

"20 years of advocating for the rights of children"

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January 25, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

Attached is a copy of the report, *Ohio Juvenile Justice System: Perspectives from the Field*. It is summarizes the information that was collected during a six-month period from individuals working in or having experienced Ohio's juvenile justice system.

The information gathering process was an opportunity to receive input from juvenile justice stakeholders about current policies and practices and potential reforms in Ohio. The report highlights the themes that emerged across the stakeholder groups (the judiciary, law enforcement, prosecutors, children's attorney, probation and diversion officers, and parents and youth). The hope is that the report will foster more collaboration among stakeholders and that the ongoing partnerships in creating and sustaining reforms in Ohio will continue to grow and be informed by themes.

The Children's Law Center, Inc. would like to thank everyone who participated in the information gathering process and all partnering organizations that supported the effort by organizing focus groups, disseminating surveys and recruiting stakeholders. This would not have happened without your assistance and ongoing dedication to improving Ohio's systemic response to youth and communities.

Those interested in remaining informed about reforms in Ohio or be involved in the hosting of local training on juvenile justice issues, please send an email to <u>childrenslaw@ispconsults.com</u>.

Sincerely,

Kim Tandy

Kim Brooks Tandy Executive Director