Subject line: Juvenile Appellate Defense Project

**The Juvenile Appellate Defense Project**

Utah Juvenile Defense Attorneys (UJDA), in collaboration with the Indigent Appellate Defense Division (IADD), is excited to announce the Juvenile Appellate Defense Project. This project will provide resources to juvenile defenders in the third through sixth class counties to assist with trial level practice and in preparing your cases for a potential appeal. A robust juvenile appellate practice ensures that youth are fully accorded their due process rights and is essential to developing a strong and cohesive body of juvenile delinquency jurisprudence in Utah.

The IADD has contracted with UJDA to implement the Juvenile Appellate Defense Project. As part of this contract, UJDA will provide resources for defense attorneys who represent youth in delinquency cases in third through sixth class counties. These resources include:

* Quarterly delinquency defense training sessions to assist trial level defenders with identifying and preserving issues that can then be raised on appeal.
* Weekly postings on the Utah Juvenile Delinquency Defense listserve with information, practice tips, or discussion about new case law.
* Consultation and collaboration with trial attorneys, including brainstorming and assistance with motion practice.
* Appellate representation for youth who want to file an appeal.

**About UJDA**

UJDA is a stand-alone office serving court-involved youth in Salt Lake County. UJDA is dedicated to promoting justice for youth by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense from a child’s first appearance in court through the appeal and expungement process. UJDA has nine trial attorneys, two appellate attorneys, two social workers, and three administrative assistants who collectively have 135 years of experience defending Utah’s most vulnerable population. Through trial advocacy, community building, data collection, training, and policy reform, UJDA provides nationally recognized juvenile legal defense and advocacy for youth in Salt Lake County.

UJDA employs a proactive defense model which involves regular brainstorming sessions and collaborative teamwork. Using this model, appellate attorneys work closely with trial counsel to anticipate the complexities of a given case, build a strong defense and theory of the case, strategically identify important legal issues and file motions on those issues so the record is properly preserved for appeal, and avoid ineffective assistance of counsel claims by having a cohesive and well-executed trial strategy. In many cases, the collaborative pretrial preparation and motion practice results in better outcomes for youth and also reduces the chance that the client will need to appeal the decision.

**Next Steps for the Juvenile Appellate Defense Project**

Thank you for attending our informational webinar last week. Please look for another email from us announcing the date of the September training on preserving the record for appeal. We look forward to meeting you and working together in an effort to elevate juvenile defense representation in Utah.

Sincerely,

Monica Maio

Managing Appellate Attorney

Marina Peña

Appellate Attorney