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## **Juvenile Law Center Announces 2019 Leadership Prize Recipients**

*Awardees are Elizabeth Calvin, Nicole Pittman, and Jennifer Rodriguez*

**Philadelphia, PA** (December 14, 2018) – Today Juvenile Law Center, the nation’s first public interest law firm, is pleased to announce the recipients of this year’s Leadership Prize. The organization’s annual Leadership Prize is awarded to outstanding individuals working in any field – law, government, the arts, media, entertainment, sports, business, or any other sector – who are fighting for the rights and well-being of youth in the child welfare and justice systems. The work of our awardees has substantially improved the lives of the country’s most vulnerable youth.

The 2019 winners of the Prize are:

- **Elizabeth Calvin**, Senior Advocate, Children’s Division, Human Rights Watch
- **Nicole Pittman**, Vice President and Director of the Center on Youth Registration Reform, Impact Justice
- **Jennifer Rodriguez, J.D.**, Executive Director, Youth Law Center

Please read more about the awardees [here](#).

“We are thrilled to announce our Leadership Prize winners,” said Susan Mangold, CEO of Juvenile Law Center.

“Elizabeth, Nicole and Jennifer inspire us all with their passion and effectiveness. I look forward to celebrating their achievements and the field of children’s rights advocacy at the Leadership Prize celebration on May 1<sup>st</sup>.”

The 2019 Leadership Prize Selection Committee included Leticia Peguero, Vice President of Programs, The Nathan Cummings Foundation (Chair); Kevin Bethel, Senior Policy Advisor, Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab, Drexel University; Shyara Hill, Youth Advocate, Juvenile Law Center; Karen Lindell, Senior Attorney, Juvenile Law Center; Allison Maloney, News and Politics Editor, *Teen Vogue*; and Johnny Perez, Director of U.S. Prison Program, NRCAT; Juvenile Law Center Board of Directors. The celebration event for the Prize will take place at the National Constitution Center on May 1<sup>st</sup> – [click here for details](#).

Recipients of the Leadership Prize are leading lights whose inspirational careers are beacons for future generations and whose work has substantially improved the lives of youth. The inaugural recipient, Juvenile Law Center Co-Founder Robert Schwartz, not only brought Juvenile Law Center to national and international prominence over the course of his 40 years of leadership, he also helped develop the nascent field of children’s law, inspiring thousands of children’s rights advocates working nationwide. Today, Juvenile Law Center is recognized both nationally and internationally for its expertise as a trailblazer in the field of children’s rights law.

*Juvenile Law Center advocates for rights, dignity, equity and opportunity for youth in the foster care and justice systems. Founded in 1975, Juvenile Law Center is the first non-profit, public interest law firm for children in the country. We fight for youth through litigation, appellate advocacy and submission of amicus (friend-of-the-court) briefs, policy reform, public education, training, consulting, and strategic communications. Widely published and internationally recognized as leaders in the field, Juvenile Law Center has substantially shaped the development of law and policy on behalf of youth. We strive to ensure that laws, policies, and practices affecting youth advance racial and economic equity and are rooted in research, consistent with children's unique developmental characteristics, and reflective of international human rights values. For more information about Juvenile Law Center's work, visit [www.JLC.org](http://www.JLC.org).*

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