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## Constitutional Issues In the New Millennium

Part IV of IV

### The Adolescent Law Group

Public Interest and Restorative Justice Professionals  
Dedicated to Keeping Our Young People OUT of the Prison Pipeline

Introduction | The Right to Counsel  
Juvenile Justice Practices Vary | Organizational Objectives

**Make a Donation**

#### Proverbs 31: 8-9 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup>Open your mouth for the mute, For the rights of all the unfortunate. <sup>9</sup>Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

#### Introduction

We Defend the Indigent

The Adolescent Law Group is a *Mission-Related Subsidiary* of The Advocacy Foundation, Inc. Its Mission is to provide the local indigent communities with high-power legal services for Juvenile, and some Adult, Court matters.

The underlying objective is to help balance the scales of justice for young persons, their families, and their communities, which are otherwise unable to obtain zealous and adequate legal representation.

#### The Right to Counsel

The ALG provides Juvenile Court legal services for the local indigent community. Although everyone has the same legal rights, attorneys are generally required for someone to enforce and assert them vigorously and properly. This is not a problem for people with money, but for those without it, legal rights are often compromised.

The Adolescent Law Group (ALG) reverses this trend by offering high-level legal assistance to those who could not otherwise afford it. ALG services range from *delinquency* to *dependency* matters and, due to the nature of the proceedings, may include representation for family members of dependents as well as for those of the accused young people.

Our services are provided to individuals who qualify for them using the "Advocates Minimum Qualification System", and/or a "Sliding-Fee Scale", based on a variety of factors including income, access to other legal alternatives, and the type of representation needed.

The ALG relies exclusively on funding from law firms, foundations, corporations, government grants, individual and Private donations through social networking, as well as limited pro-bono donations from fellow attorneys.

## Juvenile Justice Practices Vary From One Jurisdiction to Another

Juvenile Justice systems vary widely between communities. If a child becomes involved in the juvenile justice system, the first step is to learn how the system in which s/he is caught-up actually works. Successful navigation through this system should result in the preservation of his or her rights and prospects for the future.

Key parental, and/ or guardian questions for arresting juvenile authorities should include, but by no means be limited to, the following: Why was the child arrested? Will s/he have to be detained, or can s/he be released into the custody of a parent or caregiver? Will we need to post bond? Will the child have a record simply as a result of the arrest? What happens next? Whom should the parent or caregiver speak with to get assistance if the child is referred to juvenile court?

In many cases, particularly for minor offenses or a first-time arrest, young persons will be released into their parent or caregiver's custody. They also may be diverted into a community service program where they will be expected to perform volunteer services, or participate in a variety of curricular and/ or extra-curricular activities. In exchange, the charges against them may be dropped or modified.

#### Organizational Objectives

The First Three Years

The objectives for the first three years of operation include:

- Provision of high-level and vigorous legal representation for eligible young persons and their families who could not otherwise afford it;
- Increased funding and donations by at least 20% per year.

The Adolescent Law Group will provide legal services to people who do not qualify for other types of legal aid because:

- They do not fit traditional economic profiles for indigence;
- Other organizations do not have the time, resources, or do not subject-matter expertise in the areas of law needed.

The ALG will solicit other legal aid organizations and private attorneys to develop referral systems to support local indigent communities.

Always feel welcome to contact me directly with any questions, comments, or great ideas!

*Jack Johnson*

President & CEO



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John C (Jack) Johnson III  
Founder & CEO



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ADVOCACY



*Helping Individuals, Organizations & Communities  
Achieve Their Full Potential*

**Our Mission**

The Mission of The Advocacy Foundation  
is Threefold:

**To Rescue**

Young persons from the prison pipeline  
and help redirect and restore their lives;

**To Teach**

New and fledgling nonprofit organizations to become  
fundable, to thrive, and to maintain compliance;

**To Train**

Qualified Juvenile Justice Professionals with a passion  
for effective careers in the Juvenile Justice system.

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