



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

Champions Newsletter, January 2020

Because the *smallest* voice in the courtroom should be
the *loudest*.



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA



25 Year
Anniversary

2020 marks the 25th anniversary for Children's Law Center of Minnesota!

Since 1995, Children's Law Center of MN has represented over **3600** youth, and **900** dedicated volunteer attorneys have provided legal representation to youth experiencing foster care.

To celebrate and show our gratitude to the many individuals, law firms, attorneys and volunteers who have tenaciously advocated for youth in foster care, we will highlight 25 stories throughout the year to celebrate 25 years. If you would like to recommend a story featuring a volunteer attorney, current or former staff or board member, or foster care alumni, please email Development Director, [Amanda Finman-Palmer](#) with your nominations.

A special thank to the following Board of Directors who have finished their terms in 2019: Bridget Ahmann, Nina Boswell, and Annamarie Daley. Please extend a warm welcome following new [Board of Directors](#) who will join us at the first Board meeting in February: Amy Conway, Holley Horrell, Zeke Johnson, Josh Natzel, Erin Sindberg Porter, and De'Andra Walker.

Happy new year as we embark on the 25th anniversary of CLC. I'm thrilled to continue to lead our dedicated staff, Board and volunteers. CLC continues to grow to promote the rights and interests of Minnesota's children in the judicial, child welfare, health care, and education systems.

Lilia Panteleeva, Esq.
Executive Director

Thank you to our sponsors and attendees for a successful and fun evening.

The 2019 annual benefit was a record setting evening. [Click here to see the pictures from our event](#), courtesy of Craig Mullenbech and Toni Johnson. Our gratitude to Marianne Short the evening's keynote speaker and [Susan-Elizabeth Littlefield](#) for emceeding again this year.

Watch the video of Marianne Short's speech below.

If you attended our event last year, please share any feedback using the following [brief survey](#).



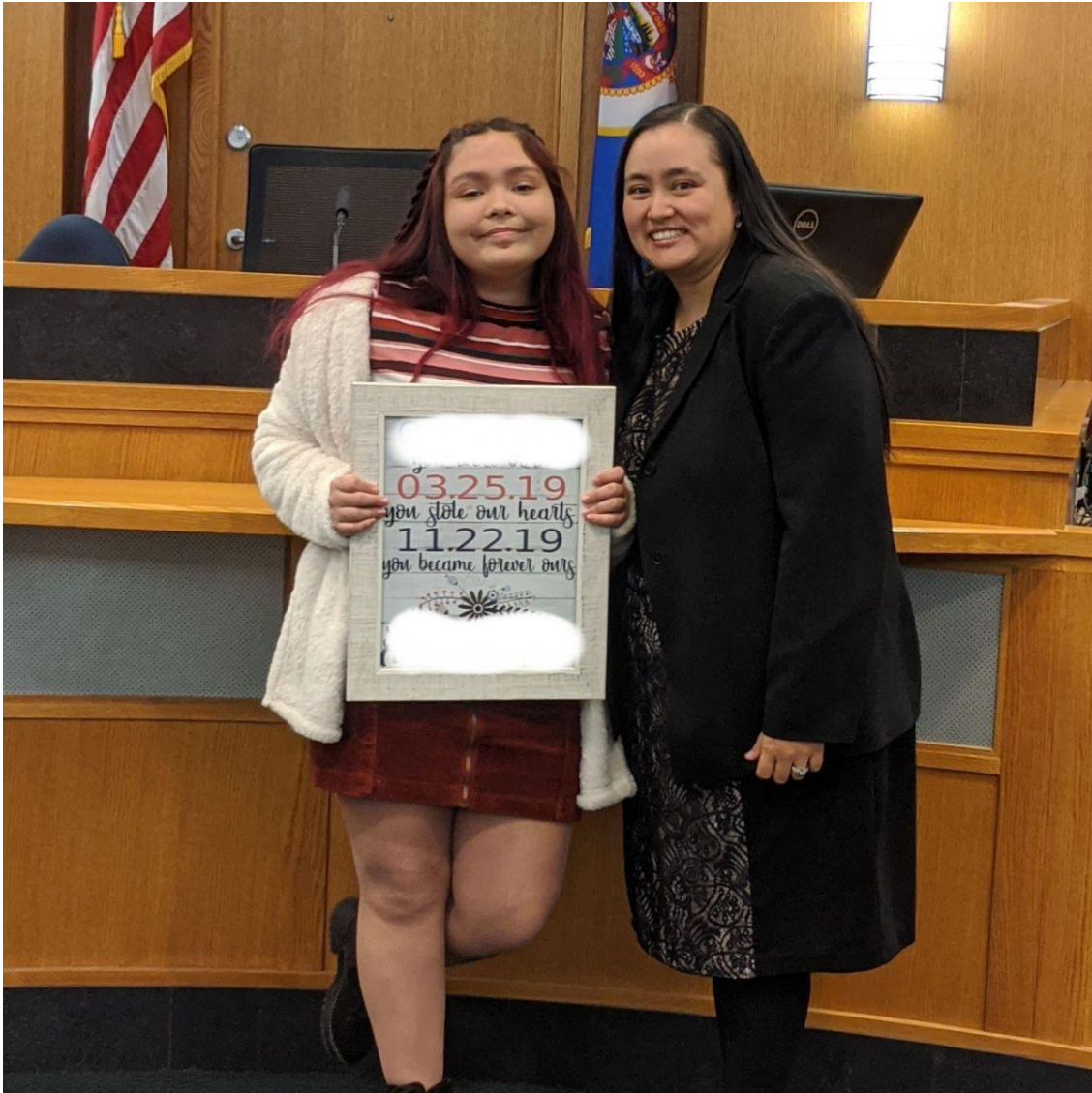
Marianne Short shares why she is a champion for Children's Law Center and the individual and community benefits of pro Bono work.

Keynote Speaker Marianne Short



UNITEDHEALTH GROUP
Executive Vice
President and Chief
Legal Officer for
UnitedHealth Group





L's

Adoption

Story

Lisa Hui-Peterson, CLC staff attorney, has been connected to L for many years. In a prior role she was L's Guardian ad Litem. Melinda Dugas was assigned as L's volunteer attorney in 2016, and has been a firece advocate for L. L has faced many adversities in her young life – her mother's rights were terminated, and she spent time in five placements before landing with her adoptive parents. Despite these adversities, L remains a compassionate young woman, with a positive attitude about life and her adoptive family. Due to the efforts of her volunteer attorney, L felt confident that her voice was being heard and mattered. L continues to maintain contact with her adult biological sisters, and her adoptive family has welcomed her sisters into their family, too. L is doing well in school and has a new, loving and supportive family that will continue to guide her throughout school and beyond.



Thank you to Carestream!

Carestream purchased and assembled sixteen brand new bikes from our long time partner, [Together We Rise](#), and delivered them to CLC in Saint Paul. Our volunteer attorneys generously picked up and delivered these bikes to their current child clients. Our hearts are full thinking of the youth who received a bike and helmet of their very own.



Fall 2019 Paralegal Interns

Alexis King and Sam Beussman were CLC interns this fall. King graduated from the Minneapolis Business College and Beussman is a graduate of Hamline University. Sam plans to work toward law school, and Alexis is excited about her next steps as a paralegal. We are grateful to our interns and their dedication to CLC.

Welcome New CLC Staff

Amanda Finman-Palmer

We are thrilled to announce our new Development Director, Amanda Finman-Palmer. Amanda currently serves on Gender Justice and NCJW (National Council on Jewish Women) development committees, and completed the Young Nonprofit Professional Network's Leadership Institute, May 2019. Most recently she served as the Director of the Annual Fund at Heilicher Minneapolis Day School, starting an alumni relations program, while growing annual resources. She brings over a decade of annual, corporate and major gift fundraising expertise.





Katie Opperman

Please welcome Katie Opperman, our new Legal Administrative Assistant! Katie is a recent graduate of St. Olaf where she studied Sociology, Anthropology and French. Through coursework and internship experience in Minnesota and Dakar, Senegal, she became interested in pursuing a career in nonprofit legal services. Katie lives in Northfield, MN and also works part-time at a local coffee shop.

Thank you for supporting CLC!

The last two months of the year were a flurry of generous financial contributions, donated books, bikes, and duffel bags, all to support 900 Minnesotan youth in foster care.

A special shout out to the [340 volunteer attorneys](#) who support these youth throughout their time in the child welfare system, and the strong support from Twin Cities law firms. Thank you!

If you missed us during the holiday season, it's not too late! Individual donors are crucial to providing pro Bono representation. Giving is easy [online](#), by check, or simply call 651-444-4438.

GIVE TODAY

Save the Dates for Upcoming Events

- January 24, 2020 CLE Volunteer Training, 8:00-12:30pm
- April 25, 2020 Association of Corporate Counsel Minnesota Chapter Gala
- May 5, 2020 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Robins Kaplan 8:00-9:00am
- August 5, 2020 Indeed Brewery Happy Hour
- October 8, 2020 25th Celebration of Champions Benefit & Dinner

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FORWARD

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