

Emerging Adult Justice Project

Bridging justice between childhood and adulthood

Chief Probation Officers of California Propose Raising the State's Upper Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction to 20

In November 2019, the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) announced their Elevate Justice Act, a "comprehensive elevation of the current juvenile justice system," including a [proposal to raise the upper age](#) of California's juvenile jurisdiction from 18 to 20. The proposal was based on "mounting brain science and research" and also includes a termination of probation after one successful year and a limit on probation conditions to only those related to public safety. An [article in KQED News](#) covering the Act and advocates' reactions to it quoted the Justice Lab's co-Director Vinny Schiraldi, saying "Juvenile halls are far from perfect, but they are far better than jails and prisons." Early in the new year, the Los Angeles Times published an [op-ed by Vinny](#) in which he generally supported the Act but provided several recommendations for its improvement. CPOC is currently looking for a legislative sponsor to potentially introduce a bill this session.

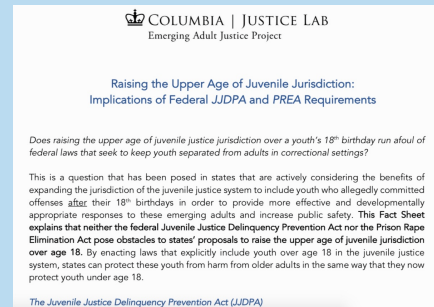
Jane Tewksbury and Gail Garinger Penned Op-Eds Supporting Massachusetts's Bill to Raise the Upper Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction to 21

Jane Tewksbury, former Commissioner of Massachusetts's Department of Youth Services, Assistant Attorney General, and Assistant District Attorney, published an [op-ed](#) endorsing An Act to Promote Public Safety and Better Outcomes for Young Adults, legislation pending in Massachusetts that would raise the state's age upper age of jurisdiction to 21 through a three-year phase-in period that involves a reallocation of resources. Gail Garinger, a former juvenile court judge, the first statewide Child Advocate in MA, and first director of the Child & Youth Protection Unit of the MA Attorney General Office, also wrote an [op-ed supporting the bill](#).

Click [here](#) to see the new website created by Massachusetts advocates to support the bill to raise the age.

EAJP FACT SHEET: Raising the Upper Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction - Implications of Federal JJDPA and PREA Requirements

Selen Siringil Perker and Lael Chester of the Emerging Adult Justice Project co-authored a [fact sheet](#) explaining how the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act and the Prison Rape Elimination Act, which seek to keep youth separated from adults in adult correctional settings, do not create barriers to states' proposals to raise the upper age of juvenile jurisdiction over 18.



Florida Bill Would Provide a Means for Sentence Review for Those Incarcerated for Acts Committed as Emerging Adults

[Florida's "Second Look Act" \(SB 1308\)](#), which would provide a means for people incarcerated for crimes committed before reaching age 25 to apply for sentence review and potential reduction, is progressing in the legislature. The Act would also expand state tuition residency requirements to include time spent incarcerated in a county detention facility or state correctional facility.

The Atlantic Article on the Power of Credible Messengers: "Reporting for Work Where You Once Reported for Probation"

In December 2019, *The Atlantic* published an article explaining the significant role that credible messengers, "[people] with personal experience of the criminal-justice system, typically their own criminal record, who now has unique legitimacy to help others in a similar position," can have in criminal justice initiatives. Among the initiatives described by the article is New York City's Arches program for 16-24-year-olds on probation, designed by the Justice Lab's Vincent Schiraldi (then NYC's Commissioner of the Department of Probation) and [David Muhammad](#). As [EAJ Learning Community](#) member and D.C. Deputy Mayor Kevin Donahue said of the 2019 increase in the District's funding for credible messengers: "We can spend all the money in the world, but if we don't create something that is accessible to the person who needs it, it's not going to get utilized."

Congratulations to EAJ Learning Community Member Katy Miller!

[EAJ Learning Community](#) member [Katy Miller](#) has been appointed to be [San Francisco's Chief Juvenile Probation Officer](#). Katy now leads the Juvenile Probation Department, which "locates, develops, and administers programs for the assessment, education, treatment, appropriate rehabilitation, and effective supervision of youth" under its jurisdiction. Congratulations Katy!

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