

# Advocates for Children of New York



**T**hank you to the staff  
of Advocates for  
Children of New York,  
for your unwavering dedication  
to securing a quality public  
education for New York City's  
children and youth.



—AFC's Board of Directors

# Advocates *for* Children of New York

SPRING BENEFIT · WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017

**6:00 pm**

Cocktail Reception

**7:15 pm**

Presentations



Welcome

**Cynthia McFadden**

*Senior Legal and Investigative Correspondent, NBC News*

Remarks

**Kim Sweet**

*Executive Director, Advocates for Children of New York*



Awards Presentation

THE JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD

**Colm Kelleher**

*President, Morgan Stanley*

PRESENTED BY

**Eugene A. Ludwig**

*Founder and CEO, Promontory Financial Group, an IBM Company*

THE EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD

**Julian L. Centeno**

*High School Student and AFC Client*

PRESENTED BY

**Cynthia McFadden**



Closing Remarks

**Eric F. Grossman**

*Board President, Advocates for Children of New York*

**Abja Midha**

*Director, AFC's Immigrant Students' Rights Project*

**T**hank you so much for joining us for Advocates for Children of New York's 2017 Spring Benefit. Welcome!

There has been a lot of discussion recently about the qualities of a good leader. Expertise, empathy, passion, resolve, and vision are some key elements that most of us want in those we trust to lead us. Since 1971, AFC has embodied all of these qualities, a leader in the fight to ensure that all children in NYC have access to a quality education that meets their learning needs, regardless of their disability, poverty, race, or other factors beyond their control.

As we gather to celebrate our many successes of 2017, the fight to protect every student's right to learn is as fierce as ever. The students AFC serves are at increased risk of being marginalized and forgotten. Thanks to the generosity and faith of our donors and funders, however, AFC will be strong and ready to fight with and for the thousands of students and families who will turn to us in the coming year for the expert assistance and guidance they need to secure the quality education they deserve.

Thank you to our generous Sponsors, who have donated an astounding \$2 million to support our work in the coming year! Gratitude also goes to my Co-Chairs for working so hard towards this evening's success. Congratulations to our award recipients, Colm Kelleher and Julian Centeno; we are thrilled to honor you both this evening.

Special recognition and enormous thanks to AFC's amazing staff who never stop fighting for NYC's underserved students. Kudos as well to our Executive Director, Kim Sweet, who continues to lead AFC so brilliantly. Finally, I am so appreciative of each of AFC's pro bono partners, our Flagship firms, and my colleagues on the Board and Junior Board of AFC for their dedication and service.

Thank you, everyone, for supporting our work. Enjoy!



**Eric F. Grossman**  
*President, Board of Directors,  
Advocates for Children  
of New York*

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*as of May 12, 2017*

**G**ene Ludwig is a business leader and expert on banking regulation, risk management, and fiscal policy who founded Promontory Financial Group in 2001.

As a former federal regulator and banker, Mr. Ludwig is thoroughly attuned to the issues involved in revamping the regulatory framework to withstand future shocks. Under his leadership, Promontory has become synonymous with excellence in compliance and risk management, and is renowned for its ability to help financial companies resolve their most pressing challenges. Promontory was acquired by IBM in 2016, combining Promontory's domain expertise with IBM's advanced technology.

Before founding Promontory, Mr. Ludwig was vice chairman and senior control officer of Bankers Trust New York Corp. He was instrumental in steering the firm through its landmark merger with Deutsche Bank.

As U.S. comptroller of the currency from 1993 to 1998, Gene served as the Clinton administration's point person on the policy response to the credit crunch of the early 1990s. Under his purview, lending to low and moderate income Americans increased tenfold, as did national bank investments in community development corporations.

Before becoming comptroller, Mr. Ludwig was a partner in the law firm of Covington & Burling, specializing in banking law.

Mr. Ludwig was raised in York, Pennsylvania. He graduated magna cum laude from Haverford College and received a scholarship to Oxford University, where he earned a Master of Arts degree as a Keasbey Fellow. He holds a Juris Doctor from Yale University, where he was editor of the Yale Law Journal and chairman of Yale Legislative Services.

Mr. Ludwig was the 2014 recipient of Advocates for Children's Jill Chaifetz Award.



**Eugene A. Ludwig**  
*Founder and CEO,  
Promontory Financial  
Group, an IBM Company*

**C**olm Kelleher is President of Morgan Stanley, overseeing both the Institutional Securities business and Wealth Management. Prior to his current role, he served as President of Morgan Stanley Institutional Securities and Chief Executive Officer of Morgan Stanley International. Between October 2007 and December 2009, Mr. Kelleher was Chief Financial Officer and Co-Head of Corporate Strategy, helping the firm's capital and liquidity during a period of great market dislocation. During his more than 25 years with Morgan Stanley, Mr. Kelleher has worked in the United States, Europe and Asia Pacific and has extensive capital markets and securities markets experience.

Mr. Kelleher serves on the Chairman's Council of Student Sponsor Partners, which has provided scholarships and mentoring to hundreds of low-income New York City students striving to secure a quality education. Additionally, Mr. Kelleher led Morgan Stanley's partnership with The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, to build The Morgan Stanley Clinical Building, a state-of-the-art medical facility (2012), and The Morgan Stanley House, to provide accommodations for the parents of hospitalized children (2015).

Colm Kelleher graduated with an M.A. degree in History from Oxford University where he is an Honorary Fellow of Oriel College. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, serves on the Board of Americans for Oxford, and is a member of Oxford Vice-Chancellor's Circle, TheCity UK Advisory Council and the British Museum Advisory Board. Mr. Kelleher is an Irish citizen, and with his wife, Ella, has three grown children and resides in New York.



**Colm Kelleher**  
*President, Morgan Stanley*

"THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY GREATER ADVANTAGE IN LIFE WE CAN GIVE A CHILD THAN A QUALITY EDUCATION. I AM SO HONORED TO BE RECOGNIZED BY AFC AND TO SUPPORT THEIR FIGHT TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS TO THAT QUALITY EDUCATION AND THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHT FUTURE."

Cynthia McFadden is the senior legal and investigative correspondent for *NBC News*. Her reporting appears across all platforms of *NBC News* and MSNBC, including *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*, *TODAY*, *Meet the Press*, *Dateline*, and *NBCNews.com*.

Since joining *NBC News* in 2014, Ms. McFadden has covered a range of stories across the United States and around the globe, scoring exclusive interviews with Amal Clooney and the hacker known as Guccifer.

Ms. McFadden's reporting has also helped lead to the release of the president of the Maldives from political imprisonment and to the commutation of Chelsea Manning's sentence by President Obama. Most recently, Ms. McFadden and the *NBC News* Investigative Unit have broken dozens of national security stories relating to terrorism, Yemen, and Russian involvement in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election.

Prior to joining *NBC News*, Ms. McFadden spent twenty years at *ABC News* as a highly respected anchor and correspondent known for her diverse portfolio of powerful investigations. For ten years, she served as a correspondent for the network's late-night news broadcast, *Nightline*.

Her distinguished work has won many of broadcasting's most coveted prizes, including Emmy, Peabody, duPont, Sigma Delta Chi, and Foreign Press awards.

A native of Maine, Ms. McFadden graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Bowdoin College, and received her law degree from Columbia University.



**Cynthia McFadden**  
Senior Legal and  
Investigative Correspondent,  
*NBC News*

Julian is a high school junior on the autism spectrum. His parents contacted AFC when Julian was 9 years old because the New York City Department of Education (DOE) had placed him in a school where he was failing to make progress academically. When his case came to us, Julian was incorrectly labeled as speech and language impaired with a borderline IQ, although private testing indicated that he was functioning at a much higher level. The special education program he was in was meeting neither his needs nor the mandates of his Individualized Education Program. His parents were concerned that Julian, who was in the third grade, was being given first-grade course work, while at the same time being pressured to take standardized tests on material he had never been taught. Moreover, the environment was chaotic and stressful, making it nearly impossible for him to learn.

AFC successfully argued for the DOE to fund Julian's matriculation at Learning Spring, a private elementary school program with specialization in meeting the needs of students on the autism spectrum. At Learning Spring, Julian began to show real progress; the program was more academically challenging, and he was making connections with his classmates and teachers. Two years later, AFC secured the cost of Julian's tuition to attend Gersh Academy, a private school for students on the autism spectrum, where he attended middle and high school. During his sophomore year, AFC and Julian's parents advocated for him to transition to Gersh's more challenging I Am I Can Program, where he has successfully completed all but one of his Regents exams. Julian expects to graduate next year with a Regents diploma and hopes to pursue his many interests.



**Julian L. Centeno**  
High School Student &  
AFC Client

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY PARENTS AND I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT AFC'S HELP!"

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to support and sustain our work.

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have made this evening possible.

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Advocates  
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Children  
at a  
Glance

ABOVE PHOTO  
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Since 1971, AFC has been speaking out for the children and youth who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, race, disability, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. No other city-wide organization is like AFC: working in the trenches to provide these vulnerable students and their families with urgently needed guidance and advocacy, while at the same time, pressing for systemic reforms that benefit all students, even those who are most challenging to educate. Our efforts on the individual and policy levels inform and strengthen each other, further increasing our effectiveness for the communities we serve.

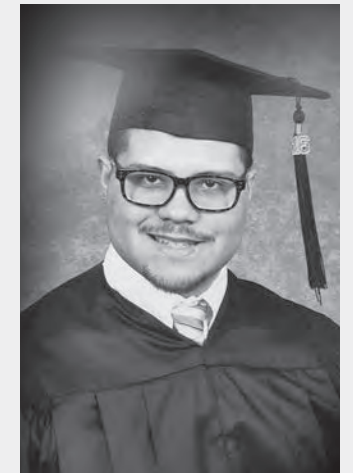
FOR OVER FOUR DECADES  
ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK HAS  
MADE COUNTLESS FUTURES BRIGHTER

*By Solving Problems for Parents in Need:*

Any parent of a New York City public school student knows how difficult it can be to navigate a school system that has 1.1 million children. Our Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline is a crucial resource for New York families having problems with special education, transportation, school suspensions, transfers, and more. Our experienced lawyers and advocates work with parents to get their children the educational support they need in school.

*By Sharing Our Unique Expertise in Education Advocacy:*

We know that one of the best ways to reach the most isolated students is to collaborate with other organizations that serve them. AFC is currently partnering with twenty organizations funded by the Robin Hood Foundation in areas like child welfare, juvenile justice, and domestic violence. In addition, AFC's highly skilled staff can be found in foster care agencies and community-based organizations across the five boroughs, sharing their expertise in educational advocacy, providing legal representation to families, and helping these partners build their capacity to advocate for the educational needs of the children they serve.



OMAR, AGE 18



Advocates  
for  
Children  
at a  
Glance

*By Understanding and Addressing the Education-Related Challenges Confronting the City's Most Vulnerable Children:*

AFC proudly serves on the frontlines of the fight to champion the education-related rights of children and youth who are most likely to experience failure or discrimination in school because of factors beyond their control.



SKYLER, AGE 13

**CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

AFC's multi-pronged approach is a model for education advocacy throughout the city and state. First, we provide one-on-one legal representation and advocacy to help low-income families of children with disabilities get the educational services and support they need. Second, we offer free workshops throughout the city to bring training, information, and direct assistance on the education system to parents and the professionals who work with them. Third, we address

systemic problems with the education of students with disabilities through our policy work and when necessary, federal litigation. And finally, we coordinate and lead a collaborative effort called the ARISE Coalition, which brings together more than sixty different organizations and individuals to press for policy change to benefit children with disabilities in the New York City schools.



**IMMIGRANT STUDENTS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

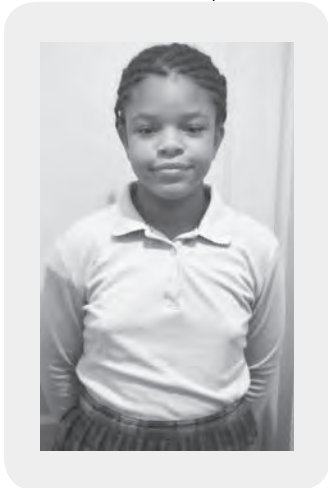
AFC's bilingual project staff advocates on behalf of individual parents and their children, trains parents and community-based organizations serving immigrant families on education-related rights, monitors access to interpreters and translated materials in the city's schools, and collaborates with other groups to support communities seeking to improve outcomes for immigrants and English Language Learners.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

AFC's Early Childhood Education Project provides individual case assistance, community education, and policy advocacy to improve access to early childhood education for low-income children, ages 0–5, so that children can enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

RECIPIENT OF THE 2016 EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD, YSHAMAR GESTINE, RECORDING AN INTERVIEW WITH HODA KOTB, CO-ANCHOR OF NBC NEWS' TODAY.

Advocates  
for  
Children  
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VALERIE, AGE 12

**CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

AFC's Project Achieve advocates for the educational needs of children in or at risk of placement in foster care while building capacity in the agencies that serve them. Project staff operates satellite offices in child welfare agencies, providing on-site assistance and training to caseworkers, birth parents, and foster parents so that they can address the education-related issues affecting their children. Project staff also conducts policy advocacy on the city and state levels to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.

**STUDENTS FACING DISCIPLINARY ISSUES & COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH**

AFC's School Justice Project (SJP) provides case advocacy and legal representation to address the educational needs of youth facing school suspension or court involvement. Through relationships built with social services agencies, community-based organizations, and community courts, project staff are able to reach the students who often fall through the cracks. The project also provides trainings and technical assistance to parents, young people, and the professionals who work with them. Finally, project staff advocate for systemic reform with respect to school discipline and school climate, as well as the education of court-involved youth.

**STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING**

AFC operates the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS), which focuses on building the capacity of school districts throughout the state to improve educational opportunities for homeless children and youth.

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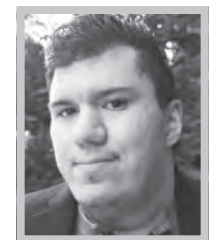
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Award Recipient*



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*2016 Education Champion  
Award Recipient*



**Julian L. Centeno**  
*2017 Education Champion  
Award Recipient*

**Weil**

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR FRIEND AND PARTNER



**COLM KELLEHER**  
2017 JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD RECIPIENT

We join Advocates for Children of New York  
in saluting your commitment to furthering education  
opportunity for low-income children.

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Davis Polk is proud  
to join Advocates for  
Children of New York  
in honoring Colm Kelleher  
and Julian L. Centeno.



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## A Voice for Children

Greenberg Traurig proudly supports **Advocates for Children of New York** for protecting every child's right to an education through legal and advocacy services.

Congratulations to the 2017 honorees, our friend, **Colm Kelleher** and **Julian L. Centeno**.

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## Morgan Stanley



*Morgan Stanley is honored to continue to support the important work of*

## Advocates for Children of New York

*and applauds the outstanding achievements of this year's honorees*

### Julian L. Centeno

High School Student and AFC Client  
2017 Recipient of the Education Champion Award

### Colm Kelleher

President, Morgan Stanley  
2017 Recipient of the Jill Chaifetz Award

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**Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**  
is proud to support the  
**Advocates for Children of New York**  
**Spring Benefit**  
and congratulates this evening's honorees

**Colm Kelleher**  
President, Morgan Stanley  
2017 Recipient of the Jill Chaifetz Award

**Julian L. Centeno**  
High School Student and AFC Client  
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Champion Award

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The Hon. Eugene A. Ludwig  
and Dr. Carol Ludwig are  
Proud to Support the 2017

## **AFC Spring Benefit**

We salute this year's honoree  
Colm Kelleher and all those  
committed to ensuring high-quality  
educational opportunities for the  
students of New York.

Together we can open doors  
and help build bright futures.



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# *Giving every child a chance to learn and grow*

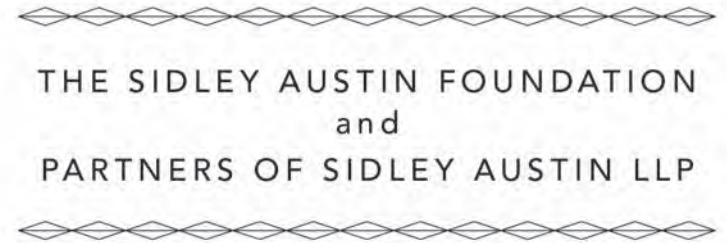
We are pleased to participate in AFC's Spring Benefit and support its vital mission.

On behalf of PwC, Dan Ryan, PwC's Banking and Capital Markets Leader, extends our congratulations to all of those being honored tonight with a very extra and special recognition to our good friend Colm Kelleher, President, Morgan Stanley.

[www.pwc.com](http://www.pwc.com)



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AND CONGRATULATE THIS YEAR'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Colm Kelleher**  
President, Morgan Stanley

AND

**Julian L. Centeno**  
High School Student and AFC Client



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**Weil**

We are proud to support the  
**Advocates for  
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2017 Spring Benefit**  
and congratulate  
**Colm Kelleher**  
and  
**Julian L. Centeno**

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

[weil.com](http://weil.com)



### **Congratulations**

We are pleased to support  
Advocates for Children of New York  
and congratulate tonight's honorees,  
Colm Kelleher and Julian L. Centeno.

**CRAVATH, SWAINE & MOORE LLP**



MARINO, TORTORELLA & BOYLE, P.C.  
IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT

ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN  
*of* NEW YORK

AND CONGRATULATES  
THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

COLM KELLEHER  
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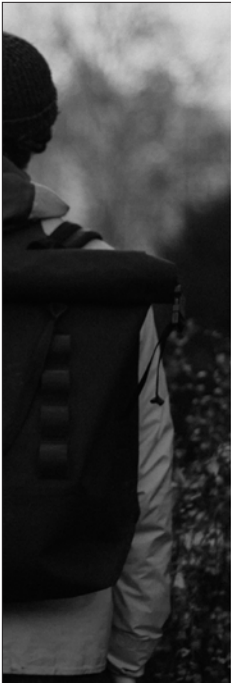
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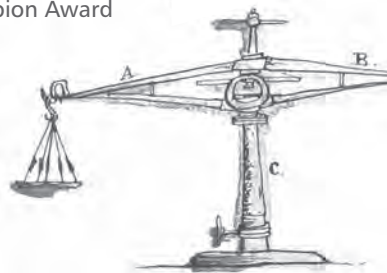
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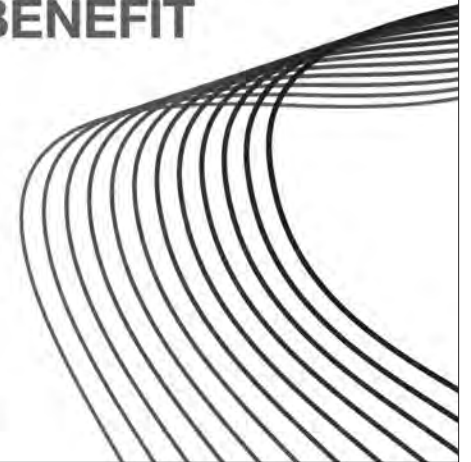
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