



THE
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NEWS RELEASE

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BAR ASSOCIATION PRAISES JUVENILE COURT FOR NEW PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MEN ON PROBATION

CHICAGO, ILL. (October 18, 2012) — Chicago Bar Association (CBA) President Aurora Abella-Austriaco praised Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans, of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and Presiding Judge Michael P. Toomin, of the Juvenile Justice Division, for their leadership in creating a mentoring program for non-violent male youth (ages 14-16) on probation in the Juvenile Division.

President Austriaco said the CBA, the Cook County Bar Association, and the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois are proud partners with Judge Evans, Judge Toomin and the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department in implementing this historic mentoring program. **“Judge Toomin and Judge Evans deserve praise and support from the legal community for taking the initiative to implement this innovative mentoring program,”** she said.

The new program pairs 20 young male lawyers from the CBA with 20 male juvenile probationers from the Lawndale and Auburn-Gresham communities. For one year, each mentor and mentee will meet at least twice per month. In addition, they will have weekly telephone contact. One of the two scheduled monthly meetings will be a group outing and program.

A major goal of the initiative is to provide the mentees with a positive male role model in their lives. The program kicked off on September 29, 2012 with a group outing to the White Sox - Tampa Bay Rays game. A second group outing is planned for Six Flags Great America and future events will include a mix of educational programs and sporting events.

About the Chicago Bar Association and the Juvenile Court

The CBA drafted the historic legislation creating Cook County’s Juvenile Court, the first Juvenile Court in the nation, and played a major role in its adoption by the Illinois General Assembly in 1899. The bill was officially titled “An Act to Regulate the Treatment and Control of Dependent, Neglected and Delinquent Children” and was signed into law by Governor John R. Tanner on April 21, 1899.