



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Supervisor Ridley-Thomas Congratulates Alex Johnson on Appointment to Head the California Children's Defense Fund

"This is a terrific day for the children of Los Angeles. The Children's Defense Fund's, an iconic institution locally and nationally, today brings on a man of integrity, vision and skill – Alex Johnson.

For many years now, Marian Wright Edelman's commitment to improving the lives of young people has challenged the entire nation to resolutely refuse to accept the substandard conditions that stultify and stunt the hopes and dreams of our children. By comparison, Alex Johnson, is a relative newcomer to the struggle. But let me say this: he is a worthy partner and excellent choice to become the new executive director of the Children's Defense Fund-California.

Marian could not have put the reins of our state's Children's Defense Fund in more capable hands. Through his work with Freedom Schools, the terrific literacy program that has changes so many lives, Alex Johnson has demonstrated not only a clear understanding if the organization's mission, but also how to innovate and take what is tried and true and move it forward.

I congratulate Alex on this appointment, but I also congratulate the Children's Defense Fund. They have chosen the right person to lead this iconic organization into a bright new day.”