, or the broader area of juvenile justice. This year to commemorate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Gault decision UBJJ has chosen to highlight the need for specialized defense counsel for children and the individual attorneys who work tirelessly to represent those children.

UBJJ is seeking nominations for juvenile defense attorneys who represent youth in delinquency matters. The awards will be presented to recipients during **UBJJ’s Youth Justice Awareness Month celebration on October 20th, 2016 in the Utah Supreme Court Chambers at the Matheson Courthouse.**

The following criteria will be used to select the award recipients:

- Embodies zealous and effective representation
- Shows unwavering dedication to representing the youth's expressed interest
- Actively seeks their client's input
- Conveys a genuine interest and concern for their client's perspective and well being
- Ensures a youth's voice, concerns, and perspectives are heard in the courtroom and throughout the juvenile justice system
- Empowers their client to be an active participant and director in the process of their case and designing outcomes
- Possesses comprehensive education, training, and skills which meet the unique juvenile client's needs
- Works with all participants in the juvenile justice system to promote systemic enhancement and change
- Works to enhance the practice and recognition of juvenile defense as a specialization
- Shows an unselfish dedication to the youth they represent
- Has made a significant impact on the juvenile justice effort.

Nominations for the 2016 Youth Advocate of the Year are **due no later than September 19, 2016**. Submit recommendations to:

Cuong Nguyen, Juvenile Justice Specialist
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Fax: 801-538-1024 or
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Utah Board of Juvenile Justice
**2016 Youth Advocate of the Year Award
Nomination Form**

Deadline: Monday September 19th, 2016

Name of Nominee: _____

Organization/Law Firm: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Submitted By: _____ Phone: _____

Please answer the following questions. Submissions must not exceed three (3) pages.
Entries more than three pages will not be considered.

1. Describe the nominee's activities (professional activities, volunteer activities, roles and duties performed, years of service, etc.)

