

# ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN *of* NEW YORK

PROTECTING EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT TO LEARN



## *Spring Benefit*

MAY 7, 2014

*T*HANK YOU TO THE  
STAFF OF ADVOCATES FOR  
CHILDREN OF NEW YORK,  
FOR YOUR UNWAVERING  
DEDICATION TO SECURING A  
QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION  
FOR NEW YORK CITY'S  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH.



AFC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN *of* NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY

## *Spring Benefit*

MAY 7, 2014

6:00 PM  
COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7:15 PM  
PRESENTATIONS



WELCOME

ERIC F. GROSSMAN  
*President, Board of Directors  
Advocates for Children of New York*



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KIM SWEET  
*Executive Director  
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THE JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD

THE HONORABLE EUGENE A. LUDWIG  
*Founder and CEO, Promontory Financial Group, LLC, former U.S. Comptroller of the Currency  
and former Vice Chairman and Senior Control Officer of Bankers Trust/Deutsche Bank*

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FRANK G. ZARB  
*Non-Executive Chairman, Promontory Financial Group, LLC*



THE EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD


AL-YASID JOHNSON  
*High School Graduate and AFC Client*

PRESENTED BY

SOLEDAD O'BRIEN  
*CEO, Starfish Media Group*



CLOSING REMARKS  
ZIOGRAIN CORREA  
*AFC Parent*

n behalf of the Board of Directors of Advocates for Children of New York, let me welcome you to AFC's 2014 Spring Benefit.

Over four decades, AFC has established its place as a leader in education advocacy and reform, championing the rights of New York City students and families and achieving systemic change that improves access to a quality public education for all. We recently welcomed the first new mayor in 12 years, and AFC's expertise on everything from early childhood education to school discipline has been an important resource for the City during the transition.

A noteworthy transition has occurred at AFC, too. Since 2004, Jamie Levitt has been Board President, leading this organization with intelligence, compassion, and vision. As she steps down, we thank Jamie for ten years of admirable service. I am honored to be following in her footsteps.

We are all enormously grateful to our Sponsors, whose generosity raised over \$1.4 million dollars this year! Thanks to the 2014 Benefit Committee and to my Co-Chairs, all of whom worked hard to make tonight such a success. And congratulations to our honorees, Gene Ludwig and Al-Yasid Johnson; it is we who feel honored to be sharing our night with you.

Cheers to our Executive Director, Kim Sweet, and her extraordinary staff, who work tirelessly to improve the lives of the children and families we serve. And thank you to AFC's pro bono partners and my Board and Junior Board colleagues—AFC could not do its vital work without their many contributions.

Thank you again for coming and for supporting Advocates for Children of New York. I hope you enjoy the evening.



ERIC F. GROSSMAN  
*President, Board of  
Directors,  
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Congratulations to tonight's honorees, Eugene Ludwig and Al-Yasid Johnson, and welcome to AFC's Spring Benefit. We are proud to be supporting Advocates for Children of New York. Special thanks to our Committee and our Sponsors for this evening's enormous success!



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**FRANK G. ZARB**  
*Promontory Financial Group, LLC*



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*As of April 28, 2014*

Frank G. Zarb is Non-Executive Chairman of Promontory Financial Group, LLC. He serves as a Senior Advisor to Hellman & Friedman, LLC. He is an Executive in Residence at Columbia University and is a Board member of OpenLink International Holdings, Inc. Over the past 30 years he has served as a Director on thirteen public company boards.

Mr. Zarb served as Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Securities Dealers and the NASDAQ Stock Market.

He was Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Alexander & Alexander Services, Inc., a global organization of professional advisors providing risk management, insurance brokerage, and human resource management consulting services from offices in more than 80 countries.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Zarb was Vice Chairman and Group Chief Executive of The Travelers, Inc. and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Smith Barney. He was a Senior Partner at Lazard Frères and Co.

Mr. Zarb was the senior official for all United States government energy related activities, serving as Executive Director of the Cabinet-level Energy Resources Council, Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration, and Assistant to the President for Energy Affairs (the “Energy Czar”). Previously he was Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor and Associate Director of the Office of Management & Budget (OMB). He has served in various assignments with the Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations.

Mr. Zarb earned his B.S. and M.B.A. degrees in business from Hofstra University, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree by the University and the school’s Outstanding Scholar Award. Georgetown University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on him in 2000.



FRANK G. ZARB  
*Non-Executive Chairman,  
Promontory  
Financial Group, LLC*

Gene Ludwig is the Founder and Chief Executive officer of Promontory Financial Group, LLC, a premier strategy, risk management, regulatory, and compliance consulting firm. Since founding Promontory in 2001, Mr. Ludwig has guided the firm's expansion to 17 offices located in North America, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East.

From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Ludwig served under President Clinton as U.S. Comptroller of the Currency. He was the Administration's point person on the policy response to the credit crunch of the early 1990s. Under Mr. Ludwig's leadership, lending to low and moderate income Americans increased tenfold, as did national bank investments in community development corporations. During his tenure, 27 fair-lending cases were prosecuted resulting in tens of millions of dollars in fines against violators.

Prior to establishing Promontory, Mr. Ludwig was Vice Chairman and Senior Control Officer of Bankers Trust New York Corp. where he was instrumental in steering the firm through its landmark merger with Deutsche Bank. Before serving as Comptroller, Mr. Ludwig was a partner at the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ludwig graduated *magna cum laude* from Haverford College and received a scholarship to Oxford University, where he earned a M.A. as a Keasbey Fellow. He holds a J.D. from Yale University, where he was editor of the Yale Law Journal. Mr. Ludwig is Secretary of the Board of Directors of the National Academy Foundation (NAF), which develops and promotes industry-focused curricula, work-based learning experiences, and business partner expertise for high school students.



EUGENE A. LUDWIG  
 Founder and  
 Chief Executive Officer,  
 Promontory  
 Financial Group, LLC

“EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONAL WELL-BEING, AND HAS BEEN AN ISSUE CLOSE TO MY HEART FOR MANY YEARS. AFC HAS CHAMPIONED THIS CAUSE IN NEW YORK CITY, PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF THE MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS TO THE EDUCATION THEY DESERVE. I AM HONORED TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THEM AND TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD.”

Soledad O'Brien is an award-winning journalist and CEO of Starfish Media Group. Through SMG, Ms. O'Brien has contributed short-form segments for *Al Jazeera America* and continues to produce *Black in America* and *Latino in America* for CNN where she originated these highly-acclaimed series. She is also in partnership with HBO where she appears on *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel*. Ms. O'Brien recently assumed the reigns as executive producer and moderator for *The National Geographic Bee*.

After appearing as a co-anchor for *Weekend Today*, and contributing segments to *NBC's Today* and *NBC Nightly News*, Ms. O'Brien joined CNN in 2003 as the face of the morning news for many years, during which time she won three Emmys (*Crisis in Haiti Report* [2011], *Kids and Race* [2011] and the 2012 presidential election); two Peabody Awards (for coverage of Hurricane Katrina and the BP Gulf Coast oil spill); and the Alfred I. DuPont Award for her reporting on the Southeast Asia tsunami. Ms. O'Brien's documentary *Latino in America 2* won the Cine Award. Ms. O'Brien has been named journalist of the year by the National Association of Black Journalists and recognized by *Newsweek* magazine's "People Who Make America Great."

Ms. O'Brien is a Distinguished Fellow at Harvard University and member of the Board of the Foundation for The National Archives. Ms. O'Brien and her husband founded the *Soledad O'Brien + Brad Raymond Starfish Foundation* which awards scholarships to help disadvantaged young women get to and through college. Soledad O'Brien lives in Manhattan with her husband and their four children.



SOLEDAD O'BRIEN  
 CEO, Starfish Media  
 Group

Al-Yasid is a 21-year-old high school graduate on the autism spectrum. His sister, Ina, first contacted AFC when Al was 10 because he was being isolated in a classroom by himself due to a misunderstanding with another classmate. Al was not receiving any of his mandated special education services and hardly any instruction as he sat in a room by himself all day.

AFC helped find a new program at a public school for Al, and he continued to attend this program into high school. AFC also successfully sued for Al to attend a residential summer program for seven years in a row.

In his senior year, Al's family became aware that his high school had completely failed to prepare him to receive a high school diploma, something he was very capable of achieving. His school had neglected to administer the state tests that Al needed to graduate and had not provided the required credits. Instead, the school had let Al fall through the cracks, slating him to receive a special education diploma that would not allow him to attend college.

As a result, AFC requested a hearing to secure funding for Al to attend Gersh Academy, a private school for students on the spectrum. AFC succeeded in obtaining payment for the cost of Al's tuition, as well as the cost of his meals while at school. For two years, Al worked to obtain the final credits he needed and prepared for the state exams. Al thrived at Gersh and graduated last June with a bang—passing his final Regents exam with an 89! Al is currently applying to college and aspires to a career in music production or media.



AL-YASID JOHNSON  
*High School Graduate  
and AFC Client*

“I AM A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE ON MY WAY TO COLLEGE THANKS TO ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WHO WERE BY MY SIDE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.”

ADVOCATES  
FOR  
CHILDREN  
AT A  
GLANCE

Since 1971, AFC has been speaking out for the children and youth who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, race, disability, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. No other city-wide organization is like AFC: working in the trenches to provide these vulnerable students and their families with urgently needed guidance and advocacy, while at the same time, pressing for systemic reforms that benefit all students, even those who are most challenging to educate. Our efforts on the individual and policy levels inform and strengthen each other, further increasing our effectiveness for the communities we serve.

FOR OVER FOUR DECADES AFC HAS MADE  
COUNTLESS FUTURES BRIGHTER

*By Solving Problems for Parents in Need:*

Any parent of a New York City public school student knows how difficult it can be to navigate a school system that has 1.1 million children. Our Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline is a crucial resource for New York families having problems with special education, transportation, school suspensions, transfers, and more. Our experienced lawyers and advocates work with parents to get their children the educational support they need in school.

*By Sharing Our Unique Expertise in Education Advocacy:*

We know that one of the best ways to reach the most isolated students is to collaborate with other organizations that serve them. AFC is currently partnering with twenty-one organizations funded by the Robin Hood Foundation in areas like child welfare, juvenile justice, and domestic violence. In addition, AFC's highly skilled staff can be found in foster care agencies and community-based organizations across the five boroughs, sharing their expertise in educational advocacy, providing legal representation to families,



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JOCELYN LEE



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JOCELYN LEE



and helping these partners build their capacity to advocate for the educational needs of the children they serve.

*By Understanding and Addressing the Education-Related Challenges Confronting the City's Most Vulnerable Children:*

AFC proudly serves on the frontlines of the fight to champion the education-related rights of children and youth who are most likely to experience failure or discrimination in school because of factors beyond their control.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

AFC's multi-pronged approach is a model for education advocacy throughout the city and state. First, we provide one-on-one legal representation and advocacy to help low-income families of children with disabilities get the educational services and support they need. Second, we offer free workshops throughout the city to bring training, information, and direct assistance on the education system to parents and the professionals who work with them. Third, we address systemic problems with the education of students with disabilities through our policy work and when necessary, federal litigation. And finally, we coordinate and lead a collaborative effort called the ARISE Coalition, which brings together more than fifty different organizations and individuals to press for policy change to benefit children with disabilities in the New York City schools.

IMMIGRANT STUDENTS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

AFC's bilingual project staff advocates on behalf of individual parents and their children, trains parents and community-based organizations serving immigrant families on education-related rights, monitors access to interpreters and translated materials in the city's schools, and collaborates with other groups to support communities seeking to improve outcomes for immigrants and English Language Learners.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD

AFC's Early Childhood Education Project provides individual case assistance, community education, and policy advocacy to improve access to early childhood education for low-income children, ages 0–5, so that children can enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

AFC's Project Achieve advocates for the educational needs of children in or at risk of placement in foster care while building capacity in the agencies that serve them. Project staff operates satellite offices in child welfare agencies, providing on-site assistance and training to caseworkers, birth parents, and foster parents so that they can address the education-related issues affecting their children. Project staff also conducts policy advocacy on the city and state levels to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.

STUDENTS FACING DISCIPLINARY ISSUES  
& COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH

AFC's School Justice Project (SJP) provides case advocacy and legal representation to address the educational needs of youth facing school suspension or court involvement. Through relationships built with social services agencies, community-based organizations, and community courts, project staff are able to reach the students who often fall through the cracks. The Project also provides trainings and technical assistance to parents, young people, and the professionals who work with them. Finally, project staff advocate for systemic reform with respect to school discipline and school climate, as well as the education of court-involved youth.

STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING

AFC operates the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS), which focuses on building the capacity of school districts throughout the state to improve educational opportunities for homeless children and youth.

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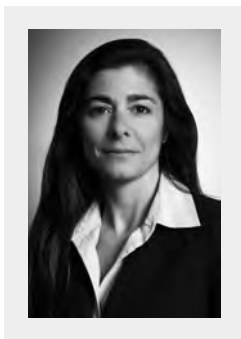


KIM SWEET  
*Executive Director*

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RIGHT TO LEARN

WITH GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION



JAMIE A. LEVITT  
BOARD PRESIDENT, 2004-2013



The Board of Directors and Staff  
of Advocates for Children of New York  
applaud you for your  
tremendous leadership and service  
to this organization.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK

Davis Polk joins **Advocates  
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and Al-Yasid Johnson.

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## A Voice for Children

Greenberg Traurig proudly supports  
**Advocates for Children of New York**  
for protecting every child's right to an  
education through legal and advocacy services.

Congratulations to the 2014 honorees,  
**The Honorable Eugene A. Ludwig**  
and **Al-Yasid Johnson**.

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\*These numbers are subject to fluctuation. 23290

We are proud to support  
**Advocates for Children of New York**

Congratulations to AFC for the  
wonderful work you do enabling  
children to reach their full potential.

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Morgan Stanley

**Morgan Stanley is honored to continue  
to support the important work of**

Advocates for  
Children of New York

**and applauds the outstanding achievements of  
this year's honorees**

Gene Ludwig  
and Al-Yasid Johnson



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# *Giving everyone a chance to learn and grow*

For over 40 years, Advocates for Children of New York has been dedicated to protecting every child's right to an education, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are struggling in school or experiencing school discrimination of any kind. We are proud to support their efforts and tonight's benefit.

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AND CONGRATULATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**The Honorable Eugene A. Ludwig,**  
*Founder and CEO,*  
*Promontory Financial Group, LLC,*

AND

**Al-Yasid Johnson.**



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and congratulate honorees

### **The Honorable Eugene A. Ludwig & Al-Yasid Johnson**



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# Congratulations

We are pleased to support  
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tonight's honorees,  
Hon. Eugene A. Ludwig  
and Al-Yasid Johnson.

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and our good friend  
Eric Grossman

for working to  
secure quality public education for  
every child in New York City.

We congratulate this year's honorees

**The Honorable Eugene A. Ludwig**

*2014 Recipient of The Jill Chaifetz Award*

**Al-Yasid Johnson**

*2014 Recipient of The Education Champion Award*



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*and Congratulate Honorees*

Eugene A. Ludwig

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Al-Yasid Johnson

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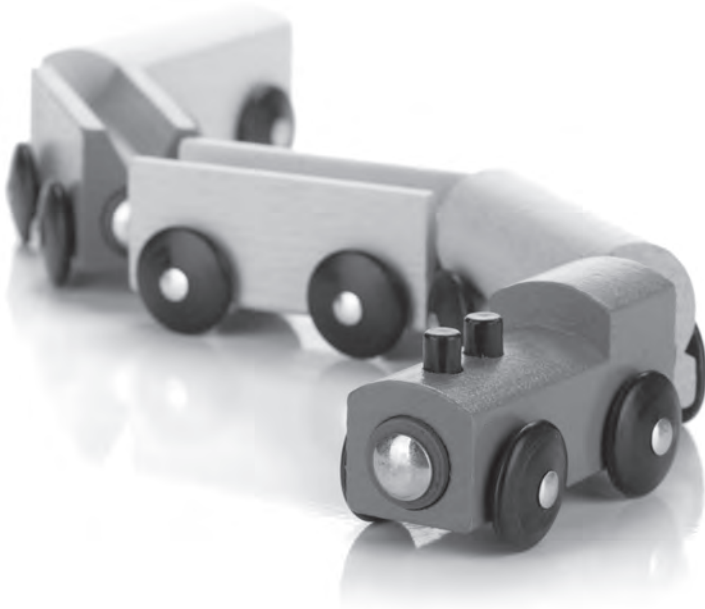
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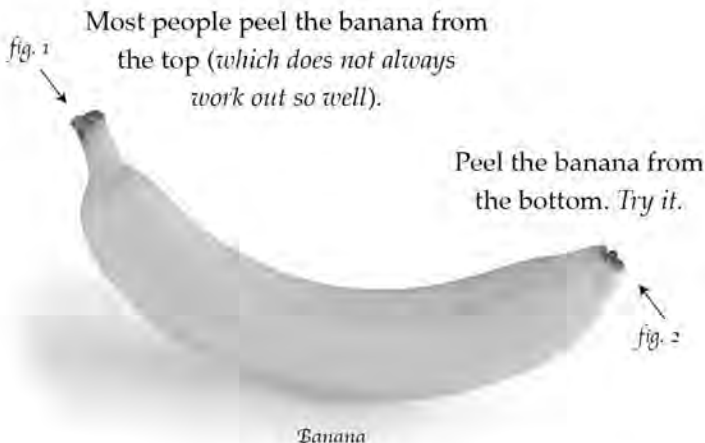
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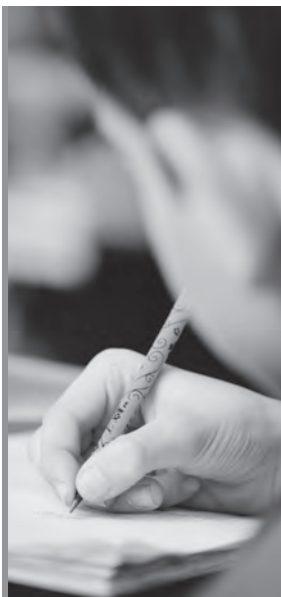
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