



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ROBIN GOLDFADEN AND JAVIER STAURING JOIN YOUTH LAW CENTER

YLC is pleased to announce the hiring of new staff members Robin Goldfaden and Javier Stauring. Both Robin and Javier joined YLC in February and bring impressive advocacy skills and passion for the children YLC serves.

Robin Goldfaden joins YLC as a senior staff attorney focused on a range of issues central to YLC's efforts to protect and advance the rights of our nation's most vulnerable children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Robin is an experienced and talented litigator who has worked passionately and tirelessly to make justice and equality real for marginalized and vulnerable communities.

Robin says "I am incredibly honored to do this work and do this work with YLC. Each day, I see firsthand the basic goodness of children and their enormous potential, but also their incredible vulnerability. From this and from the unfathomable deprivations and abuse I have now seen so many young people suffer, I am driven to fight for them, so that every one of them has the chance to live a full, healthy, enriched life."

Before joining YLC, Robin served as a senior staff attorney with the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project; the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law; and Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. For more than 15 years, Robin has developed and litigated civil rights cases involving cutting-edge issues at both the trial and appellate levels. She has also provided and supervised the provision of direct legal services and been deeply engaged in coalition work, policy advocacy, strategic planning, media communications, and community outreach and education. Robin's work has cut across a range of issues, including immigrant and refugee rights, disability rights, discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion and national origin, unconstitutional conditions of confinement, access to education, detention in violation of due process and statutory authority, post-

9/11 policies and practices, asylum, access to the courts, and due process protections for children and individuals lacking mental capacity. Earlier in her career, she was a NAPIL (now Equal Justice Works) Fellow and served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Fortunato P. Benavides of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the Honorable Allyne R. Ross of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Robin was honored last year with the California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award.

Javier Stauring joins YLC as a special projects advocate focused on ensuring children in the juvenile justice system receive the supports they need to become healthy productive adults. Javier is a visionary leader in the movement to bring humanity to the juvenile justice system, has been deeply involved in transformational justice policy and has been YLC's long-time partner.

Javier says "I am thrilled to be continuing to do the work with children and families that I love and who have inspired my life, while focusing more on systemic change with an organization that has been a key part of my past work."

Javier began working with YLC over fifteen years ago to develop what became known as the Healing Justice Coalition, a faith-based association of religious leaders supporting change in the juvenile justice system. Under Javier's leadership, faith leaders throughout California have been educated and then brought to prisons and juvenile facilities to see firsthand the conditions under which children and youth are incarcerated, to meet with youth and to become a strong advocacy voice. Most recently, Javier was the Co-Director of the Office of Restorative Justice of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, where he oversaw the largest Catholic Detention ministry program in the nation. YLC has worked with Javier on many projects and reform efforts throughout the past decade and a half, including work to improve conditions of confinement of juveniles being tried as adults and to require reviews of sentences of offenders who have served long prison terms for offenses committed as juveniles. Last year, Javier was awarded the World Children's Prize for his advocacy on behalf of incarcerated children. In addition to his advocacy role at YLC, Javier will be Director of Healing Dialogue and Action (HDA), a new organization incubated by YLC, which focuses on restorative justice and reforming the justice system by bringing together families of murder victims with families of youth who have been tried as adults.

The Youth Law Center (YLC), established in 1978, is a national public interest law firm that works to protect children in the nation's foster care and justice systems from abuse and neglect, and to ensure that they receive the necessary parenting, support and services to thrive. <http://www.ylc.org/>

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