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WALLY MIL-I NIK

It is my privilege to welcome all of you to this town hall meeting—a call to action for juvenile justice.

Today’s discussion couldn’t be more timely or relevant, coming just two days after our historic election.

The ABA is pleased to serve as a host and facilitator for this town hall with so many of the leading voices of the juvenile justice and youth-serving community here today.

For the past two years, the ABA has been working intensively with many of you toward enactment of

legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention act. We're also working with many of you toward passage of the Youth Promise Act, which will provide positive community alternatives to gang activity. These legislative goals will undoubtedly be an important part of the discussion today.

This town hall meeting, I'm happy to say, belongs to all the participants here today. The ABA's role is simply to provide a forum to discuss and

convey the policy views of all the participants without any filter or organizational imprimatur.

We're fortunate to have this timely opportunity due to the work of the ABA Criminal Justice Section in putting together this forum. We owe a debt of gratitude to the section's chair, Anthony Joseph; the Juvenile Justice Committee and its co-chairs, Charles Ogletree and Kathryn Richtman; and its able staff, Chris Gowen.

Thank you for being here today.

AJ

THANK Georgetown Law School