EDUCATION WORKS SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

To recognize the outstanding work of Edgar Cahn, Esq. throughout his long, distinguished and still active legal career, EducationWorks has created the EducationWorks Social Justice Award to be given annually to an exemplary champion for social justice.

This year, Zane David Memeger, the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, will present the first annual award to Mr. Cahn on September 10 at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Net proceeds from the event will be dedicated to the Youth Court Support Center (YCSC) at EducationWorks, in recognition of Mr. Cahn’s creation and continued support for youth courts.

Edgar Cahn, JD, PhD, Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, received his JD and PhD from Yale University and his undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College. He is the CEO of TimeBanks USA, an Ashoka Fellow, and co-founder (with his late wife, Jean Camper Cahn) of the National Legal Services program. They co-founded the Antioch School of Law (now, UDC School of Law) where he pioneered the use of legal clinics - common today in American law schools. Mr. Cahn has devoted his professional career to combatting social injustice.

Zane David Memeger, JD was appointed by President Obama in 2010 as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and leads an office of 126 attorneys. Formerly a partner at the law firm of Morgan Lewis, he is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and James Madison University. He received the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Public Service and been recognized by the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia (2011 Honorable William F. Hall Award), the Peace Islands Institute (2013 Public Service Award), the Citizens Crime Commission for the Delaware Valley (2013 Thomas Jefferson Award), and The Legal Intelligencer as the Pennsylvania Attorney of the Year for 2014.

For more than 20 years, EducationWorks (EW), a nonprofit organization, has enriched the lives of children, youth and families by providing educational programs and services in local communities confronting high rates of poverty and other barriers to educational achievement. By tackling core issues like literacy, graduation rates and social awareness, EW equips individuals with the tools they need to finish school, make better life choices, and become more productive members of their communities.

In 2012, EducationWorks established the Youth Court Support Center (YCSC). A youth court is student-run, helping students who have minor school infractions such as skipping class, truancy and disrespectful behavior understand the consequences of their actions, learn from their mistakes, and stay in school, thus interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline.

In these trial-like proceedings, students serve as judges, juries and attorneys to decide the appropriate disposition for the offending students such as writing letters of apology and community service.

YCSC, led by former Stoneleigh Fellow, Gregg Volz, provides training, coordination and policy support to school districts developing and managing youth courts. The American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Philadelphia Bar Association and Philadelphia City Council have all passed resolutions supporting youth courts and calling for their expansion. Currently, YCSC supports 15 youth courts in Philadelphia, Chester, Norristown, Camden and Wilmington.

For more information, please contact: MFriedman@EducationWorks.org