

Youth Perspective

Presidential Service Awards

United Youth Courts of Alaska

Race Judicata

Gavel Games

University of Wyoming Trial Institute

AYC New Member Class



A Quarterly Anchorage Youth Court Newsletter

# The GAVEL

## Anchorage Youth Court Board of Directors

### Co Chairs:

**Chris Wyatt**

(BP)

TBD\*

### Co Secretaries:

**Lars Johnson**

(Alaska Court System)

TBD\*

### Co Treasurers:

**Sarah Morrison**

(Dept. of Natural Resources)

TBD\*

### Members:

**Indra Arriaga**

(Alaska Division of Elections)

**Michael Barnes\***

**Katie Bednar\***

**Sam Dannenberg\***

**Molly Estes\***

**Bobby Jefts**

(Anchorage School District)

**Blaise Lochner\***

**Bernice Lloyd\***

**Peter Maassen**

(Alaska Supreme Court)

**Brynn Morse\***

**Sarah Price\***

**Felix Rivera**

(Alaska Child and Family)

**Rachael Shaw-Rosenbaum\***

**Emily Tedrick\***

\* Student Members

## Youth Perspective

By Trevor Baily, 2018 Graduate and AYC Member

AYC has been a steady part of my life for almost six years. To say it has affected me is an understatement. When I was doing registration for seventh grade at Goldenview Middle school, I saw a flyer for AYC on a table. I jokingly told my mom that I should join so I could be better than my brother, Spencer. He was in AYC, and was the president for one year. My mom didn't think I was joking and suggested that I join. I gave it some thought and decided to give it a shot. When I started in youth court in seventh grade, I was a shy kid with no public speaking skills who had no real idea what I wanted to do.



I remember in my first strategic planning meeting, I was suggesting that we try and push for more people like me, who weren't going into legal careers. I considered being an engineer, but I had the uneasy feeling that it wasn't what I really wanted to do. Getting involved in AYC helped me find my path. Because of the outstanding introduction into legal careers I received, I now know I want to be a lawyer. From all the perspectives of defendants I have heard in court, I know I want to be a Public Defender. Although I am still getting a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, I now know my calling. Before AYC, I was terrified of public speaking, I would

shake and mumble and sometimes be incoherent. Now, I speak more clearly and with ease. Before AYC, I needed to have everything written down before I would say it. Now, I can give a whole speech without anything written down. I have more self-confidence when speaking to others, especially speaking to adults. AYC has basically kick started my political career by giving me good public speaking skills. On top of all of this, I have made some amazing, lifelong friends. I would have never been such good friends with such a unique group of people if it weren't for AYC. It has broadened my perspective beyond what I would have just gotten from school. AYC has also instilled in me a sense of duty to serve my community. I have seen what a few people working to better the community can do, and it has inspired to make the world a better place.

Continued on Page 3

## Congratulations >>>

### Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

This year 19 Anchorage Youth Court members were awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes volunteers who have achieved the required number of hours of service over a 12-month period. Awards are offered in multiple levels and are designed to recognize each milestone of the volunteer's service achievement.

Young Adult (age: 16 or older)

**Gold Award** – volunteering 250 or more hours this past year: Bernice Lloyd

**Silver Award** – volunteering 175 - 249 hours this past year: Brynn Morse

**Bronze Award** – volunteering 100 - 174 hours this past year: Trevor Bailly, Sam Hall, Isabelle Nygren and Scott Santaella

Teen (age: 11 - 15)

**Gold Award** – volunteering 100 or more hours this past year: Emily Tedrick

**Silver Award** – volunteering 75 - 99 hours this past year: Erica Santaella and Joseph Hwang

**Bronze Award** – volunteering 50 - 74 hours this past year: Kawna Afuola, Wyatt Alexander, Griffin Bailly, Michael Barnes, Jazmine Buenaflor, Samuel Dannenberg, Asa Marley-Jester, Rachael Shaw-Rosenbaum, Dominic Stewart, and Yule Zhang

### Anchorage Youth Court Scholarship Awards >>>

This year \$2,500 was awarded in scholarships to graduating Anchorage Youth Court members. Applicants were selected by AYC board members and were based on involvement. Award Recipients: Trevor Bailly, Sarah Chen, Sam Hall, Janessa Joseph, William Meehan, and Isabelle Nygren



Above: Teen Recipients of the Presidential Service Award



Bernice Lloyd, Recipient of the Presidential Gold Award



Brynn Morse, Recipient of the Presidential Silver Award



Above: Young Adult Bronze Award Recipients of the Presidential Service Award

### United Youth Courts of Alaska State Conference >>>



The United Youth Courts of Alaska state conference took place in Nome this year. For many of us, the trip was our first time traveling to rural Alaska, and we learned about the history of Nome by going to the local cultural center and museum. I was surprised that Nome was the largest city in Alaska for a period of time during the gold rush. During the conference, legal experts taught us about different aspects of the justice system. We heard

an inspiring speech from Chief Justice Stowers about the route he took to becoming an attorney and eventually a judge; probation officers presented information about how the cases that do not go to a youth court are handled, and a judge flew in from Fairbanks to help us be prepared to give the closing comments at the end of the cases. After a weekend full of education and entertainment, we were ready to return. The conference was a success, and, despite concerns, our flight was not canceled. We came home on time with a better understanding of the justice process and of rural Alaska.

*Written by: Brynn Morse, 2018-19  
AYC Executive Board President*



### 2018 Race Judicata >>>

Thank you to all our runners, sponsors, and donors for another successful Race Judicata! A special thank you to the Young Lawyer's Section of the Anchorage Bar Association for organizing the race. Just over 150 runners and furry friends came out to support AYC.

**1st Place Men:** Brian Kirchner (*AYC Alum*)

**1st Place Women:** Laura Fox

**Top Dog:** Icy

**Best Firm Participation:** Clapp, Peterson, Tiemessen, Thorsness & Johnson with 16 runners.

For complete race results, visit [anchorageyouthcourt.org](http://anchorageyouthcourt.org)

*Pictured Above: AYC Members receiving a donation from the Anchorage Bar Association Young Lawyers Section for Race Judicata. Thank you!*

## 2018 Gavel Games >>>



*Above: Bad News Barristers - first place team in the highest score category.*

Birch Horton Bittner, IMIG Audio/Video, Dorsey & Whitney LLP, and Sarah Morrison; Illusions Food Company for the yummy desserts, and the UAA Justice Center for sponsoring the Cuddy Hall.

### Highest Score Category

1. Bad News Barristers
2. The Tort Teasers - BP

### Most Correct Answers Category

1. Anchorage Bar Association
2. Bad News Barristers

## University of Wyoming College of Law Trial Institute >>>



*Pictured above: Anchorage Youth Court members with Professor Steve Easton from the University of Wyoming College of Law*

Thank you to the University of Wyoming College of Law for including Anchorage Youth Court members in this year's summer trial institute at the end of May/early June. Nine youth members participated in jury trials, three of whom took part in the two week program at UAA.

During the two weeks, AYC members joined second year law students in their trial class. They had the opportunity to work with Professor Steve Easton from the University of Wyoming and Alaska legal professionals to learn the skills necessary to be trial lawyers.

This year's Gavel Games was a huge success! We raised just over \$25,000 towards Anchorage Youth Court's juvenile diversion program. Twenty-seven teams came together for the evening to compete for top honors. Special thanks to BP for sponsoring the event, our table sponsors: Anchorage Bar Association, APDEA, Anchorage Cops for Community,



## AYC New Member Class >>>

Dates: July 26, 27, & 28

Time: 8:30 am - 3 pm

Location: Snowden Training Center

Instructor: Judge Pamela Washington

\$35 Registration Fee

Low Income Waivers Available

*Youth interested in AYC must take the class before they begin volunteering. Students will learn about the court system and how to prepare to handle AYC court cases. After they take the class and become a new member, they can volunteer their time in trainings, adjudicating cases for their peers, and other volunteer opportunities throughout the community.*

*To register, call AYC at 274-5986 or visit [www.anchorageyouthcourt.org](http://www.anchorageyouthcourt.org).*

## Youth Perspective *continued from page 1* >>>

AYC has affected my peers in giving some a foray into legal careers, and others a second chance. For those who join AYC, it has given them an outlet for them to improve the community, and just something to do where you can meet new people. For others, those going through AYC, it has given them a chance to learn from a dumb teenage mistake, and not have it impact the rest of their lives. Teenagers sometimes do things in the moment that they sometimes later regret. Our brains are still forming, and we are still learning. I am glad that AYC is an option for some who slip up and not

have it be a life sentence. I think AYC has impacted the community by not only lowering re-offense rates, but also highlighting that teenagers can do well, and that they care deeply about their committee. AYC has some tangible legal impacts, in that it helps lower re-offense rates, and it actually costs less to operate AYC than deal with the cases regularly. This is very important, but it often goes unseen by those in the community. The often not talked about, but very noticeable thing AYC does, is show off the best this community has to offer (and me). They get hardworking teens and let them play an active

role in the betterment of Anchorage and Alaska as a whole. They inspire teenagers to get active and maybe make adults rethink what they are doing. When an adult sees these teens being active, hopefully they are inspired about the future and maybe think about what they can do to help. Overall, AYC has changed my life. Without it, I would have never found my passion. I really am going to miss it and everyone in it. I want to thank everyone for the wonderful opportunity and for the many great memories. *Trevor Baily graduated from South High School and will be attending the University of Delaware this fall.*



# Anchorage Youth Court

PO Box 100359  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 94  
ANCHORAGE, AK

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

## THANK YOU TO RACE JUDICATA SPONSORS AND DONORS!

2018 Race Sponsors  
2018 Race Donors



**Big Dipper Construction • Dillon Finley PC**  
**Law Office of Gregory Parvin**



### Contact Us

**Anchorage Youth Court**  
838 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 274-5986

[info@anchorageyouthcourt.org](mailto:info@anchorageyouthcourt.org)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.anchorageyouthcourt.org](http://www.anchorageyouthcourt.org)

Summer Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 10 am - 5 pm

*Please Note: AYC follows Anchorage School District closure guidelines. If school or after school activities are canceled, AYC activities are also canceled.*