

SHORT BIO

Cayden Brown is an award-winning juvenile defender and legal scholar. At just 16, he was appointed to Oakland County's 52-1 District Teen Court, working with judges to divert youth from traditional prosecution and reduce recidivism. He earned his first formal legal credential from Harvard Law School, where he studied the interplay of race and constitutional law through America's Reconstruction Era, and founded The Trespass Project; a global nonprofit of pro-bono attorneys making legal information accessible to children worldwide. He has addressed several world leaders, been featured in Forbes and TIME, and is called by ABC "the world's most influential juvenile justice advocate."

LONG BIO

Cayden Brown is an 18-year-old American child-rights defender and emerging legal historian whose work has been featured in Forbes and TIME, with ABC News describing him as "the world's most influential juvenile justice advocate."

At age sixteen, Brown was appointed as a Juvenile Defender for Oakland County's Teen Court, where he worked alongside judges and attorneys to reroute youth from the traditional criminal process and disrupt cycles of youth recidivism. His current scholarship examines the exclusion of youth from participating in the legal institutions that govern their lives. This research grounds his leadership as the Executive Director of The Trespass Project, a global team of pro-bono attorneys and advocates making legal information accessible to young people worldwide.

Brown earned his first formal legal credential from Harvard Law School, where he studied the historical interplay of race and constitutional law during America's post-slavery, Reconstruction era. He has served on over a dozen national advisory boards, shaping child-rights research and policy. His leadership has placed him in dialogue with several world leaders at the United Nations, the U.S. Department of Justice, as a legal rights trainer for Colin Kaepernick's Know Your Rights Camp, and recently as a guest lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Brown's work has earned recognition from former U.S. President Joseph Biden with the Educational Achievement Award (2021); a Special Tribute from the 103rd Michigan Legislature—signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer—and nomination for the International Children's Peace Prize.

Cayden Brown has made history protecting youth at the highest levels worldwide, all while being a youth himself.