

NACC

SIX-DAY DUAL
CONFERENCE

DENVER 2021

*44th National
Child Welfare
Law Conference*



**ONSITE CHILDREN'S
LAW OFFICE CONVENING**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021

Hyatt Regency Denver
at Colorado Convention Center



**ONSITE NATIONAL CHILD
WELFARE LAW CONFERENCE**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14 AND
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

Hyatt Regency Denver
at Colorado Convention Center



**ONLINE NATIONAL CHILD
WELFARE LAW CONFERENCE**

MONDAY–WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 16–18, 2021

From Crisis to Innovation: Toward a Family-Centered Justice System

**WELCOME TO DENVER, COLORADO, WHERE ONCE
AGAIN THE TOP LEADERS IN CHILD WELFARE LAW COME
TOGETHER — THIS YEAR, BOTH ONSITE AND ONLINE!**

This continues to be a critical time for community, information-sharing, and dialogue as we redefine advocacy during a public health crisis and a movement to end racism and bias in child welfare. NACC is balancing the gradual return of onsite gatherings with providing an alternative for attendees who need or prefer an online event.



NETWORK: **NACC_DEN**
PASSWORD: **milehigh**

NACC

National Association
of Counsel for Children

www.NACCchildlaw.org/Conference
#NACC2021

Promoting Excellence # Building Community # Advancing Justice

Welcome to the 44th National Child Welfare Law Conference!



The National Association of Counsel for Children is pleased to host this year's event in Denver, Colorado, where NACC was founded and remains headquartered. We acknowledge this is the land of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, who became allies and formed one Nation; we encourage you to learn about their culture and history.

At 5280 feet above sea level, our precautions to you extend beyond mask wearing and social distancing. To start, drink lots of water and wear sunscreen. We are so happy to see you in person. This is only possible with your cooperation with our health and safety protocols to better protect all of us here, and our loved ones and colleagues at home. Thank you.

The theme of this year's conference is *From Crisis to Innovation: Toward a Family-Centered Justice System*. What a challenging time it has been since we last gathered together, personally, professionally, and most especially for the children and families you serve. During this year's conference, we seek to capture our learning through the pandemic, our ability to work differently and in many instances better, and our common interest in expanding innovative practices. And as our lives have radically changed, we also need to radically change our perspectives about the families we serve, to authentically engage our clients, to resist and deconstruct systemic racism and anti-LGBTQIA+ policies. It is incumbent upon all of us to pause, to listen and learn from our clients, to interrogate our own biases, to learn the history of structural racism, to acknowledge white privilege, and to be an ally and zealous advocate for a family-centered justice system.

To advance this fundamental change in mindset, NACC is proud to share the expertise of many faculty members with lived experience in child protection, juvenile, and criminal legal systems. As an organization, we are committed to incorporating lived expertise and race equity in our work, even – and especially – when it is uncomfortable. We should all be challenged by what we hear and learn and take meaningful steps toward implementing new and renewed practices at home, with the support of this national community of colleagues.

At NACC, **your practice is our purpose**. Our Board of Directors, National Youth Advisory Board, Emeritus Board, State Coordinators, and staff are here to serve and support your conference experience. We invite you to introduce yourself and let us know how we can help you advance equitable, family-centered practices in your community. Thank you for joining us and for the work you do every day. Please stay safe and take some time to explore and enjoy Denver.

Kim Dvorchak
Executive Director

Leslie Starr Heimov
President



Welcome to Colorado!

NACC is happy you have joined us here in the Mile High City for the 44th National Child Welfare Law Conference. Below are a few tips to ensure your stay in Colorado is enjoyable.

DRESS IN LAYERS Make sure to layer your clothing. The evenings tend to become very chilly and the conference hall temperatures can vary, so please bring a sweater if you get cold easily.

DRINK WATER While you are here, drinking plenty of water is the number one way to help your body adjust easily to our higher altitude. The low humidity in Colorado keeps the air dry, like the desert, so you need about twice as much water here as you would drink at home.

MONITOR YOUR ALCOHOL INTAKE In Denver's rarified air, golf balls go ten percent farther... and so do cocktails. Alcoholic drinks pack more of a wallop than at sea level. It is recommended that you go easy on the alcohol in the mountains and in Denver, as its effects will feel stronger here.

WATCH YOUR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY The effects of exercise are more intense here. If you normally run ten miles a day at home, you might try six miles in Denver.

PACK FOR SUN With less water vapor in the air at this altitude, the sky really is bluer in Colorado. But there's 25 percent less protection from the sun, so sunscreen is a must.

FUN THINGS TO DO Looking to get something good to eat or drink, and have some fun with your fellow conference attendees? Here are some suggestions, within easy reach of the Hyatt:

Bowling at [Lucky Strike](#) (0.2 miles)

[16th Street Mall](#) (0.4 miles)

Miniature Golf at [Urban Putt](#) (0.7 miles)

[Little Man Ice Cream](#) (1.6 miles)

Karaoke at [Voicebox Karaoke](#) (1.5 miles)

[The Cruise Room](#) (1.0 miles)

[The Denver Pavilions](#) (0.2 miles)

[RiNo Art District](#) (1.8 miles).



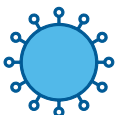
Conference Badges

These must be worn at all times while attending the conference sessions and breaks. Please visit the registration table if you lose your badge or have any questions.



NACC Conference App

Make sure to download *NACC Virtual Conference* (powered by Socio), our onsite conference app and online conference platform. Attendees will have access to the conference schedule, handouts, attendee roster, faculty bios, sponsors and exhibitors, CLE information, and more.



COVID Reminder

ALL ONSITE ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A FACE MASK and agree to NACC's [COVID-19 Waiver and Release](#). All conference attendees must abide by the protocols and failure to do so may result in exclusion from conference events. We are all in this together. Thank you in advance for protecting yourself, fellow attendees, and our families by following conference health and safety protocols.

NACC EXTENDS A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR:

G O L D S P O N S O R :



S I L V E R S P O N S O R S :



THE ANNIE E. CASEY *
FOUNDATION



Dave Thomas
Foundation
for Adoption®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

B R O N Z E S P O N S O R S :



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PLEASE BE SURE TO VISIT THESE EXHIBITORS ONSITE AND IN THE APP:



SPECIAL THANKS TO ENSTROM. FOR THE DELICIOUS TOFFEE!



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PROGRAM

JUMP TO VIRTUAL SESSION AGENDA



FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 : **ONSITE** PRE-CONFERENCE

All Times are Mountain Time.

1:00PM – 5:00PM MT

CHILDREN'S LAW OFFICE CONVENING

CENTENNIAL F, LEVEL 3

As part of NACC's 2019–2023 Strategic Plan, NACC launched the Children's Law Office Project 2.0 to provide an opportunity to convene and support the leaders and managers of nonprofit children's law offices, state attorney ad litem or attorney guardian ad litem agencies, and law firms that contract with counties and states to represent children. We gather to offer specialized leadership training, discuss current challenges in law practice management, strategize policy reforms, and support the development of the next generation of children's law office leaders and managers.

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED

1:00–1:50PM

CAPTURING AND GROWING TITLE IV-E FUNDING TO EXPAND LEGAL ADVOCACY

ROUNDTABLE LED BY :

Leslie Starr Heimov, Executive Director – Children's Law Center of California

In January of 2019, the U.S. Children's Bureau implemented a change to the Child Welfare Policy Manual permitting child welfare agencies to seek 50% federal reimbursement in eligible cases for the administrative costs of legal representation to children and parents. This was an exciting development designed to enhance the quality of legal representation for children and parents, yet implementation has been inconsistent across states. This roundtable discussion will feature jurisdictions who have successfully entered agreements to access Title IV-E funding, address roadblocks jurisdictions are facing, and encourage children's law office leaders to think big about how reimbursement funding can be leveraged to provide a wider range of legal services to children and parents.

2:00–2:50PM

PIVOT! MANAGING A CHILD WELFARE LAW OFFICE IN THE (POST?) COVID-19 ERA

FACULTY :

Kimberly Abbott, JD – Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Amy Honodel, JD, CWLS – Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Xavier Planta, JD – Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

This session will focus on leadership and management of a law office when the traditional methods of management are strained by the need for social distancing, virtual appearances and remote work. The presenters will discuss how to promote engagement when face-to-face conversations are no longer available, techniques for training and supporting staff, team development, and communication. The ideas and concepts discussed can be adapted as employees return to the office, with the goal of improved morale and productivity.

3:00–3:50PM

LAW OFFICE EVALUATION 101: FUNDAMENTALS FROM DATA COLLECTION TO PERFORMANCE MEASURES

FACULTY :

Tara Grigg Green, JD, MPP – Foster Care Advocacy Center
Celina Recalde, JD – Foster Care Advocacy Center

From October 2019 through January 2021, the Foster Care Advocacy Center (FCAC) went through a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative evaluation to understand how our operations align with best practices and to build a foundation for future data collection and evaluation. Using the guidelines set forth in the ABA Center on Children and the Law's Child Welfare Legal Representation Attorney Standards and the Family Justice Initiative Legal Representation Outcomes, we identified activities, outputs, and outcomes to track across time. Additionally, a researcher and a youth with lived experience conducted focus groups, interviews, and surveys of clients and stakeholders to obtain qualitative feedback on the quality of representation. These lessons learned are informative for other offices beginning to think about evaluations.

4:00–5:00PM BRINGING JUSTICE TO CHILD WELFARE

FACULTY : David Kelly, JD, MA – Public Knowledge
Stacey Obrecht, JD, CWLS – Public Knowledge

Join Stacey Obrecht and David Kelly for a conversation of what it means and what it will take to radically transform the experiences children, parents and families have with the child welfare system, and how to avoid unwarranted contact with the child welfare system and the trauma of unnecessary family separation. Share your ideas and experiences of how children's attorneys, parents' attorneys and judges can help make it possible.

Individual meetings: On Saturday and Sunday, join David and Stacey for one-on-one meetings to explore and discuss how to promote family integrity and justice in your jurisdiction. To schedule an appointment with the team please email Stephanie at smeisner@pubknow.com.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 : ONSITE PRE-CONFERENCE**

All Times are Mountain Time.

5:00PM – 6:00PM MT CWLS AND CLOC RECEPTION

DENVER CITY TERRACE, LEVEL 5

Child Welfare Law Specialists, CWLS applicants, and Children's Law Office Convening participants are invited to join us for an evening reception. Come celebrate your achievement, enjoy the special recognition you deserve, and get to know one another before the conference ramps up.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 14 : ONSITE CONFERENCE DAY 1**

All Times are Mountain Time.

6:30AM MT SOCIAL ACTIVITY : LET'S RUN!

HYATT LOBBY

Looking to get your workout on before a day of learning – and see the beautiful Cherry Creek Trail in the process? Join NACC's own Nataleece Washington for an outdoor run (runners of all levels welcome!). Nataleece will meet any interested runners in the Hyatt lobby at 6:30AM MT.

7:00AM – 4:00PM MT REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS

CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3

8:00AM – 8:30AM MT BREAKFAST

CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3

8:30AM – 10:15AM MT WELCOME AND PLENARY 1

CENTENNIAL BALLROOM, LEVEL 3

Welcome

FACULTY : Leslie Starr Heimov, JD, CWLS – NACC Board President
Kim Dvorchak, JD – NACC Executive Director

P1: Families Over Facilities: Ending the Use of Harmful and Unnecessary Institutions and Other Group Facilities in Child Welfare Systems

FACULTY : Samantha Bartosz, JD – Children's Rights
Vannessa Dorantes, LMSW – Connecticut Department of Children and Families
John Kelly, BA – Fostering Media Connections / Imprint News
Jordan Thompson – American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire

The time to end the unnecessary institutionalization of children in our child welfare system is now. The urgency of our national reckoning on racial justice, dangers of COVID-19, new federal legislation, and continued reports of shocking conditions demand action. This session presents the harms, economic costs, and legal rights implicated by the unnecessary use of congregate care. These realities, and practical solutions for change, will be discussed with a young adult with lived experience, the current Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, and the Litigation Director

of Children's Rights. The session, moderated by John Kelly of the Imprint, will draw on the 2021 publication, Families Over Facilities, endorsed by over twenty national child welfare advocacy organizations and thought leaders (including NACC).

10:15AM – 10:45AM MT COFFEE BREAK
CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3
10:45AM – 12:15PM MT BREAKOUT SESSION A
A1: FFPSA: Q RTP Benchcard and Juvenile Justice Considerations
CENTENNIAL A, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Ashley Chase, JD, CWLS – Colorado Office of the Child's Representative
Gretchen Russo, RN, BSN, JD – Colorado Department of Human Services

The presenters will share a benchcard created to help practitioners and judicial officers navigate the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP) court process in dependency and juvenile delinquency cases. The presenters will walk through the benchcard, starting with a quick refresher on the Q RTP requirements and moving through the timeframes, considerations for the initial hearing, the independent assessor, required findings, the review process and closure. The session will also address how FFPSA intersects with the delinquency system, using a flow chart developed in Colorado.

A2: Promoting Stability with Kinship Providers During and After Permanency
CENTENNIAL F, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Leigh Fleming, BA – El Paso County Department of Human Services
Lauren Langan, JD – Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
Kacie Mulhern, JD – Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center

This session will address how to avoid disruption and promote stability in kinship placements during and after a dependency and neglect case. The presenters will discuss resources available to kinship caregivers as well as tips for protecting kinship caregivers from being placed in the middle of case decisions. Specifically, this session will include discussion of financial resources and licensing practices as well as types of services that have been successful for both children and kinship caregivers to preserve kinship placements. The presenters will then discuss resources and best practices that ensure post-permanency placement with kinship caregivers can be successful, including accessing services and creating sustainable custody plans out of dependency and neglect cases.

A3: Appearances Aren't Enough: Pathways to Authentic Engagement with Individuals with Lived Experience
CENTENNIAL G, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Dafna Gozani, JD – National Center for Youth Law
Prisila Mena – Young Women's Freedom Center
Analisa Ruiz – Young Women's Freedom Center

Effective systems reform cannot be accomplished without equitable partnership with the individuals whose lives have been shaped in those systems, but the process of engaging individuals with lived experience in system reform requires thoughtful supports and ongoing reflection. This workshop will explore strategies for authentic engagement of individuals with lived experience to effect policy change. The presenter will discuss the risks of tokenism, misappropriation of stories, and re-traumatization and tools to avoid these harms. Participants will learn about multi-state efforts to organize broad-based coalitions, centering the voices of directly impacted individuals, to increase policy changes and state funding for alternatives to arrest and incarceration for youth.

A4: Drug Testing in Child Welfare Cases: Understanding the Chemistry, Methodology, and Legal Implications
CENTENNIAL H, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Jerry Bruce, JD, MA – Georgia Office of the Child Advocate
Darice Good, JD, CWLS – Good Legal Firm
Diana Rugh Johnson, JD, MS, CWLS – Diana Rugh Johnson, PC

Drug tests inform important decisions in dependency courts from removal to termination of rights, but for drug test results to be truly useful, they must be understood, admitted into evidence, and weighed appropriately. This session will educate participants in the science of drug testing, evidentiary rules that affect the admissibility of results, and the trial skills necessary for effective presentation and argument to the court.

**A5: Representing Children's Interests on Appeal:
Ethical and Practical Problems**

MINERAL HALL A–C, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Marshall Pahl, JD – Vermont Office of the Defender General
Rebecca Turner, JD – Vermont Office of the Defender General

Representing children on appeal presents unique challenges. Where trial counsel has the time and opportunity to develop a trusting and productive relationship with a child client, appellate counsel often has a very short timeframe, and meaningful consultation with the client can be limited by the circumstances of the case. This session will look at the ethical boundaries of both expressed-interest and best-interest representation on appeal, with a focus on practical strategies for using social workers, clinicians, and others to assist in determining and zealously advocating for a child client's interests on appeal. Finally, the session will also look at remedies – what can be done when the appellate process is fundamentally incompatible with ethical representation. The session will cover Model Rules 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.14, 2.1, and 3.1.

12:15PM – 2:00PM MT **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
or

12:30PM – 1:45PM MT **LUNCH & LEARN**

CAPITOL 1–2, LEVEL 4

Conducting Trauma-Informed Interviews of Children

FACULTY : W. Warren Binford, JD – University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine
Ryan Matlow, PhD – Stanford University School of Medicine
Brenda Punskey, LCSW, LLM – Children's Hospital at Montefiore, Terra Firma
N. Ewen Wang, MD – Stanford University School of Medicine

In 2018, a small, multidisciplinary team of experts was granted access to interview immigrant children being detained in a Walmart facility in Brownsville, Texas and at the tent city in Tornillo, Texas. Based on what they witnessed, team members developed training materials for conducting effective interviews of trauma-affected children without causing further harm. This training is intended to help prepare those involved in child welfare to respond to crisis situations involving trauma-affected youth on either an individual basis or on a mass scale as witnessed in 2018. Without this training, well-meaning volunteers or even paid professionals may, at best, fail to get the information they need and, at worst, further traumatize the child being interviewed.

SEPARATE REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED

2:00PM – 3:30PM MT **BREAKOUT SESSION B**

B1: What's Race Got to do with It?

CENTENNIAL A, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Erica LeMon, JD – Maryland Legal Aid
Rachel White, JD – Blackstone Advisory Group

This session is intended to give an historical overview of the role of systemic racism and its continuing impact and contribution to the racial disparities in the child welfare system today. The presenters will discuss the importance of anti-racist policies within cross-sectional systems to include housing, employment, education, criminal justice, and child welfare systems. In addition, the presenters will explore the role of the COVID-19 pandemic on exacerbating racial disparities. In addition, national data will be shared to highlight current racial disparities in the child welfare systems as well as programs and policy solutions aimed at achieving racial equity.

B2: Protecting the Integrity of the Therapeutic Process

CENTENNIAL F, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Christine Umeh, JD – Still She Rises

This session will explore the importance of confidentiality in the therapeutic process. Attendees will grapple with the breadth of information the child welfare system asks service providers to disclose and reflect on how these disclosures 1) violate expectations of confidentiality; 2) fracture therapeutic relationships; and 3) further traumatize parents, undermining the therapeutic process. Attendees will review research and client experiences which demonstrate how a lack of confidentiality deters engagement and inhibits meaningful disclosures throughout treatment.

B3: Examining the Legal Representation of Youth in Foster Care: What Say Attorneys?

CENTENNIAL G, LEVEL 3

FACULTY: Jessica Donohue-Dioh, PhD, MSW – University of Houston
Jay Miller, PhD, MSW, CSW – University of Kentucky

Despite the importance of quality legal representation for foster youth embroiled in dependency court proceedings, few studies have examined this area. This national study investigates attorney GAL perceptions of legal representation that foster youth receive. This study also explored differences in these perceptions by jurisdiction model for representation, time as an attorney, and other professional and demographic traits. Variables of interest included perceptions about the impact of legal representation, the quality of representation, communication and relationship between attorney and foster youth, perceived attorney competence, and contact/relationship between attorneys and youth, among others. After critically reviewing existing research related to examining stakeholder views about legal representation, this presentation will explicate findings from this study, identify salient discussion points, and outline pragmatic approaches for improving representation models for foster youth and alumni.

B4: Child Welfare in the Immigration Context

CENTENNIAL H, LEVEL 3

FACULTY: Priya Konings, JD – Kids in Need of Defense, Inc.

This session will help attendees understand the intersection between child welfare and immigration, including: the child welfare issues that face immigrant children who flee to the United States; the available forms of legal relief; and whether immigrant children can end up in the domestic child welfare system, and what happens then. The presenter will provide a background on cultural competency and how to work with immigrant children as attorneys. The session will lay the foundation for how child welfare practitioners can work with unaccompanied minor children, including identifying their specific legal needs and ascertaining what legal relief they are eligible for. Finally, the presenter will highlight the potential changes in immigration law that affect children, including what changed under the Trump administration and what changes are forthcoming.

B5: The Role of Civil Legal Services in Stabilizing Families Affected by Drug Abuse: A View from the Center of the Opioid Epidemic

MINERAL HALL A–C, LEVEL 3

FACULTY: Joshua Crabtree, JD – Legal Aid of the Bluegrass
Brian Dufresne JD, MSSW – Kids RISE Project and Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

In this session, the presenters will provide a general overview of the size and scope of civil legal services in the United States, and a description of the services that civil legal service providers may offer low-income individuals. Using a hypothetical case study approach, the presenters will provide a general overview of the juvenile court process and potential outcomes for caregivers and children in that process. The presenters will then discuss how civil legal service providers may meet the social and legal needs of participants in the juvenile court process. The presenters will also provide a description of multiple models of outreach and connecting with clients that have proven effective in reaching and serving families of children affected by drug abuse.

3:30PM – 4:00PM MT **SNACK BREAK**

CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3

4:00PM – 5:30PM MT **PLENARY 2**

CENTENNIAL BALLROOM, LEVEL 3

P2: What Youth Exiting Foster Care Really Need: Viewing Permanency through a Different Lens

FACULTY: Cristal Ramirez, MS – National Association of Counsel for Children
Alexandrea Talsky, BA – Michael Best & Friedrich
Aliyah Zeien, BSW – Louisiana Methodist Children's Home

Many transition-age youth lack permanency when exiting foster care, which contributes to higher rates of homelessness, low employment rates, etc. This plenary offers the perspectives of people with lived experience in the child welfare system and what they believe youth in care need, in terms of relationships and stability. The presenters will utilize research, statistics, and lived expertise to suggest ways to promote stronger permanency outcomes in the child welfare system; this will include personal reflections, diverse perspectives, research, and video recordings of feedback interviews

with youth. The session will present child welfare professionals' and foster youth alumni's recommendations to case-workers and the legal community to ensure youth have supportive connections, education, and stability.

5:30PM – 6:30PM WELCOME RECEPTION
DENVER CITY TERRACE, LEVEL 5

Please join us on the Denver City Terrace for a drink.


SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 : ONSITE CONFERENCE DAY 2

All Times are Mountain Time.

6:30AM MT SOCIAL ACTIVITY : MORNING MEDITATION
HYATT LOBBY

What better way to start your second conference day than with mindfulness and intentionality. NACC's Cristal Ramirez will lead a guided mindfulness walk to kick off day 2 of our conference. Cristal will meet any interested participants in the Hyatt lobby at 6:30AM MT.

7:00AM – 4:00PM MT REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS
CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3
8:00AM – 8:30AM MT BREAKFAST
CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3
8:30AM – 10:00AM MT PLENARY 3
CENTENNIAL BALLROOM, LEVEL 3
P3: Preventive Legal Advocacy: Using Civil Legal Advocacy to Address the Social Determinants of Health and Prevent Unnecessary Child Welfare Involvement

FACULTY : Tracey Quillen Carney, BA – First Spouse of Delaware
Melissa Carter, JD – Barton Child Law and Policy Center
Christopher Church, JD, MA, CWLS – Casey Family Programs
Shrounda Selivanoff, BSW – Children's Home Society of Washington

In 2019, Casey Family Programs launched the National Preventive Legal Advocacy Partnership to develop and study ways for the child welfare system to employ civil legal advocacy to address the social determinants of health and reduce the need for formal child welfare involvement. This session will share lessons learned from the partnership, including strategies related to identifying funding and partnerships, and also set forth a framework and family-centered language to frame preventive legal advocacy. This session will highlight one program, Delaware's Preventive Legal Advocacy project. Under First Spouse Quillen Carney's leadership, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI) began providing targeted multi-disciplinary legal aid via referrals from mandatory reporters.

10:00AM – 10:30AM MT COFFEE BREAK
CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3
10:30AM – 12:00PM MT BREAKOUT SESSION C
C1: A Social Work Perspective: Recognizing Systemic Racism in the Child Welfare System
CENTENNIAL A, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Keisha Francis, LMSW – The Legal Aid Society
Sheneka McKenzie-Sage, LMSW – The Legal Aid Society
Katharine Gibbons, LMSW, The Legal Aid Society

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) is the largest social justice law firm in New York City whose mission is to provide legal representation to the underserved. Our mission is to provide advocacy with the intent to dismantle systemic barriers that hinder growth and advancement. As social workers within the Juvenile Rights Practice of the LAS, we have a responsibility to interrupt and challenge the overrepresentation of Black and Brown families in the child welfare system. This session will explore how we as leaders in the field of social work, uniquely positioned in an interdisciplinary legal setting, address systemic racism. During this session, we will provide tools, case examples and simulated supervision demonstrating how we evaluate cases through an anti-racist lens.

C2: What's Race Got to do with It?

CENTENNIAL F, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Erica LeMon, JD – Maryland Legal Aid

This encore presentation of session B1 is intended to give an historical overview of the role of systemic racism and its continuing impact and contribution to the racial disparities in the child welfare system today. The presenters will discuss the importance of anti-racist policies within cross-sectional systems to include housing, employment, education, criminal justice, and child welfare systems. In addition, the presenters will explore the role of the COVID-19 pandemic on exacerbating racial disparities. In addition, national data will be shared to highlight current racial disparities in the child welfare systems as well as programs and policy solutions aimed at achieving racial equity.

C3: Advocating for LGBTQ+ Youth in Care: Macro and Micro System Change

CENTENNIAL G, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Kevin Jeremiah, JD – Office of the Cook County Public Guardian
Ulysses Rosales, JD – Office of the Cook County Public Guardian

The Office of the Cook County Public Guardian represents over 6,000 abused, neglected, and dependent children. LGBTQ+ youth in care face discrimination and hardships that their non-LGBTQ+ peers do not. Policies, regulations, and laws do not ensure affirming medical care, service providers, and stable placement options for LGBTQ+ youth. First, attendees will take a poll/quiz to determine the emerging issues surrounding LGBTQ+ youth in care in their state/system. Presenters will discuss statements and critiques from youth in care; advocacy strategies and tools; and youth and policy issue samples. Finally, the presenters will discuss suggestions and ideas to make office culture more inclusive and affirming.

C4: Project Wrap Around: Supporting the Well-Being of High School Students in Out-of-Home Care

CENTENNIAL H, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Carrie Mason, JD, CWLS, PhD – Tennessee Court Improvement Program
Lauren Tahash, MS – Tennessee Court Improvement Program

This session will discuss the importance of school stability for students in care and the provisions of federal law that support stability. Attendees will reflect on their own memories of school connection as the presenters highlight research that mirrors what they know about the potential of school stability. Next, the presenters will highlight Tennessee's Court Improvement Program's joint project with the child welfare agency, Nashville schools, and Juvenile Court to increase stability and connection of high school students in care through Project Wrap Around, which follows the progress of high school students in care in the Metro Nashville Public School system and provides support at critical junctures. Finally, presenters will provide a project evaluation data overview on student outcomes (on-time graduation, credit accrual, engagement).

C5: How Establishing an ICWA Court Improves Outcomes for Native American Families

MINERAL HALL A–C, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Meredith Halstead, MSW – Denver Department of Human Services
Hon. Donna Schmalberger (retired) – Denver Juvenile Court
Sheldon Spotted Elk, JD – National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

This session will explain the establishment of the ICWA court in Denver and how that benefitted both the Court and Tribes. The presenters will discuss the Tribal outreach trips that helped the Court and DDHS workers create improved relationships with Tribal ICWA staff. The presenters will share data showing the improved outcomes for ICWA cases with the ICWA court, especially in areas of Tribal participation in hearings and placement preferences. The session will also address the national movement to create ICWA courts in various jurisdictions, and the benefits of ICWA courts to those other jurisdictions. All three presenters will be glad to work with attorneys from other jurisdictions to explore creating new ICWA courts.

12:15PM – 1:45PM MT

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

CENTENNIAL BALLROOM, LEVEL 3

Calling All Hope Dealers! Every Child Has a Story, Every Story Deserves Heroes

PRESENTER : Hasan Davis, JD

Hasan Davis will share his experience of often interrupted transitions through education, justice, and social service systems. Hasan was lucky to find that on his journey there were, within each system, outliers and resisters who found a way to engage, encourage and empower him. With the support of these “Hope Dealers,” Hasan was able to transcend his mounting list of “failures” to become an advocate for himself and eventually a champion for others experiencing difficult times. Hasan will share some of the core strategies and creative thinking that his champions (Hope Dealers) employed to help him complete what he calls the “JD shuffle” going from Hasan Davis, Juvenile Delinquent to Hasan Davis, Juris Doctor.

2:00PM – 3:30PM MT

BREAKOUT SESSION D
**D1: The Adultification of a CSEC Mother:
Understanding the Intersectionality of Race, Gender,
and Class for Trafficked, Parenting, and Dual-Status Youth**

CENTENNIAL A, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Tiffani (Cortez) Acquaye-Baddoo, JD – Children’s Law Center of California
Kimberly Oros, JD – Children’s Law Center of California

Adultification bias is a form of racial prejudice that has been linked to harsher consequences and is ever-present in the treatment of girls of color who have been commercially sexually exploited, especially Black girls. We will listen to the experiences of youth in foster care to help us understand areas where girls of color face unfair expectations and harsher treatment associated with adultification bias. Special attention will be given to expectant and parenting youth (EPY) and crossover youth, as we evaluate how service providers carry adultification bias and identify ways to begin eliminating our biases as well as that of other professionals who work with our youth. The presenters will discuss how services, advocacy, and policy can grow to better address the needs of the communities.

**D2: The FIRST Clinic: A Medical-Legal Community
Collaboration Supporting Parents and Newborns
with NOWS (Newborn Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome)**

CENTENNIAL F, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Taila Ayay, JD – FIRST Clinic
Adam Ballout, JD – FIRST Clinic
Gina Wassemiller – FIRST Clinic
Neil Weiss, JD – FIRST Clinic

Family Intervention Response to Stop Trauma (FIRST) Clinic is a medical-legal partnership providing legal representation to new and soon-to-be mothers subject to CPS involvement over substance use concerns. Preventing filing to keep families together is the primary goal of the FIRST Clinic. This session will address how the FIRST Clinic has developed in Washington state; initial evaluation data; practical tips for legal clinics forming partnerships with medical providers; tools and forms; cross-disciplinary training opportunities; and the developmental brain science behind this approach.

**D3: Insight into the Juvenile Justice System from a Former
Child of the Juvenile Justice System Turned Juvenile Defender**

CENTENNIAL G, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Nicholis Schroeder, JD – Wisconsin Public Defender’s Office

In this session, the presenter will share his unique perspectives as a juvenile criminal defense attorney and former ward of the state. Specifically, the presenter will speak on his personal experiences of working his way through the court and foster system as a child. The presenter will discuss the pitfalls, complications and hidden costs of the professions he has encountered within the juvenile justice system both as an attorney and child, and how to avoid them when working with children within the juvenile justice system, no matter what your role is within it.

**D4: An Independent Ear and Voice:
Children and Families' Ombudsman Offices**

CENTENNIAL H, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Patrick Dowd, JD – Washington State Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman
Jordan Steffen, BA – Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman Office
Stephanie Villafuerte, JD – Colorado Child Protection Ombudsman Office

This session will educate participants on the role of Child Protection Ombudsman Offices across the country and how these agencies serve thousands of families and children who struggle to understand, successfully navigate, and obtain appropriate services from the child protection system. These offices are an often-overlooked resource that is designed to promote responsiveness, fairness, accountability, and transparency within the child protection system. Many offices have the jurisdiction and authority to monitor a variety of different systems that impact children, including child welfare, behavioral health, and youth corrections. These offices serve as a tool to create change in individual citizens' cases as well as promote systemic reform of child protection policies and practices.

D5: FFPSA: QRTP Benchcard and Juvenile Justice Considerations

MINERAL HALL A–C, LEVEL 3

FACULTY : Ashley Chase, JD, CWLS – Colorado Office of the Child's Representative
Gretchen Russo, RN, BSN, JD – Colorado Department of Human Services

In this encore presentation of session A1, the presenters will share a benchcard created to help practitioners and judicial officers navigate the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) court process in dependency and juvenile delinquency cases. The presenters will walk through the benchcard, starting with a quick refresher on the QRTP requirements and moving through the timeframes, considerations for the initial hearing, the independent assessor, required findings, the review process and closure. The session will also address how FFPSA intersects with the delinquency system, using a flow chart developed in Colorado.

3:30PM – 4:00PM MT **SNACK BREAK**

CENTENNIAL FOYER, LEVEL 3

4:00PM – 5:30PM MT **PLENARY SESSION 4**

CENTENNIAL BALLROOM, LEVEL 3

P4: The Untraining: Leveraging Privilege to Engage with and Dismantle White Supremacy and Racist Structures in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

FACULTY : James Bell, JD, – W. Haywood Burns Institute
Jasmine Snell, BS – Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition
Kendra Van de Water, LSW – Youth Empowerment for Advancement Hangout (YEAH)
Shereen White, JD – Children's Rights
MJ (Maleeka Jihad), MSW – MJ Consulting Firm

This session goes beyond discussing disparity and disproportionality in the child welfare system. The focus of this closing plenary is confronting the history of white supremacy and racist structures that pervade both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in this country. Panelists will discuss the critical need to utilize appropriate language to both acknowledge the history of these systems and frame the work being done on behalf of children and families. The panelists will engage in a conversation about identifying and dismantling racist structures and reimagining what could be different when everyone in the field understands the ways in which we uphold white supremacy and actively engages in antiracist child welfare advocacy.


MONDAY, AUGUST 16 : ONLINE CONFERENCE DAY 1

All Times are Mountain Time.

9:15AM – 11:00AM MT ONLINE CONFERENCE WELCOME AND VIRTUAL PLENARY 1
Welcome

FACULTY : Leslie Starr Heimov, JD, CWLS – NACC Board President
Kim Dvorchak, JD – NACC Executive Director

VP1: Racial Justice for our Clients: Practical Tools for Lawyers

FACULTY : Cristina Freitas, JD, MPH – Freitas & Freitas, LLP
Debbie Freitas, JD, MPH – Freitas & Freitas, LLP
Kele Stewart, JD – University of Miami School of Law Children & Youth Law Clinic

As legal professionals, we are finally beginning to grapple with systemic and institutional racism within our child welfare system and our role in confronting that racism. From the historical roots of the system to its modern-day impact on individual children and families, the data is undeniable. Many of us now see this issue more clearly than ever before and feel the urgency to disrupt the inequity and racism our clients encounter. However, it can be challenging and confusing to think about how lawyers can confront and litigate racism in their individual cases. How can lawyers both identify racism in their cases and then raise and address it on behalf of their child clients? In this session, presenters will discuss this question and share concrete ideas and tools for lawyers.

11:30AM – 12:45PM MT VIRTUAL BREAKOUT SESSION A
VA1: What We've Been Missing: Understanding the Intersection of Violence and Traumatic Brain Injury in Child Welfare

FACULTY : Alisha Moreland Capuia, MD – McLean Hospital / Harvard Medical School
Lori Schroeder, JD – Children's Law Center of California
Eve Valera, PhD – Massachusetts General Hospital / Harvard Medical School

One in three women experiences at least one incidence of domestic violence in her lifetime. Up to 92% of these women will sustain a traumatic brain injury. Black women, marginalized women, and transition-age youth are more likely to be victims of violence and brain trauma. How do these statistics impact your practice? Would you handle a case differently if you knew that the survivor may be suffering from symptoms of brain trauma? What if you learned that her brain trauma may be the most significant factor in the outcome of her case? In this session, experts will delve into the science behind the violence, its potential impact on dependency outcomes, the inherent conflicts between science and the law, and best practice models for a brain-trauma-informed approach to advocacy.

VA2: Kinship Care: A Positive Alternative to Child Placement in Child Welfare

FACULTY : Yalonda Houston, JD, MBA – Community Legal Services
Karissa Phelps, JD, MSW – Temple Legal Aid Office

The child welfare system disproportionately polices minority communities, as evidenced by the disproportionate separation of minority children and their parents. Placing children with kin offers protection of the child's familial and cultural ties – a protection children in general foster care are not afforded. Despite the mandate to prioritize kinship care, many policymakers and practitioners struggle to make kinship arrangements work well. Join kinship caregiver and attorney, Yalonda Houston, and kinship advocate and attorney, Karissa Phelps, in a dynamic discussion to improve kinship care practice and policy. This session will equip attendees with practical skills to advocate for kinship care and present attendees with the charge to pursue kinship care from a racial equity lens.

1:15PM – 2:30PM MT VIRTUAL BREAKOUT SESSION B**VB1: Immigrant Families in Family Court Proceedings: Reconciling Oft-Competing Interests**

FACULTY : Danny Alicea, JD – Center for Family Representation
Stephanie Cordero, JD – Brooklyn Legal Services

The goal of this session is to shed light on the unique vulnerabilities of immigrant and non-citizen children and their parents in the United States; help navigate the practical, ethical, and legal challenges involved in representing these highly impacted communities; and provide practice tips to achieve immigration-safe outcomes in the context of child welfare proceedings. Through a candid conversation between an immigration attorney for a parent-defense organization and another immigration attorney that represents children, the session will explore the often-conflicting interests of parent and child. With an eye towards accomplishing goals that benefit the entire family, we will discuss instances where doing so is easier than one might think and alternatively, some of the harder conflicts. The session will address ABA Rules 1.6, 1.8, and 1.18.

VB2: Creating a Trauma-Informed Courtroom for Children, Parents, Attorneys, and Judges

FACULTY : Eliza Hirst, JD, CWLS – Children & Families First
Hon. Peter Jones – Delaware Family Court
Julius Mullen, EdD, LPCMH, NCC – Children & Families First

Trauma has always been pervasive across the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Covid-19 pandemic and the country's more recent racial reckoning have made the impacts of trauma even more profound. Because judges and lawyers often play a pivotal role in either exacerbating or abating a child or family's trauma, this session will address the impact of trauma and discrimination on brains and behavior. The presenters will offer specific tools and strategies to create a trauma-responsive courtroom, which can change the trajectory of a child or family by improving permanency outcomes in child welfare, reducing recidivism in juvenile justice, and, most importantly, providing litigants with a greater sense of due process and fairness.

3:00PM – 4:30PM MT VIRTUAL PLENARY 2**VP2: Methods for Engaging and Empowering Youth with Dependency and Delinquency Cases**

FACULTY : Chris Henderson, JD – Colorado Office of the Child's Representative
Cara Nord, JD, CWLS – Colorado Office of the Child's Representative
Tori Shuler, BA – Fostering Great Ideas

"Youth have a voice. They have a choice."

"Youth opinions matter no matter what."

"Statements about youth coming from youth are powerful."

"The more we participate, the more we know how to have a voice."

These are some of the many powerful youth quotations in Engaging and Empowering Youth: Youth Feedback About Their GAL and Court Experiences, as Well as Other Youth Participation Data, a paper written by the Office of the Child's Representative (OCR). During this session, the presenters will explore the paper's findings and recommendations, OCR's actions related to those findings and recommendations, and national laws, policies, studies, and improvement strategies related to (1) contact between youth and their attorneys, (2) youth court attendance and participation, and (3) youth engagement outside court, including the steps OCR took to create its inaugural Young Adults Council.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17 : **ONLINE CONFERENCE DAY 2**

All Times are Mountain Time.

9:15AM – 10:30AM MT

VIRTUAL BREAKOUT SESSION C**VC1: Taking the Sting out of Testifying: Preparing Your Parent Client to Testify**

FACULTY : Victoria Bleier, JD – Committee for Public Counsel Services – Children and Family Law Division
Eleanor Wilkinson, JD – Committee for Public Counsel Services – Children and Family Law Division

Your client is nervous. Her children are on the line. Unlike in a criminal case, her trial testimony will be required if she wants to reunify with her children. Thorough preparation of your client could make or break her testimony and the case. This session will help participants build a solid foundation for their relationship with a parent client. Then using the strength of that relationship, participants will then learn concrete steps for preparing a parent to testify at trial. The presenters will address issues specific to parents of color, parents with disabilities, and parents facing potential 5th amendment complications. The session will address the following ethical rules: Candor Toward the Tribunal (MRPC 3.3); Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel (MRPC 3.4(b)); and Lawyer as Witness (MRPC 3.7, Comment 2).

VC2: Building Strong Attorney–Client Relationships with Black Children in the Context of Historical Trauma & Perpetual Dehumanization

FACULTY : Stephanie Franklin, JD – The Franklin Law Group, P.C.

Building strong attorney–client relationships is the cornerstone of effective advocacy, particularly for children. The key to building strong relationships with child clients is having a full understanding of their history and experience generally. Black children who are descendants of captive and enslaved Africans in the U.S. (DCAUS), in particular, have a specific, unique communal history in the U.S. that is contextualized in a history of violence and torture, family separation, and subjugation and dehumanization. The impact of this experience has limited the ability of attorneys to build strong and effective relationships with Black-DCAUS children and families. In this session we will discuss: 1) a brief historical overview of the Black-DCAUS experience in the U.S.; 2) present-day treatment of Black-DCAUS children and families; 3) the impact of historical trauma and the perpetual dehumanization of Black-DCAUS peoples; and 4) key cultural strategies and tools to strengthen relationships with Black-DCAUS children and families.

11:00AM – 12:15PM MT

VIRTUAL BREAKOUT SESSION D**VD1: At the Margins, but not Beyond our Reach: Creating Safer and More Affirming Systems of Care for LGBTQ+ Youth**

FACULTY : Lily Cory, MSW – Center for Children & Youth Justice
Nicholas Oakley, JD – Center for Children & Youth Justice

How can we improve the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in systems of care? This workshop will address this question by reflecting on the lessons learned from the Center for Children & Youth Justice's eQuality Project. eQuality began with original research on the experiences, outcomes, and needs of LGBTQ+ systems-involved youth. It went on to develop the Protocol for Safe & Affirming Care (a guide for systems professionals on how to better support LGBTQ+ youth) and implement it in several courts and agencies across Washington State. The presenters will reflect on lessons learned, explore the importance behind discussing sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE), and focus on both practice (direct service to LGBTQ+ youth), and policy, procedure, and organizational culture (systems reform).

VD2: Trauma–Informed Practice and Advocacy

FACULTY : Sarah Johnson, JD – Missouri State Public Defender System
Keisha Ross, PhD – New Horizon Psychological Services, LLC

This session will cover how to practice and serve in the juvenile justice public defense field with a trauma-informed lens. Participants will learn about historical and intergenerational trauma and how trauma in the form of oppression is

transferred to subsequent generations through biological, psychological, environmental, and social means, resulting in cross-generational cycles of trauma. The session will help attendees define historical/intergenerational trauma and understand trauma through a social, emotional, and ecological lens; discuss the relevance of historical experiences for minority racial/ethnic groups; explore cultural responses to trauma-informed care and treatment in the juvenile justice system; and identify trauma indicators in the juvenile system and advocacy tools for attorneys practicing with youth.

12:45PM – 2:15PM MT VIRTUAL PLENARY 3**VP3: What Do We Know about Virtual Hearings in Child Welfare Cases?**

FACULTY : Tara Grigg Green, JD – Foster Care Advocacy Center
Hon. Deborah McNabb – 17th Circuit Court of Michigan, Kent County
Chris Wu, JD – National Center for State Courts

Virtual formats may become the new normal for many court hearings in the future even after courthouses are fully reopened. This session will present results from the first research study of virtual hearings in child welfare cases. The study examined virtual hearings in multiple courts in five states using judicial interviews, court observations and surveys and focus groups involving parents, caregivers, youth, attorneys, and caseworkers. Presenters will discuss findings and themes from the study, the impact of the pandemic on access to justice, and the future of virtual child welfare hearings. Attendees will be encouraged to share their own experiences through polling questions and live discussion.

2:45PM – 4:00PM MT VIRTUAL BREAKOUT SESSION E**VE1: Best Practices for Representing Child Victims of Human Trafficking (CVHT)**

FACULTY : Emily Murbarger, JD – Support Center for Child Advocates
Kelly Sagastume, MSW – Support Center for Child Advocates

This session will begin by defining human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children and reviewing applicable laws and will then identify vulnerabilities as well as warning signs to broaden participants' awareness of the prevalence of child trafficking. Presenters will also utilize activities to increase understanding about the impact of trauma and the need for language sensitivity and introduce best practices in working with CVHT. Participants will examine case scenarios and discuss services and resources that CVHT need across the behavioral health, medical and educational sectors and how to advocate for these in and out of court. Finally, presenters will provide information about how jurisdictions are increasingly utilizing specialty courts with multidisciplinary teams to address cases involving human trafficking. Participants will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using specialty courts and share experiences from their own jurisdictions about how these cases are handled.

VE2: Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Strategies for Representing Students in School Discipline Matters

FACULTY : Morgan Craven, JD – Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA)
Kathryn Newell, JD – Griffin Newell, LLC

Students with disabilities, and minority or low-income students, are often disproportionately punished with suspensions and expulsions from school. These events can significantly impact a student and affect their access to services and opportunities. This session will provide attendees with a broad overview of applicable federal legal protections and will enable attorneys to develop legal arguments and prepare for a Manifestation Determination Review (MDR), expulsion hearing, or similar proceeding. The presenters will also provide information about national trends and research regarding school discipline, the criminalization of students, and changing notions of school safety. Attendees will also learn about successful efforts to reform school districts' policies and how to organize for systemic change.

4:30PM – 6:00PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS**Abolishing the Child Welfare System to Build a Safer World****SPEAKER :** Professor Dorothy Roberts, JD – University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Twenty years ago, in *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare*, law professor Dorothy Roberts systematically dismantled any pretense that the child welfare system functions to serve the interests of children. Through data, documentation, history, analysis, and family narratives, Professor Roberts called out the racism at the heart of a system that has destroyed hundreds of thousands of families. Since the publication of *Shattered Bonds*, reform efforts have, for the most part, focused on making the current child welfare system work better without fundamentally challenging its existence. In her keynote address, Professor Roberts will describe the growing movement to replace the current system with supports designed to strengthen families rather than surveilling, punishing, and separating them.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18 : ONLINE CONFERENCE DAY 3**

All Times are Mountain Time.

9:15AM – 10:45AM MT

VIRTUAL PLENARY 4**VP4: No Such Thing as a Lost Cause: Parent Advocate Panel**

FACULTY : Jillian Cohen, MSW – Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel
 Brittany DeBarris – Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel
 Nate Hailpern – Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel
 Shayna Koran – Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel
 Cameron Lundstrom – Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel

The ORPC has expanded its interdisciplinary programming to include peer support and advocacy for parents represented by Respondent Parent Counsel (RPC). ORPC Parent Advocates are parents who have successfully navigated the child welfare system and reunified with their children. Many of the ORPC's Parent Advocates experienced setbacks in their cases that would and did cause most people to give up on them. The ORPC Parent Advocates are truly a nonjudgmental, confidential support to help parents through their dependency and neglect cases. The goals of this session are to introduce the ORPC's new Parent Advocate program – including its creation, funding sources, and ideas for implementation in other jurisdictions – and to bring the parent's perspective to child welfare professionals.

11:15AM – 12:30PM MT

VIRTUAL BREAKOUT SESSION F**VF1: Systemic Racism and the Child Welfare System: A Conversation about Transracial Placements**

FACULTY : Jill Malat, JD, CWLS – Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid
 Phyllis Sutton, MA – The Mockingbird Society
 Esther Taylor – The Mockingbird Society
 Avrey Tuttle – The Mockingbird Society

This session will be a conversation with two young women who were in the foster care system in Washington state. Participants will hear about the harm the young women suffered as a result of transracial placement. The panelists will also discuss how it felt to be in a system where the majority of the professionals they interacted with were white and will offer some insights and tools to make the child welfare system more culturally competent and inclusive. The session will address Model Rule 2.1.

SESSION CANCELLED
RECORDING NOT AVAILABLE

VF2: Jii-anishinaabe-bimaadiziwag (So They can Live the Indian Way of Life): Tribal-State ICWA Implementation Partnership Project in Duluth, Minnesota

FACULTY : Larissa Littlewolf, BA – Fond du Lac Social Services
Rebecca McConkey-Greene – Attorney for Tribes
Bobbi Jo Potter, MSW – Ramsey County
Patricia Shaffer, JD – St. Louis County Attorney's Office
Hon. Sally Tarnowski – Sixth Judicial District Court
Terri Port Wright, MA, PhD, JD – Port Wright Law Office

This session will highlight work on the Jii-anishinaabe-bimaadiziwag (So they can live the Indian way of life) (in the Anishinaabe language) Tribal/State ICWA Implementation Partnership Project. The project aims to create better child welfare outcomes for American Indian children and families in Southern St. Louis County, Minnesota. The purpose of the project is to engage in long term systems change work in implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act, cultivate relationships of transparency and trust among tribal and public child welfare organizations, and create an ICWA implementation model that can be shared with other jurisdictions, including the ongoing development of the ICWA Court in Duluth Minnesota.

1:00PM – 2:30PM MT VIRTUAL PLENARY 5**VP5: Healing from Trauma: What Youth are Telling Us, and What Lawyers can do about It**

FACULTY : Ivory Bennett, M.Ed. – 2020 National Foster Youth Institute Congressional Delegate
Sixto Cancel, BA – Think of Us
Hon. Brent Pattison – Iowa Judicial Branch
Sarah Sullivan, BA – Think of Us

Healing from trauma should be a primary goal of the child welfare system. All foster youth experience trauma prior to care, and most experience additional trauma once in care. Yet in a 2019-2020 Think of Us research project, which interviewed over 200 people with lived experience across the U.S., it's clear that the system often does not address, name, or meaningfully heal trauma. In this session, hear about how young people think about trauma and how they want it addressed, hear how youth's beliefs about trauma are often consistent with the latest research on trauma, and then learn ways that lawyers can work with their clients to advocate for tools to assist them in healing from trauma.

3:00PM – 4:00PM MT CLOSING AND AWARDS



Check for accreditation updates and find much more information in the *CLE FAQs & Details* document in the conference app.

If you have any questions regarding CLE, please email CLE@NACCchildlaw.org

Continuing Legal Education Credits

This year's conference is packed with a broad range of thought-provoking and inspiring sessions that we hope you'll find engaging and educational. Whether you will be independently applying for CLEs in your jurisdiction or are in a state where NACC is seeking accreditation on your behalf, there are a few CLE basics that all attendees should keep in mind during onsite and virtual participation this year. Please review the basics in the CLE FAQs and Details document under the *CLE & Evaluations* tab in the conference app, but most importantly, keep in mind that we are implementing a new online sign-in process to register attendance.

ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN PROCESS

To avoid large crowds gathering around an onsite CLE sign-in table and sharing clipboards and pens, and also to facilitate attendance-tracking across the multiple session options available, signing in for CLE credit will be done electronically on a session-by-session basis for both onsite and virtual participation this year. Whether you are in an accredited state or will be applying for CLE credit independently, **you must fill out an online sign-in form at the conclusion of each session period throughout the conference for both onsite and real-time online participation.**

LINKS TO SESSION SIGN-IN FORMS WILL BE ACCESSIBLE UNDER THE *CLE & EVALUATIONS* TAB IN THE CONFERENCE APP. We highly recommend signing in directly after each session. Each sign-in link will be active from the time the session ends through Wednesday, August 25th to accommodate those of you who may be travelling or have limited internet access. *No submissions will be accepted after 8/25/2021.*

Submitting session sign-in forms to NACC does not mean NACC will generate personal attendance records for you or report CLE credits on your behalf. All attendees, whether in a sponsor-accredited jurisdiction or not, are responsible for tracking their own onsite and/or online participation including which sessions were attended and for how long. Additional details regarding where and when NACC will submit CLE credits on attendees' behalf can be found under the *CLE* tab in the conference app.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

NACC has applied for CLE accreditation in seven states for onsite and live, real-time virtual participation. Accreditation status for these states will be updated on NACC's [Conference CLE webpage](#) and under the *CLE & Evaluations* tab in the conference app as more details become available. The virtual sessions will be recorded and available for later viewing, but NACC did not seek accreditation for on-demand viewings (recordings) in any jurisdiction and NACC will not track or report on-demand participation for any attendee.

FOR JURISDICTIONS NOT DETAILED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

It is the responsibility of attendees to independently apply for CLE credit in any jurisdiction where NACC, as the sponsor, did not seek CLE accreditation. We encourage you to use the links provided on the next page to **review the individual CLE application requirements in your jurisdiction as soon as possible** (especially with regard to the virtual portion of the conference). Please take a moment to determine if there are specific application timelines that must be adhered to in your jurisdiction such as pre-approval of virtual programs before the event or short submission periods after the event.

CLE Accreditation Approved
ONSITE Conference : August 13–15

ONLINE Conference Days : August 16–18

CALIFORNIA

(accreditation received
post-conference)

This course has been approved by the State Bar of California for a maximum of 16.75 MCLE credits, including a maximum of:

- 1.5 Legal Ethics credits (Session A5)
- 6.0 Recognition and Elimination of Bias credits (Sessions B1, C1, C2, C3, D1, P4)
- 0.0 Competence Issues credit

This course has been approved by the State Bar of California for a maximum of 16.5 MCLE credits, including a maximum of:

- 2.5 Legal Ethics credits (Sessions VB1, VC1)
- 8.0 Recognition and Elimination of Bias credits (Sessions VP1, VA2, VB2, VC2, VD1, VD2, Keynote)
- 0.0 Competence Issues credit

COLORADO

This course has been accredited by the Colorado Board of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education for a maximum of 20 units of credit, including a maximum of:

- 7.2 units of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity credit (Sessions B1, B4, C1, C2, C3, C5, D1, P4)
- 1.8 units of Legal Ethics credit (Session A5)

This course has been accredited by the Colorado Board of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education for a maximum of 20 units of credit, including a maximum of:

- 11.1 units of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity credit (Sessions VP1, VA2, VB1 (EDI or Ethics), VB2, VC2, VD1, VD2, Keynote, VF2)
- 3.3 units of Legal Ethics credit (Sessions VB1 (Ethics or EDI), VC1)

LOUISIANA

This course has been approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association for a maximum of 16.75 hours of credit, including a maximum of:

- 1.5 hours of Ethics credit (Session A5)
- 7.5 hours of Professionalism credit (Sessions B1, C1, C2, C3, D1, P4)
- 1.6 hours of Law Office Management credit (2nd and 3rd pre-conference CLOC sessions)

This course has been approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association for a maximum of 16.5 hours of credit, including a maximum of:

- 1.25 hours of Ethics credit (Session VB1)
- 8 hours of Professionalism credit (P1, VA2, VB2, VC1, VC2, VD1, VD2, Keynote)

MISSISSIPPI

(accreditation received
post-conference)

This course or a portion thereof has been approved by the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of 16.75 hours of credit, including a maximum of:

- 1.5 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit (Session A5)

This course or a portion thereof has been approved by the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of 16.5 hours of credit, including a maximum of:

- 2.5 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit (Sessions VB1, VC1)

OHIO

This program has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 16.75 hours of CLE credit, including:

- 7.5 hours of Professional Conduct credit (Sessions A5, B1, C1, C2, C3, D1, P4)

This program has been approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 15 hours of CLE credit, including:

- 6.5 hours of Professional Conduct credit (Sessions VP1, VA2, VB1, VB2, VC1, VC2, VD1, VD2)

PENNSYLVANIA

This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for 14 hours of substantive law, practice and procedure CLE credit including:

- 1.5 hours of Ethics CLE credit (Session A5)

This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for 15 hours of substantive law, practice and procedure CLE credit including:

- 2 hours of Ethics CLE credit (Sessions VB1, VC1)

TEXAS

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the maximum amount of 16.75 credit hours, of which a maximum of:

- 7.5 credit hours may apply to Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit (Sessions A5, B1, C1, C2, C3, D1, P4)

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the maximum amount of 16.5 credit hours, of which a maximum of:

- 8 credit hours may apply to Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit (Sessions VP1, VA2, VB1, VB2, VC1, VC2, VD1, VD2, Keynote)

ADDITIONAL JURISDICTIONS
ALABAMA
ALASKA
ARIZONA
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CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FLORIDA
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OUTSTANDING LEGAL ADVOCATE:

Leslie Lacy, JD, CWLS — Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service



As an attorney in the Child Advocacy Program at Mental Health Advocacy Service, Leslie Lacy represents youth in child welfare proceedings in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Lacy's legal skill, professionalism, zealous representation, noted ability to connect with young people, and commitment to amplifying the voices of the children she represents makes her a fierce and effective advocate for her clients — in Juvenile Court, the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal, and the Louisiana Supreme Court. By focusing on a client's potential, approaching each client holistically, and demonstrating both genuine compassion and a fearless devotion to protecting their rights, Lacy has improved the well-being of Louisiana children and the child welfare system. During the pandemic, Ms. Lacy founded a nonprofit to fund oral and mental health for young people in care. One of her nominators, a Louisiana judge, said: "Leslie's tireless dedication to the vulnerable youth of East Baton Rouge Parish has made this a better community. It has also made the Juvenile Court a better court, and has made me a better judge." NACC is pleased to present Leslie Lacy with the Outstanding Legal Advocate Award.

OUTSTANDING CHILDREN'S LAW OFFICE:

Foster Children's Project of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Florida



The Foster Children's Project intentionally created a culture where every child's case has a sense of urgency and a focus on innovation. Their work was effective in shortening the average time to permanency from 36 months in 2001, to 12.5 months today, regardless of spikes in foster care and without negatively impacting rates of reunification. Jim and John Walsh created a model children's law office, with caseloads of 50 children per lawyer, social workers, and funds for litigation expenses. They utilized research demonstrating frequent family visitation is the best predictor of reunification to set a standard of three visits a week for young children, not only in their cases but for all children in Palm Beach County. The Project also works closely with the Palm Beach County chapter of Florida Youth Shine, a youth voice organization. The Foster Children's Project has influenced the growth of children's representation in Florida, where they have helped create a similar program for representing children in Broward County, and nationally, as the Chapin Hall study is often cited to show the benefits of lawyers for children. This year marks the Foster Children's Project 20th Anniversary. NACC is pleased to present the Foster Children's Project this year's Outstanding Children's Law Office Award.

About NACC

Founded in 1977, the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) led the evolution of children's law from a cause to a profession by establishing child welfare law as a specialty practice requiring distinctive training, skill, and support. Fundamental to our mission is the core belief that all parties deserve effective and zealous legal advocates to ensure their voices are heard, to fight for their needs, and to navigate the systems impacting their lives. NACC helps lawyers do this important work, and advances public policies that protect children's rights, recognize their needs, and give them opportunities.

OUR VISION

Every child and family involved with the court system is well-represented by a lawyer who works to ensure that every child is raised by a nurturing family and has positive life opportunities.

OUR MISSION

To advance the rights, well-being, and opportunities of children impacted by the child welfare system through access to high-quality legal representation.

NACC'S CORE PROGRAMS



NACC **promotes excellence** in legal representation through attorney training, publishes the seminal *Child Welfare Law and Practice* treatise and is the only national organization accredited by the American Bar Association to certify attorneys as Child Welfare Law Specialists (CWLS).



NACC **builds community** through our membership program, national conference, state coordinator program, and affinity groups, such as the Children's Law Office Project.



NACC **advances justice** for children through policy advocacy, systemic technical assistance and reform, and amicus curiae briefs.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 CONFERENCE ABSTRACT WORKGROUP:

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Embrace Families
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of Emergency Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth
University
RICHMOND, VA

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USD School of Law
WASHINGTON, DC

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Philanthropic Services
Whittier Trust
SEATTLE, WA

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PHILADELPHIA, PA

David Smith, JD
Partner
O'Melveny & Myers, LLP
LOS ANGELES, CA

John H. Stuemky, MD
Section Chief,
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Children's Hospital at
OU Medical Center
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

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Literature for All of Us
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Executive Director, YEAH, Inc.
Youth Empowerment for
Advancement Hangout
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Stephanie Villafuerte, JD
Colorado Child Protection
Ombudsman
DENVER, CO

Dan Wilde, JD
Attorney
The Wyoming Legal Group
CHEYENNE, WY

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NEW YORK, NY

Ivory Bennett, M.Ed.
DALLAS, TX

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MARGATE, FL

Tram (Jen) Ha
SAN DIEGO, CA

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TOPEKA, KS

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Deputy Director
Advokids
CORTE MADERA, CA

Chris Wu, JD

Principal Court
Management Consultant
National Center for
State Courts
ARLINGTON, VA

NACC Staff

Kim Dvorchak, JD

Executive Director
Kim.Dvorchak@NACCchildlaw.org

Justin Black

Communications Assistant
Justin.Black@NACCchildlaw.org

Ginger Burton

Certification Administrator
& Technical Writer
Ginger.Burton@NACCchildlaw.org

Emily Dufour

Membership and
Office Assistant
Emily.Dufour@NACCchildlaw.org

Allison Green, JD, CWLS

Legal Director
Allison.Green@NACCchildlaw.org

Christina Lewis, JD

Staff Attorney
Christina.Lewis@NACCchildlaw.org

Evan Molinari

Communications Manager
Evan.Molinari@NACCchildlaw.org

Kristen Pisani-Jacques, JD, CWLS

Training Director
Kristen.Pisani-Jacques@NACCchildlaw.org

JoAnn Porter, MS

Director of Finance
and Administration
JoAnn.Porter@NACCchildlaw.org

Cristal Ramirez, MS

Youth Engagement Manager
Cristal.Ramirez@NACCchildlaw.org

Daniel Trujillo

Director of Certification,
Sales, and Technology
Daniel.Trujillo@NACCchildlaw.org

Natalece Washington, JD, CWLS

Policy Counsel
Natalece.Washington@NACCchildlaw.org

Sara Willis, MA

Business and
Conference Manager
Sara.Willis@NACCchildlaw.org

NACC Departments

Advocate@NACCchildlaw.org

Certification@NACCchildlaw.org

Comms@NACCchildlaw.org

Conference@NACCchildlaw.org

Membership@NACCchildlaw.org

Policy@NACCchildlaw.org

Training@NACCchildlaw.org

Youth@NACCchildlaw.org

TOGETHER WE ARE NACC

The National Association of Counsel for Children is dedicated to advancing the rights, well-being, and opportunities of children impacted by the child welfare system through high-quality legal representation.

NACC Non-Discrimination Policy: It is the policy of the National Association of Counsel for Children not to discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, culture, ethnicity, national origin, religion or religious beliefs, physical or mental disability or handicap, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or age. NACC embraces diversity among its Board, staff, members, and volunteers.

ANNOUNCING NEW DATES FOR

BALTIMORE

and the 45th National Child Welfare Law Conference

August 22–24, 2022 · Pre-Conference August 21

BALTIMORE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT · BALTIMORE, MD

NACC2022

Visit the Conference page at NACCchildlaw.org for details as they become available.



Image : Flickr : Patrick Gillespie