

**Describe how the nominee has advanced or improved indigent defense practice:**

Joel developed and heads the post-disposition piece of the IPDC, the Juvenile Defense Project. Through his leadership, important juvenile issues are being preserved and developed on appeal. Post-disposition representation has increased and juveniles have better access to appeals and post-disposition challenges. Joel has been able to bring in national organizations like National Juvenile Defender Center and the Juvenile Law Center for amicus support in several Indiana cases. Joel is a great combination of smarts and personality. He provides a knowledgeable and personable state level juvenile defense voice on issues in front of the general assembly and state agencies.

**Describe how the Nominee serves as an example to other Indiana public defenders:**

Joel is a fighter. He has an enthusiasm about kids and juvenile law that is contagious. He is always looking for new ways to improve the law as it applies to children, whether through policy, legislation, or working on individual cases. Joel never fails to assist and build up other attorneys in their juvenile practice. He is not only willing, but is eager to help with trial level research and strategies and to work with juvenile public defenders in developing appellate issues. Joel is continually training (IPDC seminars, assisting with regional training, webinars and inter-agency training) and working with IPDC, the juvenile project staff to make training accessible to attorneys in all areas of the state.

**Describe the Nominee's community involvement and service:**

Joel is active in his church and with scouts and coaching youth in his community. Joel and his family go once a month on a service project around the community. As this application was being submitted, they had plans to head to Camp Camby to help a homeless shelter get set up for their annual garage sale.

**Describe the Nominee's involvement in the legal community:**

Joel served two terms as a Board Member of the Indiana Public Defender Council. He is a former president of the Putnam County Bar Association. Joel served as a contract public defender with the Putnam Circuit Court, and he continues to volunteer at the Putnam County pro se help desk, answering legal questions for pro se litigants.

**Describe any obstacles/difficulties the nominee overcame in accomplishing the nominated conduct:**

IPDC's Juvenile Defense Project is not able to provide direct representation to juveniles. This is a barrier that Joel has had to creatively navigate. There has been resistance from trial courts and others to increased juvenile appeals. Joel has been able to enlist pro bono assistance in filing Notices of Appeal and has developed forms and helped kids file pro se motions to have appellate counsel appointed. Despite the frustrations, Joel is relentless in making sure all kids are represented and all kids who want appeals get appeals.

**List specific accomplishments that, in your opinion, deserve special recognition:**

Joel argued to the Indiana Supreme Court recently that juveniles have a constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel at a modification hearing. *A.M. v. State*, 109 N.E.3d 1034 (Ind. Ct. App. 2018), trans. pending.

<https://mycourts.in.gov/arguments/default.aspx?id=2323&view=detail&yr=&when=&page=1&court=sup&search=&direction=%20ASC&future=False&sort=&judge=&county=&admin=False&pageSize=20>

Joel assisted with an amicus brief in support of cert in the US Supreme Court, *Newton v. Indiana*, 17-1511, addressing the requirements of *Miller v. Alabama* and the important role of advocacy by constitutionally mandated counsel prior to the determination of whether a child deserves the imposition of a life in prison. <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/newton-v-indiana/>