CHILDUSA



AWARDS CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & CEO



"None of this amazing work would be possible without donors, grantors, and sponsors like you! Your generosity inspires us to keep up the fight."

We are excited to celebrate our 5th Anniversary with you! CHILD USA has grown exponentially in a short five years. It is thanks to all of our supporters that we have come this far.

One of CHILD USA's greatest achievements has been our Game Over Commission to Protect Youth Athletes. This Commission has conducted a case study of the systemic failures that allowed the abuse of Larry Nassar. This has been a four-year project for the organization and the expert Commissioners; over that time we have conducted hearings, surveys, and research into how so many institutions failed to protect girls from a serial predator. Soon, we will be releasing our findings and recommendations to prevent future abuse in sports.

I am very proud of the work the Social Science Department has done. The team has conducted many surveys ranging from prevalence of abuse in elite athletics to surveys soon to launch on educator beliefs of misconduct in schools and the effect of child marriage. From these surveys and other projects, the department has been able to publish numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals that are changing the face of child protection.

In CHILD USA's Legal Department, the achievements have been nonstop! Our organization's Amicus Briefs have been essential in deciding important cases around the country, especially in cases that defend the constitutionality of window legislation for statutes of limitation reform. We have filed 35 briefs in the last five years, everywhere from local state courts to the Supreme Court of the United States. CHILD USA also has helped to change laws by submitting testimony to legislatures considering laws on child protection. Over the past five years, CHILD USA has submitted testimony 70 times on topics including child marriage and statute of limitations reform for child sex abuse.

None of this amazing work would be possible without donors, grantors, and sponsors like you! Your generosity inspires us to keep up the fight. Thank you to everyone who has stood with us over the past five years! Here's to another five and many more to protect our children!

Sincerely,

Professor Marci A. Hamilton

Founder & CEO



THE NATIONAL THINK TANK FOR CHILD PROTECTION

MISSION

CHILD USA is the leading national nonprofit think tank working to end child abuse and neglect in the United States. CHILD USA pairs the best social science research with the most sophisticated legal analysis to determine the most effective public policies to end child abuse and neglect. We produce evidence-based solutions and information needed by courts, policymakers, organizations, the media, and society as a whole to increase child protection and the common good.

BACKGROUND

The precursors to CHILD USA were SOL-reform.com, founded by Professor Hamilton, and CHILD. Inc., founded by Rita Swan, PhD. Rita has been a pioneer and leading national advocate for the protection of children from medical and educational neglect. Professor Hamilton started CHILD USA in 2016 to enhance the work she started as a law professor. She is widely known and respected for her lifelong work as a legal scholar, as a child abuse expert, and for her work on statutes of limitation, accountability for all institutions to protect children, including religious organizations, and pro bono amicus briefs filed at the U.S. Supreme Court and state supreme courts for the protection of children.





FIVE YEARS AT CHILD USA





2017



November

Marci Hamilton presents awards to honorees at CHILD USA's First Annual Awards Celebration.
Thomas Doyle received The Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award, Rita Swan received The Child Protector Award, and Lynne Abraham received The Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award.

March

CHILD USA Ambassador Corey Feldman, Marci Hamilton, and Kathryn Robb, Esq. urge New York State Senators to pass the Child Victims Act.



2018



August

Kathryn Robb, Margaret Markey, Marci Hamilton. and New York State Senator Brad Hoylman stand on the Brooklyn Bridge, fighting for the Civil Rights Movement for Children.

January

Stephen Jimenez, Marci Hamilton, and Kathryn Robb, Esq. celebrate after the signing of the New York Child Victims Act.



March

Victims, advocates, and legislators pose while celebrating the passage of a window to justice for victims of child sex abuse in New Jersey.



2019



February

Deborah McIlmail, Michael McIlmail, Marci Hamilton, and Sarah Klein, Esq. hold a press event to discuss progress on child sex abuse statutes of limitations reform.



August

Marci Hamilton, Kathryn Robb, Esq., Chairman of the Board James Marsh, Esq., Sarah Klein, Esq., and Jennifer Freeman, Esq. partake in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of CHILD USA's new office.

October

Kathryn Robb, Esq., Lieutenant Governor Hochul, and Marci Hamilton celebrate the New York Child Victims Act being signed into law. In total, 10,857 lawsuits for child sex abuse were filed under the NY CVA over a two-year period.



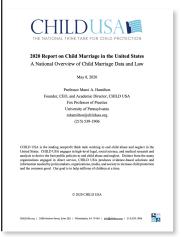


November

The Game Over Commission to Protect Youth Athletes listens to testimony from child sex abuse victims, academics, and elite athletes in its investigation of the Larry Nassar abuse case.

May

CHILD USA publishes its Child Marriage Report, which tracks laws in U.S. states and territories that permit children to enter into marriage and outlines our recommendations for legal safeguards against child marriage.



2020



June

CHILD USA adapts to COVID-19 by launching its virtual CLE series to train attorneys on litigating cases involving child sex abuse. CHILD USA taught 5 CLE courses in 2020, totaling over 500 hours of attorney training.

April

Marci Hamilton and allied organizations gather on the Capitol Steps in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to demand that legislators open a window to justice for victims of child sex abuse.

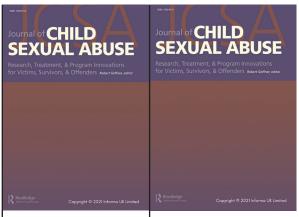
August

Legal Director Alice Bohn, Esq. conducts a judicial training course on Child Sex Trafficking at the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.





2021



July

The Journal of Child Sexual Abuse publishes CHILD USA's Survey of the Written Child Protection Policies of the 32 U.S. Archdioceses.

September

The *Journal of Child*Sexual Abuse publishes
CHILD USA's Analysis
of the Written
Policies of the 32 U.S.
Archdioceses on the
Prevention of Child
Sexual Abuse.



Leaders in SOL Reform and Other Legal Reform

Thanks to a generous donation by the McIlmail Family, CHILD USA founded the Sean P. McIlmail Institute of Statutes of Limitations Reform in 2018 to support the work of CHILD USA to reform child sex abuse (CSA) statutes of limitations. The institute tracks SOL reform daily, produces an Annual report on the history of SOL reform since 2002, and posts all information about state and federal SOLs on www.childusa.org. We provide lawmakers and the public with any resources they need to better understand how SOLs work in their state, pairing our legal analysis with our cutting-edge research to explain why reform is critical for victims.

2. Educating Judges in Individual Cases Through Pro Bono Amicus Advocacy

"Amicus" is Latin for "friend," and our participation as "friends" of the court provides the data and legal analysis judges need to make more informed decisions about child abuse and neglect. CHILD USA's amicus briefing educates courts and the public about the truth of child abuse and neglect including the impact of trauma. Since the last Annual Awards Celebration, we have filed 12 amicus briefs in courts ranging from local state courts to the Supreme Court of the United States. CHILD USA also has provided amicus briefing in cases that defended the constitutionality of windows to justice in California, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, and New York.

3. The Game Over Commission to Protect Youth Athletes

In 2018, CHILD USA launched The Game Over Commission to Protect Youth Athletes. The Game Over Commission is the only independent commission of experts to investigate many institutions that enabled Larry Nassar's abuse and analyzed how they failed to protect hundreds of girls. The Commission is comprised of national experts in child sex abuse, law enforcement, academia, trauma, sports, and investigative journalism.

The Game Over Commission conducted two hearings with testimony from survivors and experts; conducted the only scientific survey of the survivors of Larry Nassar and their families; archived documents and articles about the Larry Nassar case on a permanent, public, and free database; and is publishing a report on the Commission's findings and recommendations to prevent future sex abuse in sports.

4. Cutting Edge Social Science Research

CHILD USA's Social Science Department has conducted groundbreaking surveys. CHILD USA created and deployed the National Survey of Elite Athletes, which is the first survey in the U.S. to assess the prevalence of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of elite athletes. They also designed and conducted the only survey specifically for victim/survivors and victim-families of Larry Nassar. They have also analyzed the experiences of CSA victims in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy proceedings. Altogether, we have reached over 2,000 people in the survey data we have collected, preserving survivor voices and contributing critical data to the halls of science.

This year, we have published or submitted five academic articles to peer-reviewed journals. Two of these, which are the first studies to systematically analyze the U.S. Archdiocesan child protection policies, appear in the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*. The other three articles, detailing the results of our National Survey of Elite Athletes, are currently under academic review at the *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*, and the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*. Each of these works is the triumph of years of rigorous academic research, and we are proud to be recognized by these distinguished journals.

5. Educating the Public

Since 2016, CHILD USA has educated the public about the human rights issues facing children. Our social media highlights relevant news stories and shares our legal and social science research. The CHILD USA podcast "A Voice for the ChildrenKids" with Marci as host, has featured a range of child protection heroes from law, journalism, and medicine. The CHILD USA Blog is a popular resource where the public can learn about a range of children's issues, from sibling sexual abuse to anti-trans legislation. Our expertise has been recognized by high-level publications, including USA Today and CNN, who have published our op-eds on the issues of corporal publishment and vaccinations. CHILD USA's film series has educated the public on a range of children's issues including abuse in athletics and the effects of victim-blaming. Education is a key component of CHILD USA's work, and we will continue to raise public awareness about the issues facing children and what must be done to protect them.

The Hamilton Library: A Curated Library of Information on Child Sex Abuse is now open and free of charge to the public at www.childusa.org/members.

CHILD USA LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jeffrey Fritz, Esq. *Board Member*



Marci A. Hamilton Founder & CEO



Brian Kent, Esq. *Board Member*



James R. Marsh, Esq. Chairman of the Board



Mike Rinder Board Member



Karen Rooney Secretary of the Board



Richard Tollner *Treasurer of the Board*

AMBASSADORS



Corey FeldmanNational Ambassador
for SOL Reform



Maralee McLean Ambassador for Family Court Reform



Mackenzie Fierceton
Ambassador for Foster Care
& Youth Justice Reform



Lyndsy Gamet *Ambassador*



Vinka Jackson International Ambassador



Leah ReminiNational Child and Family
Protection Ambassador



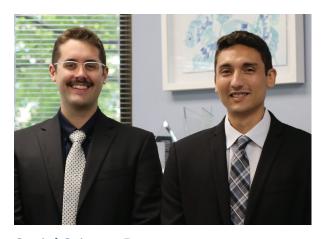
Justin Conway National Ambassador of Victim Advocacy

MEET THE CHILD USA TEAM



Administration

Left to right: MaryClare Malady, Executive Assistant to CEO; Max Rosenfeld, Social Media & Website Manager; Jillian Ruck, Executive Director; Marci Hamilton, CEO; Jim Plappert, CFO



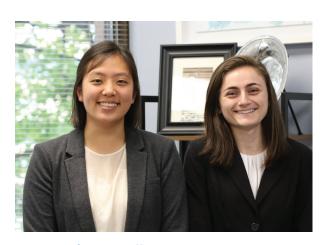
Social Science Department

Left to right: Carter Timon, MBDS, Social Science Director; AJ Ortiz, MSSP, Social Science Researcher



Legal Department

Left to right: Jessica Schidlow, Esq., MA, NCC, Staff Attorney; Bridget Brainard, Esq., Staff Attorney; Alice Bohn, Esq., Legal Director; Marci Hamilton, Esq.



Postgraduate Fellows

Left to right: Janella Kang, MS, Harvard University; Nicole Brigstock, BA, University of Pennsylvania





Alice Nasar Hanan, Esq. Staff Attorney



Carina Nixon, Esq. *Staff Attorney*



Stephanie Dallam, RN, MSN, PhD Visiting Scholar



Deborah J. Diener, RN, BSN, CLNC Researcher



Diane Plappert *Marketing Director*

CHILD USAdvocacy



Kathryn Robb, Esq. Executive Director

Kathryn Robb is the Executive Director of our 501(c)(4) sister organization, CHILD USAdvocacy. Kathryn works with CHILD USA and specializes in legislative advocacy on issues of child protection, particularly SOL reform. CHILD USA is proud to have Kathryn and CHILD USAdvocacy in our corner! Visit www.childusadvocacy.org for more information.

CHILD USA JUNIOR COUNCIL



Margaret Mabie, Esq.
Co-President



Anisha Quadir Co-President



LIVE AWARDS CEREMONY PROGRAM

Cocktail Hour

music provided by Lara St. John and Jacob Kelberman

Welcome from Chairman of the CHILD USA Board of Directors James Marsh, Esq.

5th Anniversary of CHILD USA

Opening Remarks

Professor Marci Hamilton, Founder & CEO

Welcome from MC Purnell

The Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award

presented to Catherine Spoerl

The Thomas P. Doyle Whistleblower Award

presented to Anne Barrett Doyle, Terence McKiernan, and Suzy Nauman

The Voice of the Voiceless Award

presented to Kai Zen Bickle

The Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award

presented to U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General Denise George, Sabrina Ewart, Ann Jennifer Mastrogiovanni, and one anonymous survivor

Announcement from MC Purnell

CHILD USA Pledge Cards

Make a pledge to CHILD USA MC Purnell & Professor Marci Hamilton, Founder & CEO

Announcement of Raffle Items

Closing Remarks

Professor Marci Hamilton, Founder & CEO

Musical Performance

Lara St. John

Please join us for dessert and traditional wine pull

End of Program

THE SEAN P. MCILMAIL HERO AWARD

Catherine Spoerl: Warrior Mom



The Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award was established in the memory of Sean, who was coming out of a difficult time in his life, doing everything he could to bring Father Robert L. Brennan to justice, and who passed away before the prosecution could go forward. Sean's parents, Deborah and Michael, generously made the CHILD USA SOL Research Institute possible and join CHILD USA at every event for justice for child sex abuse victims. They are family to us.

It was at an Easter Sunday family brunch that Catherine Spoerl found her son James staring out the kitchen window with tears rolling down his face.

The year was 2002, and the news regarding the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston sex abuse case had just broken. Cass, as she is called, remembers asking her 30-year-old son, "Jimmy, what's wrong?" His shattering reply: "That happened to me when I was a kid." He was nine years old when the abuse

began and it continued for three years. That is the day Cass became a warrior mom.

To meet her and talk with her, Cass is soft-spoken, gentle and kind. Creating trouble was never her intention.

Since that terrible revelation, Cass has been battling heroically for the millions of children around the world who are victims of sexual abuse. For that work, she is this year's recipient of CHILD USA's Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award.

"Looking back," she says, "we might have been the poster image of the perfect Catholic family." James was one of six Spoerl children, all of whom Cass and her late husband Eugene truly enjoyed, deeming them life's most precious gifts. This year, she welcomed the family's 84th greatgrandchild. She laughs that she could write a book about the happy times – sports, proms, teasing, and dinner table conversations.

Jimmy, she remembers, was a nature-loving, God-loving, people-loving kind of person. He was the fun in the family and could "look at you and see your soul."

Then something changed, Cass recalls. He was often in trouble, getting into fights to protect "underdogs." Like the majority of child sexual abuse victims, he suffered through addictions, relationship issues, and depression. In fact, Jimmy came forward and disclosed his childhood abuse earlier than most; the average age is 52. He died of illness in March 2016 at the age of 44.

"I once was more trusting and naïve. I am on a different side of that reality now," she says, "and know how the world can betray you, and that violating one of your children can turn you into a fighting, angry mom. You don't mess with kids! Anybody's children!"

Cass took that fighting spirit and channeled it into advocacy, which truly began when her son came forward. "I joined every organization out there, and without their support I wouldn't have made it," she says. Advocacy consisted of tirelessly knocking on rectory doors, asking "Where were you? Why didn't you open your mouth? How can this be allowed to continue?" She participated in every possible protest,

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"CHILD USA is allowing me to move forward representing my son well, never giving up, never backing down on the struggle to obtain justice for our children and the millions like them."

marching and carrying signs. She wrote to church officials, congressional representatives, and senators, looking for answers and talking to anyone and everyone she could about protecting children and getting justice for these victims. Cass has now been fighting for over 18 years.

Cass notes she has met many wonderful people throughout the journey. Among those she most cherishes are Debbie and Mike McIlmail, whose institute honoring their son is sponsoring The Sean P. McIlmail Hero Award. Meeting the McIlmails was a new beginning for her. "As I accept this award, I know that I am standing on the shoulders of many who went before me and fought with me to get justice for these victims," she says. "As I begin to step back a bit, I am particularly proud of the work so many young people at CHILD USA are doing. They have taken up the cause, they are compassionate and caring of the abuse victims, and so supportive."

"This is not just a Catholic issue," Cass emphasizes. "This is in sports, as in the women's gymnastics team, it is child smuggling. CHILD USA is investigating in every area, and the young people are carrying the ball."

"Too many have their heads in the sand," says Cass. Research shows that older generations become advocates and activists as they acquire more time and money for social issues close to their hearts. Younger generations are willing to donate money, work as advocates, and are not easily influenced by power and money. Although powerful people continue to thwart them, younger generations are more shocked and willing to speak up and take action on the subject of abuse.

CHILD USA is staffed with young professionals in social science and law who are dedicated to using science and education to foster an understanding of child sexual abuse in the judiciary system and the general public. They work

tirelessly to affect lasting change, collaborating with those who came before.

"They have changed the statute of limitation laws in 26 states, and are fighting now in Pennsylvania and elsewhere to get the windows open for abuse victims to report and receive justice for what was done to them. It's a resurrection for our kids," Cass rejoices.

"It gives me so much hope for the future of our children! CHILD USA is a growing organization," she adds, noting money is needed to change the laws and to combat powerful and well-funded lobbies that wish to silence victims and cap payments. Funding is essential to conducting social science studies, taking legal action, and advocating in the courts and legislatures. To Cass, CHILD USA is working to provide a seal of protection, support, and love for abuse victims and their families.

Child sex abuse is much more common than most realize. Many parents who learn that their children were abused go through a process: shock and grief; awareness and understanding; action, hard work, perseverance; and finally, the beginning of change for the good. CHILDUSA is an excellent partner for taking action in the change for good.

"Really, I always see CHILD USA getting it done!" says Cass. "This has been my battle. Jimmy came forward because he didn't want his tragedy ever to happen to another child. I lost a great person in my son Jimmy, and I refuse to represent him with anger and meanness."

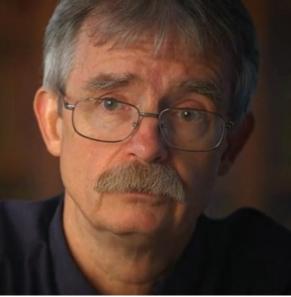
Cass concludes, "CHILD USA is allowing me to move forward representing my son well, never giving up, never backing down on the struggle to obtain justice for our children and the millions like them."



THE THOMAS P. DOYLE WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD

Anne Barrett Doyle, Terence McKiernan, and Suzy Nauman







The Thomas P. Doyle Award is named after the pioneering priest who alerted the Roman Catholic Church, and then the world, about clergy sex abuse. Professor Leslie Griffin had the idea for this Award, reached out to CHILD USA, and has donated a fund to provide the winners of this award with a stipend. We are grateful for all that Tom has done during his historic career, and to Prof. Griffin for this and her many contributions to CHILD USA through her expertise and big heart.

"The Massachusetts attorney general released a report last month saying that at least 789 children and probably more than 1,000 have been sexually abused by 250 priests and other church workers in the Archdiocese of Boston since 1940. The report also criticized many former aides to Cardinal Law now serving elsewhere..."—New York Times article, August 24, 2003.

The sheer numbers cited above, from only one archdiocese, tell a horrific story of sexual abuse of children within the Catholic church spanning decades. The horror is compounded immensely when one takes time to view Bishop Accountability. org and realizes that the abuse and the cover-up continue to this day. This is not just an issue in the United States, but a worldwide problem underscored by documents listed on the website dated as recently as October 2021.

For their unflagging dedication to exposing clergy sex abuse and holding the Catholic church accountable, documenting and preserving these records, and making them available to the public, CHILD USA honors Terry McKiernan, Anne Barrett Doyle, and Suzy Nauman with CHILD USA's inaugural Thomas P. Doyle Whistleblower Award.

All three are "cradle Catholics" who grew up in the church, were very involved in its body life and mission, and valued their faith and the institution highly. Faced with devastating, appalling evidence that child sexual abuse within the church was actually pervasive, each of them felt the need to act on behalf of survivors.

"We all care so much for the survivors and have so much respect for them," McKiernan says. "We are involved in collecting documents and data, which can seem very dry and far removed from the situation. However, the reason we do it is for the remarkably strong, totally courageous survivors who were willing to turn their lives upside down to expose this crisis; the single incredibly courageous act of a survivor telling their story, repeated thousands and thousands of times" makes this important work possible.

McKiernan founded the organization in 2003, when the news stories about sexual abuse by clergy and the bishops who covered it up were still breaking in Boston. For the first time, people saw documents that showed the church's internal

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workings in these cases, how involved parties communicated with each other, and the mechanics of covering up child sexual abuse among clergy and religious leaders. McKiernan recognized this as a singular moment in the history of the Catholic church, and believed the documents coming out of Boston and other dioceses in the United States should be preserved.

"What was shocking," says Barrett Doyle, "was that the communications from bishops centered on caring and concern for perpetrators like Fr. John Geoghan, an abusive priest who was reassigned to different parishes multiple times. There was no consideration given to the victims, and he had abused scores and scores of children!" All the internal letters and documentation were otherwise focused on protecting the church against exposure and embarrassment.

BishopAccountability.org is the largest public library of information on the Catholic clergy abuse crisis. Its digital collection of publicly available documents, survivors' accounts, investigative reports, and media coverage comprises millions of pages of archived information. They also do basic research on abuser histories and church management and maintain definitive databases of persons accused in the United States, Argentina, Chile, and Ireland, with other databases in development.

"We're more like librarians than advocates," McKiernan said. "It's different from the amazing work done by CHILD USA, but still important. We focus on being balanced in perspective and making data available to help survivors and others advocate for victims."

McKiernan and Doyle met at protests held outside the Boston chancery and cathedral. They knew that voices had to be raised in opposition to the cover-ups that were taking place, and protesting was activism at that time. "When the Boston Globe broke the story in January 2002, I felt a personal responsibility, and actually intended to confront Cardinal Law at a Mass he was saying," Barrett Doyle says. "However, I didn't have the temerity to interrupt the service, so I stood outside with a sign that said 'Speaking Out Is Holy."

Many Catholics, like McKiernan and Barrett Doyle, had not realized that Cardinal Law was representative of a systemic issue within the church, thinking of him as a "rogue bishop." But the devastating revelations in Boston kept coming. Once the cover-up was exposed and it was clear that the highest reaches of the church were involved, they came to believe that documenting everything and being outspoken witnesses was how they could best serve.

Nauman first encountered Barrett Doyle on a dreary Sunday in February 2002, when she found her way after Mass to a demonstration Barrett Doyle had helped plan outside of the Boston chancery, and McKiernan a few days later at an informal meeting to plan protests. "The news articles in the Boston Globe about priests abusing children were devastating," she says. She had become aware of the pervasiveness of child sex abuse during graduate school years before as a social worker training at Children's Hospital in Oakland,

California. "I had to be a part of the solution," to clergy abuse in the church, she adds. "Denial was not an option." Nauman's activism included a role with the reform group Voice of the Faithful, organizing Catholics around the United States in an effort to raise awareness and address the abuse and coverups in their own parishes and dioceses.

In 2006, McKiernan and Barrett Doyle invited Nauman to work with them. "I was willing to volunteer, but was honored that they asked me to be part of their work. It has been gratifying to work with brilliant people who are always mindful that this is not about us. It's about the survivors who found the courage to speak up despite enormous obstacles, including threats against them of death and eternal damnation. It's about the victims who have yet to come forward and those who did not survive. It's about the protection of children today and going forward."

In Barrett Doyle's view, Catholic canon law is "deeply clericalist, a system designed to protect and privilege priests and the ordained over lay people, and certainly over victims. It's not a system of justice, it's a system of institutional and priesthood preservation." Penal canon law has three goals, she adds: suppressing scandal, rehabilitating the offender, and restoring justice as a distant third. In the United States, she says, 47 bishops have been publicly accused of child sexual abuse, and only one has been stripped of his title.

"There are few more dangerous men in America than an abusive bishop," says Barrett Doyle. "He harms not only his own victims, but also the victims of abusive priests who are protected by him, doing incalculable harm." So, the battle continues, with Bishop Accountability.org collecting data from documents published on diocesan websites by court order, from victims' attorneys' websites, survivors' own documents, and more.

"In a way," McKiernan says, "this is not something we chose, but something that chose us. It may seem strange to do this work as a Catholic, but all three of us were drawn by something everyone else was repulsed by." Many partnerships and relationships were involved in bringing these dark secrets of institutional crimes to light by getting the facts gathered, validated, and studied. With the truth revealed, survivors have a pathway to justice, healing, and solidarity in knowing they are not alone.

None of the Whistleblower honorees expected they would still be so busy with this work in 2021, and in fact, this has become their main focus in the latter stages of their lives. "Wouldn't it be nice to have an end point?" asks Nauman. However, the organization has amassed over a million pages of documents and counting. The data is being used to help guide survivors on how they might advocate for themselves, and to generate more activism.

All three find it gratifying and humbling to be validating survivors, protecting children, and partnering with other organizations like CHILD USA to continue this important work.



THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS AWARD

Kai Zen Bickle



Imagine the horror and heartbreak of realizing the father you love is using power, wealth, and status to sexually abuse women and young girls, and that he has been doing it for decades with no apparent repercussions.

How do you handle the emotional pressure of sorting out possible courses of action and deciding what to do? "It killed me, it broke my heart," says Kai Zen Bickle, echoing the raw, devastating feelings of many who have discovered that their relatives are perpetrators of sexual abuse. "I loved him. I experienced a different side of him. I believed, trusted, and saw the best in him." After processing his grief, Kai says he was left with "the other guy," - an alleged serial rapist with a decades-long pattern of sexual predation, not the man he knew as his father. Kai has since taken his mother's name, renounced any possible inheritance, and channeled his energy into helping victims find justice.

"I was in a position to save him if I wanted, or I could have just walked away," Kai recalls. "The third option was to roll up my sleeves and do everything I could to ensure his accusers could face him in a court of law." Kai chose to work aggressively, at great personal cost, to make it possible for the girls and women whom his father allegedly sexually abused to have their voices heard. In recognition of his efforts, Kai is this year's recipient of CHILD USA's Voice of the Voiceless Award.

Kai's father, Peter Nygård, whose net worth was calculated at more than \$900 million in 2020, rose to prominence as a fashion mogul. He founded Nygård International in 1967 as a Canadian design and manufacturing company. The business expanded into the United States and internationally, becoming one of the world's largest women's clothing manufacturers. As his success and fortune grew, he cultivated a public lifestyle patterned after Hugh Hefner of Playboy, purchasing and developing a lavish estate in The Bahamas, accompanied by a constantly changing group of female companions.

In May 2019, during one of Nygård's trips to Los Angeles, he held a dinner party that Kai attended. After the meal, during the shuffle while attendees transitioned to a poker game, Kai believes he saw Nygård secretly and inappropriately touching an eight-year-old girl, whom Kai now believes his father was sexually grooming.

Sick at heart, Kai took all the correct steps to report the abuse, was attacked for it, and experienced how difficult the process can be. In February 2020, formal accusations against Nygård were made, for which Kai gives much credit to the civil attorneys and the brave accusers from The Bahamas who were involved. "Once those accusations came out and when the FBI raided his offices, more and more people began to come forward with information. I was listening to all sides, including addressing the matter directly with my father in an effort to be fair. But after I received credible information that Nygård was still actively drugging and raping women, even after the public accusations, that is when I knew I was dealing with someone who was totally out of control. I needed to do everything possible to stop him from evading the justice process."

After getting in touch with the civil attorneys through one of his brothers, Kai discovered the attorneys had an additional 47 women and children who alleged abuse by Nygård. "The pattern of behavior followed him wherever he went," Kai notes, "and dated from the 70s, 80s, and 90s." The victims included 14-year-old girls and drugging, so Kai reasoned it shouldn't be too hard to stop. "That's when I started to find out how truly difficult it is, and that the headwinds victims must navigate through in order to pursue justice are filled with loopholes that make it extremely difficult for due process to move forward."

Despite helping to facilitate the reporting of abuses to the FBI and to police in the United States and Canada, Kai found these organizations' hands were essentially tied in many of the cases due to jurisdiction loopholes. On top of that, authorities couldn't stop Nygård from fleeing due process until an arrest was imminent. "His passport could not be flagged, and he posed a significant flight risk. It kept me up at night, wondering what he

would do for the rest of his life if he simply took a flight to a jurisdiction out of reach. It took 10 months before he was arrested, and he could have fled at any time" Kai recalls.

Behind the scenes within the company, Kai worked to slow down the liquidation of company assets, engaging in business battles to delay Nygård from moving them offshore. In the summer of 2020, Kai found out his brothers had an abuse claim and encouraged them to take action against Nygård. His brothers claimed Nygård hired the same sex worker to statutorily rape them both to "make them into men." They were minors at the time of the incidents, which occurred 15 years apart. "They didn't feel good about it, it damaged them,

but they knew that filing a report would encourage more survivors to come forward. I'm very proud of them," says Kai. "They knew there likely would be no financial compensation and that any chance at inheritance would effectively be over, but they went forward because it was the right thing to do."

Kai maintains, "It's not up to me to determine whether he's guilty. However, he should have to go through due process. He needs to face his accusers in a court of law." Consequently, Kai began working on changing laws that will reduce obstacles to bringing perpetrators to face due process.

"Let us take steps to ensure that we make changes to the system in order to help support the justice process as much as possible moving forward." He was introduced to CHILD USA by actor Corey Feldman, who has been active in advocating for statute of limitations reform to give victims more access to justice. Since that introduction, Kai has been working with CHILD USA to change laws and loopholes that he encountered along his journey.

"We need to improve the system that empowers authorities to uphold due process," he says.

"Right now, there are a few key loopholes that need to be updated that can greatly empower authorities to ensure that accusers' voices can be properly heard in a court of law."

"There were three major legal obstacles that became apparent as to why Nygård was able to get away with this pattern of accused abuse for so long," he says. One legal loophole he and CHILD USA are trying to change is that if someone has formal accusations filed against them or is under criminal investigation for heinous crimes such as child rape, authorities should have the option to be able to flag the passports of the accused until an investigation is complete. It currently is not possible to do so until a formal arrest has been issued, and



people flee jurisdiction, leaving victims with no recourse. "I came out publicly in September of 2020 to expose Nygård as a flight risk. He had 10 months from when the FBI raided his offices in February 2020 to his actual arrest in December of that year. He could simply have booked a plane ticket and gone to a jurisdiction where he couldn't be held accountable."

Non-reciprocal relationships between jurisdictions is another major obstacle. "Many of the incidents happened in The Bahamas, and looking back, that was by design," says Kai. "An example would be that if two Americans go on spring break in a foreign country and one is raped by the other, then charges cannot be pressed in the United States simply because the alleged rape occurred in The Bahamas. Many of the accusations were from Canadian women or American women who were flown to The Bahamas, allegedly raped, and then had no way to press charges in the USA or Canada, simply because the alleged incident occurred on foreign soil. The law wants you to press charges in The Bahamas, except The Bahamas has a terrible track record of prosecuting rape, and Nygård is accused of having the Bahamian police in his pocket. Essentially we have a free rape zone."

"Right now," Kai adds, "over 125 victims have come forward, and of those only eight are qualified to press a formal criminal charge in the United States -- less than 10%. Also factor in that many rapes go unreported and you have a staggering number of accusations that have not been able to utilize the justice process."

Wealthy and powerful people also sue accusers for defamation of character, and victims have been bankrupted while seeking justice. Kai has proposed legislation that follows precedent set in the United Kingdom: if you lose your suit, you pay your opponent's attorney fees. This is not true in the United States. "So if you are rich and someone's not, you can shut them down," he emphasizes. "This was another tactic Nygård used to silence voices. He would gladly pay 500k to make you spend

100k that you don't have. There's a massive socioeconomic advantage. We need to give more power to the financially disenfranchised to level the playing field of justice."

In fighting to elevate the voices of the voiceless, Kai is also involved with #NotMe, a free phone app that makes it easy to report, even anonymously, all sorts of misconduct from racism to sexual abuse. "Within 20 minutes," Kai notes, "A complaint can be written, filed on-record, and sent out to a professional, objective third party for review. They can also connect you with PTS counselors and more. It's a tool that empowers voices to be heard."

After connecting with Marci Hamilton, CHILD USA's Founder & CEO, Kai found someone open and receptive to finding ways to promote advocacy and make real change. CHILD USA's Legal Department, under Legal Director Alice Bohn, Esq., is drafting language to meet the problems Kai has identified.

However, there is still much work to be done, and funding is needed to continue these battles to get victims' voices heard.

"I do what I can," Kai - whose name "Kai Zen" means "Good Change" in Japanese - concludes. "However, I accepted the Voice of the Voiceless Award on the basis that many should be recognized: the survivors in The Bahamas who are still under fire, the survivors all over the world who have come forward and those who haven't; the former employees who have experienced abuses; the tireless efforts of the civil attorneys, Greg Gutzler and Lisa Haba, who have helped piece this investigation together and supported and allowed so many survivors to be heard; my brothers and sister who have helped behind the scene; and the authorities who have worked within the powers they have to do everything they can to have him answer for his accusations in a court of law. I accepted on their behalf. Let us take steps to ensure that we make changes to the system in order to help support the justice process as much as possible moving forward." ■

THE BARBARA BLAINE TRAILBLAZER AWARD

U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General Denise George



The Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award was established in the memory of a remarkable survivor, who was the groundbreaking founder of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, with the gracious support of her husband, Prof. Howard Rubin. Barbara was a force of nature who left us too soon.

Jeffrey Epstein: a name ripped from recent headlines that evokes shock, anger, and above all raises the questions of how human trafficking and sexual abuse can remain either uninvestigated or even undetected while ensnaring hundreds of victims.

Although he died in prison in August, 2019 while awaiting trial on charges of sex trafficking and conspiracy to engage in sex trafficking, Epstein was a wealthy man. He rose to prominence as a financier through associations with his elite social circle. He became a resident of the U.S. Virgin Islands, having

purchased Little St. James and then Great St. James islands, where he built a lavish compound and a complex web of corporate, LLC and foundation entities that helped hide his unsavory and criminal activities.

Due to the efforts of U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General Denise N. George, Marci Hamilton, Pralaya Cuomo, Sabrina Ewart, and Ann Jennifer Mastrogiovanni, some of his wealth was used to establish the Epstein Victims' Compensation Fund.

When George took office as Attorney General in May 2019, there had been many news reports and rumors about Epstein. "Given the seriousness of these reports, I knew my office needed to investigate," she says. "We needed facts and evidence, not innuendo, and I felt strongly that the people of the Virgin Islands and the victims deserved the truth."

What her team discovered was even worse than imagined. A well-developed criminal enterprise had been at work, and many of those involved seemed determined to continue to operate. "Learning of this information was sickening and horrifying," George recalls. "My first thoughts were about the victims and ensuring they knew I was going to do everything in my power as Attorney General to uphold the laws of the Virgin Islands, and not stop until all who were involved in this criminal enterprise were held accountable."

George has taken a leading role in the fight to bring Jeffrey Epstein's systemic abuse to justice. Noting her responsibility as Attorney General to uphold the laws of the U.S. Virgin Islands and protect its residents guides all of her work, she applied those same principles against Epstein's estate. "With this case," she says, "the victims are also the driving force. We must all do what we can to create environments where all people are safe from harm and violence, as well as the shame and stigma that accompanies sexual violence."

Epstein's victims played a vital role in establishing the Victim's Compensation Fund, which uses the preserved assets from the Epstein estate to compensate survivors. "Through our investigation, I thought

I had a good grasp on what had occurred," George says. "However, meeting with those brave, impressive women and hearing their chilling stories were key to fully understanding the violence – physical and mental – they endured. It also exposed the reach and impact of this criminal enterprise."

Preserving compensation for the survivors was one of George's biggest concerns from the beginning. It became apparent in the early stages that the Fund being created by the Estate would not be in the best interests of the victims, she says, and required outside, independent oversight. George's office placed liens on accounts related to the Epstein Estate to ensure the Estate did not dissipate its assets and that money was available for claimants.

Additionally, she insisted on an advocate for victims who could provide expertise in child abuse and sexual assault, and also help make sure that the Fund's administrator understood and protected the victims' interests. "The victims and their advocates introduced me to Marci Hamilton and CHILD USA," she says. "I knew immediately

that she was an invaluable resource in being able to provide independent expertise to ensure the Fund operated in a way that was informed by, and respectful of, Epstein's survivors.

"No amount of money can undo the trauma these women and young girls went through, but what we can do is publicly acknowledge their unthinkable experience and help them in their journey forward," George says. "It is my hope that this fund will help the survivors recover in some small way and will strip those involved with Epstein from the profits of his enterprise. At the end of the day, I understand that the Fund paid \$125 million to roughly 150 survivors."

One of George's top priorities in working with CHILD USA

"No amount of money can undo the trauma these women and young girls went through, but what we can do is publicly acknowledge their unthinkable experience and help them in their journey forward."

is also informing law enforcement and the public, arming them with the knowledge, tools and mandate to detect and respond to trafficking. Few legislators, law enforcement officers or public observers realize the depth of the damage being done to victims or the effects such trauma creates in terms of ruined lives. The goal is to forestall the next perpetrator by raising informed awareness so that sexual abuse is recognized and reported. While Epstein's wealth and connections allowed him to victimize more than 100 women and girls over decades, he is not alone. Working to safeguard and protect others from trafficking and abuse is a large undertaking, only possible through partnerships such as those with CHILD USA.

"I will never forget their experiences and courage," George says of her fellow honorees. "They, and the women and girls of the Virgin Islands who also face violence and abuse, too often without help or support, are very much in my mind. It is my commitment to them that guides my ongoing work in the Epstein matter. The programs we are putting in place – such as training for law enforcement and public awareness efforts – are designed to reach two closely connected goals: that there are no bystanders and no more victims of human trafficking."

THE BARBARA BLAINE TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Sabrina Ewart, Ann Jennifer Mastrogiovanni, and one anonymous survivor





The Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award is also being presented to three courageous survivors, one of whom is featured in the story below.

To meet Sabrina Ewart is to meet a lovely young woman, competent in her career as a special needs teacher and special education coordinator, mother of a thriving special needs child, and budding entrepreneur.

Ewart is also a courageous voice speaking from experience as one of the survivors of child sexual abuse at the hands of Jeffery Epstein, and is a recipient of this year's Barbara Blaine Trailblazer Award, accepting alongside Ann Jennifer Mastrogiovanni and representing one other survivor who remains anonymous.

Ewart eloquently paints a portrait of how it's possible to find oneself in such dreadful circumstances, and what it is like to come out on the other side of sexual abuse. "I was 16 years old at the time," she recalls. "My mother was very ill with cancer and dependent on medications, my stepfather had died, and my father lived apart from us. I grew up without a lot of support, and was essentially left to my own devices and was making my own decisions. I was the perfect profile for falling into such a circumstance."

As a high school teacher working with emotionally and behaviorally challenged students, she now realizes 16-year-olds don't understand that decisions they make now can have life-long effects. She is still working through the impact of her own experiences.

"It was actually difficult for me to identify as a victim," Ewart says. "In my mind I thought I should have known better, that I ignored the red flags and, in some ways, brought it all on myself. I was ashamed and embarrassed, and I felt like a fool. I also didn't have the same experience as most of the other women in terms of physical interaction," she says even though his actions made her feel very uncomfortable. At that time, however, she didn't recognize this behavior as sexual abuse.

"It's taken me a long time, and even now I have my moments," she says, "I can see that I was victimized, even if my encounters were minimal compared with what the other women went through. It's still hard to say I was a victim – that thought that I should have known better – carrying the weight, feeling the stigma, blaming myself. But he had power, more than anyone could imagine, and I've found solace in the fact that my speaking up made an impact for the other women."

Although "terrified and honored" at the same time, Ewart accepts the award to help give a voice to women who didn't have one, and hopes others will feel able to come forward in the future. "You never know how your story will help someone else," she says. "Children of all ages and genders are being sexually abused everywhere, and the more we're quiet, the more we allow it.

"At the end of the day, it's our story," she says, "and I will not let fear of judgement dictate my truth. By speaking out, I remain authentic to myself," she adds, "and moving forward, hope I am leading by example and showing that our decisions don't define us forever."





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LARA ST. JOHN is a world-renowned violin soloist and musical maverick who has performed with major orchestras and in recital globally. Lara is also a fearless survivor who blew the whistle on the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music. She has owned her own label since 1999 and has released classical, folk, new commission and world albums. She is a member of the Order of Canada and a Knight of Burgundy. She performs on a 1779 Guadagnini.



JAKE KELBERMAN is a jazz musician and educator from Philadelphia who collaborates with a wide variety of artists, ensembles, and organizations. In addition to a diverse performance career, he composes and produces original music for contemporary dance, film, and visual media. Jake holds a masters' degree from the Juilliard School and is a professor of jazz guitar and ensemble director at Temple University.



THERE ARE TWO PATHS TO JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED: CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND CIVIL LAWSUITS.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of child sex abuse victims cannot press criminal charges or file civil lawsuits against those responsible for their abuse because they missed the statute of limitations ("SOLs")— the arbitrary procedural deadline for doing so. Most victims miss the SOLs for obtaining justice because trauma affects them in a way that causes them to delay telling anyone about their abuse until they are older. Studies show the average age child sex abuse victims disclose they were abused is 52.

CHILD USA fights for SOL reform and tracks the laws in every state to hold institutions accountable and to give victims the justice they deserve.

CHILD USA LEADS THE NATIONAL SOL REFORM MOVEMENT TO CHANGE SOLS TO PREVENT CHILD SEX ABUSE AND EMPOWER VICTIMS.

SOL reform serves three important public purposes: 1) It identifies hidden child predators and the institutions that endanger children to the public, shielding other children from future abuse; 2) It shifts the cost of abuse from the victims and taxpayers to those who caused it; and 3) It educates the public about the prevalence, signs, and impact of child sex abuse so that it can be prevented in the future.

CHILD USA helps states across the country to eliminate their criminal and civil SOLs and open windows for survivors whose time already ran out. Since 2002, 96% of states have improved their child sex abuse SOLs. There are now 24 states, Washington D.C. and Guam that have opened windows or other revivals laws, and new window legislation is proposed each year. Yet, only two states so far–Maine and Vermont–have reached the pinnacle of SOL reform, which is to simply eliminate their civil and criminal SOLs, and completely revive all time-barred claims.

CHILD USA's goal is to remove all barriers to justice for all child sex abuse survivors in every state.

THE FUTURE OF SOL REFORM

With 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 13 boys sexually abused, the United States is home to millions of victims, and most, even today, have not disclosed the abuse. The public is more awake now than they've ever been to the injustice survivors faced and the danger of silencing them. While the opposition to victims' access to justice remains strong from certain quarters, **SOL reform is an unstoppable movement.**



GAME OVER

Commission to Protect Youth Athletes





Led by Marci Hamilton, Founder & CEO of CHILD USA and Fels Institute of Government Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, the Commission is composed of 14 members, all of whom are experts in their field of child protection. Over the past 3 years, The Game Over Commission has engaged in a fact-finding investigation of all responsible institutions and individuals who made it possible for Larry Nassar to abuse hundreds of children. The Commission has investigated, held public hearings, and will soon release its report of findings and recommendations to prevent child abuse in sports. Additionally, the Commission has also established a public database so that the information is permanently and publicly available.

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"CHILD USA's Amicus Advocacy project targets state and federal cases whose outcomes will impact children in the United States. We share cutting-edge social science and legal research, as well as a national perspective on developing law so that courts are better equipped to make decisions that protect children and prevent harm. Our work is made possible by the generosity of our pro bono amicus partners who help us draft, review, and file briefing across the country!"

-Alice Bohn, Esq., Legal Director



CHILD USA and its partners have submitted dozens of pro bono briefs in cases involving victims' rights, family courts, statutes of limitation, sex abuse by clergy, and misuse of religious exemption loopholes.

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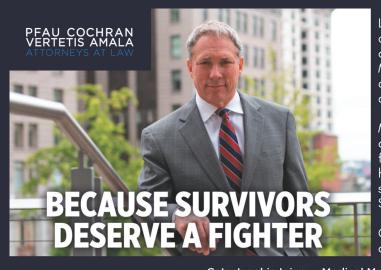
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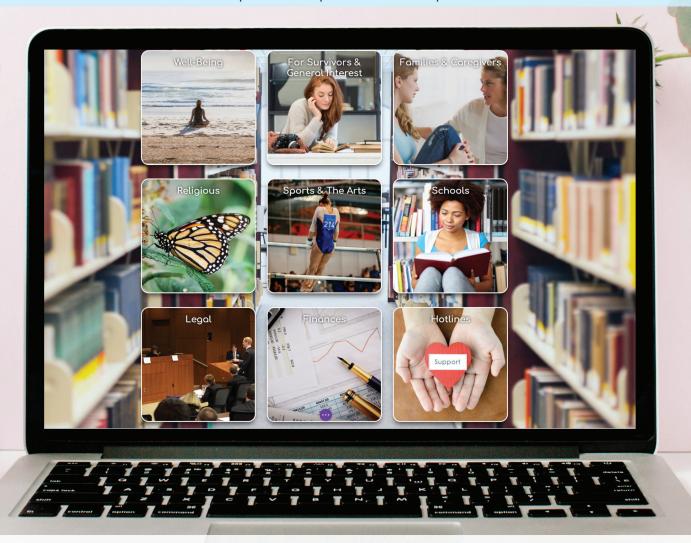
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Visit <u>www.childusa.org/members</u> to sign up for The Hamilton Library: A Curated Library of Information on Child Sex Abuse

CHILD USA is committed to Ending Educational Neglect

Educational Neglect is:

- Allowing a child to miss too much school
- · Failing to enroll a child in school
- Failing to provide comparable home-based education
- Keeping a child from special education services

Currently, only twenty-four states and D.C. include educational neglect in their definitions of abuse. CHILD USA is committed to ensuring children are provided with adequate services in their schools and communities to foster learning, including access to school, mental health services, medical services, adequate food & housing, adequate technology and wifi, and restorative justice & trauma-responsive practices. Additionally, CHILD USA is working to ban the abusive practice of corporal punishment in schools.



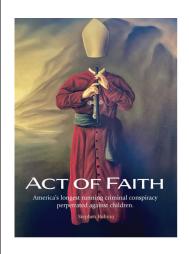
CHILD USA is working to End Medical Neglect & Vaccine Exemptions for children

CHILD USA's legal and social science research in the field underscores the need to carry on Rita Swan's legacy by continuing to shine a light on the medical neglect and vaccination exemptions that harm children. If a test or screening is beneficial enough that policymakers require it for most children, all children should be afforded that benefit, regardless of the religious beliefs of their parents. As the Supreme Court eloquently stated, parents may not make martyrs of their children. Join CHILD USA's fight to end medical neglect and vaccination exemptions for children!



www.childusa.org/ medicalneglect







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Proceeds benefit
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-Tom Doyle





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