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Michele Scavongelli Executive Director

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Youth Advocacy Foundation

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## Dear Friend & Businessowner:

The Youth Advocacy Foundation (YAF) is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization whose mission is **protecting and advancing the legal and human rights of children to promote their healthy development through active partnerships with local communities**. YAF supports initiatives and positions not currently funded by the state to ensure that every child has access to zealous legal representation, essential and vibrant communitybased services, and a quality education. It was through YAF's efforts over the past 24 years, that the EdLaw Project—now a dedicated unit in our state public defender's office—was created to represent court-involved youth with respect to special education and school discipline issues.

This year we are highlighting the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown v Board of Education* that overturned the prior "separate but equal" doctrine and established that racial segregation in our public schools is unconstitutional. Although it's been 70 years since the abolishment of purposeful school segregation, our public schools remain deeply segregated and there is still much work to be done to create equitable education for all children.

This is our main fundraising and awareness-raising event. The centerpiece of our event is our silent auction. This is a major source of funding for the programs and services we provide.

We are reaching out to you to respectfully request a donation of an item or gift certificate to be included in our silent auction or possibly as a raffle prize. All donations will be gratefully acknowledged on our website, event program and through our virtual bidding platform. Our silent auction will open for a full week leading up to the program, highlighting your generosity for more than just the evening of the celebration.

We hope you will consider standing with our community in support of the vision of equitable access for all Massachusetts youth to an adequate education.

Please feel free to call or email us with any questions you may have regarding the silent auction or general questions about our organization. Also attached with this letter is a silent auction participation form with instructions of where to send donations if you choose to donate.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Warmly,

Mulule & Scaronyelli

Michele Scavongelli Executive Director Youth Advocacy Foundation <u>mscavongelli@youthadvocacyfoundation.org</u> (978) 505-1844

The Youth Advocacy Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization with Federal Tax ID 04-3583353.



\*This form can be found on the event website at https://yaf.ejoinme.org/spring2024

Youth Advocacy Foundation, Federal Tax ID #04-3583353, is recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and meets all conditions necessary to make gifts deductible for income tax purposes.