



March 28, 2022



Help Us Protect Them

An estimated 55 children will disappear from the foster care system today. Predators think no one will look for these kids. Today, unfortunately, they are right.

Except in Arizona.

As I wrote in USA TODAY, *"This spring, a robust package of laws championed by my organization, Gen Justice, will begin to protect the missing and trafficked children of Arizona, where we are headquartered."* These reforms can be tailored by state and federal lawmakers to make foster children safer from coast to coast.

The need for reform is urgent. Foster children go missing and become sex trafficking victims in every single state. Our headlines are replete with stories like this one out of [New York](#). A New York couple has been charged with sex trafficking. The couple allegedly used the foster care system to gain access to potential victims. *"Sex traffickers target the most vulnerable New Yorkers, including – far too often – young New Yorkers in the child welfare system,"* said Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg.

There is no national protocol to prevent disappearances or for the search and recovery of missing foster children. This must change in order to put a stop to the violence and trafficking of children.

Sincerely,

Dany

[READ USA TODAY ARTICLE](#)



In Organizational News

Thank you, Phil Giltner, our Founding Chairman, for being a tireless advocate for kids and a pillar of support since we launched nearly five years ago. The Board reluctantly let him retire as Chair last month with the agreement that he'll continue serving as a member of the board.

The Board enthusiastically welcomed Celia McClelland as our new Board chair and Mike Haller as our newest director!

Thanks to Phil, Celia, Mike and all of our members for standing together on behalf of America's foster children.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)



Gen Justice Annual Report: A Life-Changing Year

Our annual report is available online. If you'd like a hard copy, please send a note to hello@genjustice.org, and we'll put one in the mail!

[ANNUAL REPORT](#)



Three More Gen Justice Reforms Have Passed Unanimously Through the Senate

Gen Justice has been busy at the Capitol with three bills for foster children this session.

These bills:

1. Reduce a child's time in foster care by adding strict timelines in their court cases and reducing unnecessary continuances.
2. Commission an independent firm to look at DCS data and provide a public report about what, exactly, constitutes "neglect" in Arizona.
3. Requires Arizona to incorporate evidence-based criteria when making life-or-death decisions about a child's safety.

Governor Ducey signed the first bill into law on Thursday, March 24, 2022!
The remaining two bills are waiting for the final vote in the House.

CHILDREN'S LAW CLINIC STORIES



Real Children. Real Help. Real Impact.

Our pro bono Children's Law Clinic helps abused children in their court cases, providing free emergency legal assistance and counsel to expedite their safety and passage to family.



Kaitlyn*

A loving aunt asked Gen Justice for emergency help when she discovered that her young niece, Kaitlyn, was being sexually trafficked by her father. Our pro bono Children's Law Clinic was able to ensure the child's safety and facilitate her adoption to her aunt.

*Details modified to protect the child's identity.



Gen Justice Urges Congress to Protect Foster Children's Social Security Benefits

Last week, New York City announced that it would stop collecting foster children's Social Security checks to cover the cost of their care. The Philadelphia City Council is considering a similar change. Learn more in *The Hill* Op-ed by Tim Keller, Legal Director of Gen Justice, and Dan Lip, Visiting Fellow with the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, urging congress to halt the practice of states stealing foster kids' social security benefits.

[READ OP-ED](#)



Gen Justice Children's Law Clinic Helps Foster Parents at Kidz Blitz 2022

Gen Justice enjoyed participating in Kidz Blitz 2022 – a joint-effort between Arizona agencies to provide continuing education for foster parents. Two Gen Justice attorneys, Tim Keller and Brittany Reiner, spoke to foster parents across the state of Arizona interested in learning more about the law and the rights and protections available to kids in care.

[REQUEST A CLE OR TRAINING](#)



Thank you, Binh Dang for Supporting Our Mission!

Welcome to our new partner, Binh Dang! Binh is President of Quest for Justice, which empowers people to fight for their legal rights and help close the access gap by unleashing the power of technology. "A person's view about whether they live in a just world or not will affect the magnitude of the goals that they set for themselves, and how they go about achieving it. I am so glad to partner with Gen Justice to protect the dreams and ambitions of children." Thank you, Binh!



Gen Justice: A Guardian Angel for Foster Kids

Thank you, The Philanthropy Roundtable, for your article featuring Gen Justice! We are thrilled to appear in the *Stronger Communities* blog highlighting leaders and initiatives that cultivate civil society and support the values that transform lives.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



Donate today and double your gift thanks to Cindy and Mike Watts!

All new member gifts are being matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous pledge from Cindy and Mike Watts. The Watts have long been dedicated to improving the quality of life for Arizonans and we are so thankful for their support. Thank you Cindy and Mike for helping us give these children new beginnings!



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