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Campaign for Youth Justice Congratulates Bob Listenbee on Appointment as Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention

WASHINGTON (February 4, 2013) – The Campaign For Youth Justice (CFYJ) congratulates Bob Listenbee on his appointment Friday by President Barack Obama to serve as the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the leading federal agency on juvenile justice.

The OJJDP Administrator's role is crucial to ensuring that the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) is reauthorized and adequately funded by Congress and to assisting states in advancing juvenile justice reforms such as reducing racial and ethnic disparities, ending the placement of youth in adult court and adult jails and prisons, and halting the inappropriate use of detention and incarceration.

Listenbee is a long-time champion of reforms in the juvenile justice system, including limiting the detention and incarceration of youth. The Federal Office on Juvenile Justice has not had a permanent chief since the President took office in 2008, the first time in the office's nearly four-decade history that the seat has lain vacant for so long. Listenbee is the first African-American, as well as the first public defender, to hold this role.

After a two-year exhaustive study, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released "*Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*", a report which underscores the vital role of OJJDP in juvenile justice reforms around the country. The report also affirms the leading role of OJJDP in assisting state and local governments in addressing juvenile delinquency through federal grants, research and guidance.

"We look forward to working with the new OJJDP Administrator Bob Listenbee as he takes on this role," said Liz Ryan, Founder and Chief Executive Office of CFYJ. "The Administration could accelerate the pace and scope of juvenile justice reforms throughout the country by showing strong leadership, taking concrete steps to strengthen existing efforts and launch new policy initiatives, and by more effectively investing federal resources. We believe that Mr. Listenbee will bring this type of leadership, stature and expertise to the job. We look forward to the advances he will make in his new position."

The Campaign for Youth Justice wishes Mr. Listenbee much success in his new role.

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The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) is a national organization dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.