



February 21st, 2014

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association

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## Promoting Justice for Youth of Color



Born in Norfolk, Virginia, on December 13, 1903, Ella Baker was a driving force in the creation of the country's premier civil rights organizations. Baker studied at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. As a student she challenged school policies that she thought were unfair. She graduated in 1927 as class

valedictorian. "Miss Baker", as students from Shaw University would call her in later years, moved to New York where she became involved with social activist organizations. Organizations such as: the Young Negroes Corporation League, NAACP, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Southern

Conference Education Fund and, later organizing, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was lead by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Her influence is said to be reflected in the nickname she received: "Fund", a Swahili word meaning a person who teaches a craft to the next generation.

Miss Baker until her passing in New York City in 1986, continued to protect and fight for civil justice for all ages and color. She is regarded as our weeks hero and highlighted for her community engagement efforts to promoting justice for children, youth and families.

*"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals"*

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Join our Effort in DMC awareness, in your Community

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### Cited

Ella Baker. (2014). Biography True Story. Retrieved 1:26, February 19, from <http://www.biography.com/people/ella-baker-9195848>

### Did you Know?

- 43 out of 115 Missouri counties have some disproportionality at the referral point
- The offenses with the most disproportionality are Assault 3rd Degree and Peace Disturbance
- Check out—Confronting Bias in the Juvenile Justice System [here](#)

## Community Collaboration

Several communities are forming groups that consist of the juvenile office, law enforcement, schools, parent advocates, faith community, etc. to review their county statistics, brainstorm ideas that might work in their community, and create an action plan for implementation. Many of these counties have seen a reduction in the

relative rate of minority juveniles being referred to the juvenile court. This saves time and money for everyone involved, and research shows that kids have better outcomes when they have less contact with the juvenile court system. The juvenile court can then better focus their attention on those kids with the more

serious needs. A description of the process can be found [here](#).

Learn more about:

Youth of Color and the Juvenile Justice System:  
[A Conversation with James Bell and Katayoon Majd](#)

# Black History Month