



**Laurel O'Sullivan, J.D. Principal and Founder, The Advocacy Collaborative**

Laurel O'Sullivan, J.D. is an experienced and passionate advocate and nonprofit leader dedicated to helping organizations realize their full potential through advocacy. Laurel has over 15 years experience directing and engaging in complex multi-faceted public policy strategies for a wide array of nonprofits, including Donors Forum, the Natural Resource Defense Council, the Alliance for the Great Lakes, and Business and Professional People for the Public Interest.

In 2014, Laurel launched the Advocacy Collaborative, LLC to help nonprofits increase their impact and overcome barriers to engaging in effective advocacy. Her signature AdvocacyForward approach provides nonprofits with a clear pathway to achieving transformational leadership through advocacy. Laurel works more broadly to promote nonprofits as positive and essential community level change makers countering the misperceptions that surround nonprofit's ability to engage advocacy

She has also presented at national convening's and conferences, spoken at public policy forums, and is a sought-after speaker on nonprofit policy trends including Independent Sector, the Council on Foundations, the National Council of Nonprofits, Board Source and the Kellogg School for Nonprofit Executive Education at Northwestern University.

Before launching her own consultancy Laurel built preeminence for Donors Forum, the premiere Illinois statewide association for both foundations and nonprofits by transforming the organization's policy program from a narrow focus to a more inclusive and expansive advocacy platform that enabled the organization to serve as a voice for the broader Illinois nonprofit sector.

Laurel serves on the Social Service Advisory Council, for the Illinois Department of Human Services and the board of the Young Center for Immigrant Children, at the University of Chicago. She lives in Evanston with her husband Tim, 5 children and dog named Blue and is an avid runner. She earned her undergraduate degree, with honors, at Northwestern University and her JD, also with honors, at IIT-Chicago Kent College of Law.

Laurel lives in Evanston with her husband Tim and their five kids. She serves on several boards including the Young Center for Immigrant Children, and the Forum for Regional Associations of Grantmakers. An avid runner, she has completed her first trail half-marathon and is looking for her next challenge.