

A close-up photograph of several white plumeria flowers with yellow centers, set against a green background. The image is partially covered by a large, semi-transparent yellow triangle that points towards the bottom right.

NACC

36th National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law Conference

Strategies for Success: Enhancing Advocacy for Children, Youth and Families

NACC thanks
our Co-Sponsors

The Dough Source

**Marshall & Kirkland
Law Group, LLC**

**Georgia Association
of Counsel for Children**

Snyder Law, LLC

**Northern California
Association of
Counsel for Children**

Glynn Consulting, LLC

**Megan Louise Furth
Empowerment Fund**

A photograph of various fruits, including pears and apples, arranged on a surface. In the background, a modern building with large glass windows is visible. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

August 26-28, 2013
Pre-Conference August 25, 2013

**Hyatt Regency Atlanta
Downtown Atlanta, GA**

PROGRAM

Pre-Conference: Sunday, August 25, 2013

9:00am-4:30pm	NACC Red Book Training Ann Haralambie, JD, Ann Nicholson Haralambie, Attorneys, P.C.
2:00-5:00pm	Registration Open
5:00-6:30pm	CWLS Afternoon Reception

LEARNING CENTER

CENTENNIAL FOYER

REGENCY V

Monday, August 26, 2013

7:30am	Registration Desk Open
7:30-8:30am	Coffee & Rolls
8:30-8:45am	Welcome

CENTENNIAL FOYER

CENTENNIAL FOYER

CENTENNIAL 1 & 2

Justice P. Harris Hines, Supreme Court of Georgia;
Kendall Marlowe, Executive Director, NACC

8:45-10:00am	Opening Plenary: Evidence Issues in Juvenile and Family Court Practice John E.B. Myers, JD, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
--------------	---

CENTENNIAL 1 & 2

Professor Myers will be covering evidence issues of critical importance to litigation in juvenile court and family law, including how to authenticate electronic evidence and get it into evidence; recent developments in hearsay; update on Crawford v. Washington; use and limits of expert testimony; and more.

Thanks to the Northern California Association of Counsel for Children for sponsoring this Plenary session!

10:00-10:30am	Coffee Break
---------------	---------------------

CENTENNIAL FOYER

10:30am-Noon	Breakout Session A
--------------	---------------------------

Learning Center

1 : Can We Just All Get Along? Including the Child's Voice in Custody and Visitation Mediation
Michelle Grasso, LMSW;
Dawn Post, JD

Hanover CD

2 : Don't Just Sit There! Active Investigation and Advocacy for Child's Counsel
Nancy Aspaturian, JD

Hanover AB

3 : Medical-Legal Partnerships: A Prescription for Improving Child and Family Well-Being
Sylvia Caley, JD, MBA, RN;
Taylor Dudley, JD;
Robert Pettignano, MD;
Amy Zimmerman, JD

Hanover FG

4 : Enhancing Attorney Advocacy for Well-Being Outcomes for Foster Children
Lori Duke, JD;
Jenny Hinson, BA;
Rob Hofmann, JD;
Ian Spechler, JD

Hanover E

5 : A Balancing Act: Legal Representation and Management Duties
Jenny Cheung Marino, JD;
Phyllis Stricklan, JD

Noon-1:45pm	Lunch on Your Own OR Networking Lunch: Addressing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
-------------	---

REGENCY V

Nola Brantley, MISSEY;
Justice Bobbe Bridge, Center for Children & Youth Justice

2:00-3:30pm	Breakout Session B
-------------	---------------------------

Learning Center

1: Advocating for Children With Disabilities: Perspectives from Delinquency, Dependency and Education Law
Emma Hetherington, JD;
Linda Pace, JD;
Aarti Sharma, JD;
Katherine Terry, JD, CWLS

Hanover CD

2: Ethical Challenges for Children's Attorneys and Attorney GALs: Practical Solutions
*Ethics
Carol Casey, JD;
Sheri Danz, JD;
Michael Dsida, JD;
Dianne Peterson, JD

Hanover AB

3: Parental Alienation in Child Custody Cases
Merle Chorney;
Ken Lewis, Ph.D.

Hanover E

4: The Importance of Fathers in Child Welfare
Rachel Ewing, JD;
Phyllis Stricklan, MSN, LW

Hanover FG

5: What, Really, is in the Best Interest of the Child?
Don Bross, JD, Ph.D.;
Jane Okrasinski, JD

3:30-4:00pm	Beverage Break
-------------	-----------------------

CENTENNIAL FOYER

Thank you to Marshall & Kirkland Law Group, LLC for sponsoring this break!

4:00-5:30pm	Plenary I: Transitioning to Adulthood Under the Extended Foster Care Provisions of the Fostering Connections Act
-------------	---

CENTENNIAL 1 & 2

Mark Courtney, Ph.D., University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration;
Leslie Heimov, JD, Children's Law Center of Los Angeles;
Christopher Wu, JD, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

This session describes the history and policy background of the Fostering Connections Act, including research on the condition of former foster youth; issues and barriers that states face in order to implement legislation; and how to communicate with older foster youth and advocate for their wishes and needs.

5:30-6:30pm	Reception
-------------	------------------

REGENCY V & POOL DECK

Join your colleagues for a southern style welcome with appetizers and drinks. Network with experts from across the country.

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

7:30am

Registration Desk Open

CENTENNIAL FOYER

7:30-8:30am

Coffee & Rolls

CENTENNIAL FOYER

7:30-8:30am

Developments in Child Welfare in Metro Atlanta: A Roundtable Discussion for local Stakeholders with Plaintiffs' Counsel in *Kenny A. v. Deal*

HANOVER E

8:30-10:00am

Plenary II: Keeping Kids in School and Out of Courts

CENTENNIAL 1 & 2

Judge Steven Teske, Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Jonesboro, GA

The placement of law enforcement on school grounds has resulted in an increase in arrests for minor offenses at one time handled by school administrators. Although intended to protect students from serious crimes, the inappropriate use of police in schools has diluted their effectiveness to protect students while simultaneously causing emotional harm that leads to dropping out of school and involvement in criminal activities. This presentation will discuss how communities can improve school and community safety and graduation rates using the Positive Student Engagement Model for School Policing that was employed in Clayton County, GA and replicated in numerous sites across the nation.

10:00-10:30am

Coffee Break

CENTENNIAL FOYER

10:30am-Noon

Breakout Session C

Hanover FG

1: Stopping the Negative Effect of Police Interaction With Youth Through Education and Advocacy

Lina G. Del Plato, JD;
Cynthia Pong, JD

Hanover CDE

2: All Together Now: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists, Child Welfare Staff, and Court Teams

Joaniko Kohchi, MSW;
Clayton Latimer, JD

Regency V

3: Effective Policy Advocacy in a Fiscally Conservative Era

Melissa Carter, JD;
Karen Worthington, JD

Hanover AB

4: I Lost My Lawyer's Number: Practical and Low-cost Interventions to Assist the Populations Often Present in Family Court Cases

BB Liu, JD;
Lauren McSwain, JD

Learning Center

5: Advocacy in Cases of Parental Incarceration

Darice Good, JD, CWLS;
Kirsten Widner, JD

12:15-1:45pm

Annual Luncheon: Changing the Narrative: Children in the Criminal Justice System

CENTENNIAL 1 & 2

Bryan Stevenson, JD, Equal Justice Initiative Montgomery, AL



Mr. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Under his leadership, EJI recently won an historic ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court holding that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger are unconstitutional. Mr. Stevenson will discuss the dramatic change in the way children are now treated as adults and sent to adult prisons sometimes for life and the impact these policies have had on families, communities and the nation. Poverty, race, disability have become factors that have condemned children, families. Can we change the narrative that has created the problems and create more hopeful outcomes for kids and families?

2:00-3:30pm

Breakout Session D

Hanover CDE

1: A View from the Bench

Hon. Bradley Boyd;
Hon. Amy Pellman;
Hon. Erik Pitchal

Hanover FG

2: Working With Social Workers: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Child Advocacy

Kim Daulton, LICSW,
LCSW-C;
Tyra Moore, LICSW,
LCSW-C;
Alyssa Patzoldt, JD;
Jess Sucherman, JD

Learning Center

3: Efficient & Effective: Colorado's Study of Multi-Disciplinary Law Offices

Amanda Donnelly, JD;
Chris Henderson, JD;
Lisa Langenderfer, MSW

Hanover AB

4: Hearing Quality, Workload, and Case Outcomes in Juvenile Dependency Case

Alicia Summers, Ph.D.

Regency V

5: Is There Really a Fundamental Right to Family Integrity?

Hon. Gerald Bruce

3:30-4:00pm

Beverage Break

CENTENNIAL FOYER

4:00-5:30pm

Breakout Session E

Regency V

1: Advocacy for Youth with Disabilities Transitioning from the Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems

Jennifer Pokempner, JD;
Angie Schwartz, JD

Hanover AB

2: Utilizing Psychological Evaluations in Delinquency Proceedings

Matthew Davies, Ph.D.;
Pamela Vickrey, JD

Hanover FG

3: The Special Needs of Adolescent Girls in the Child Welfare System

Karen Baynes-Dunning, JD;
Melissa Carter, JD;
Karen Worthington, JD

Learning Center

4: Obtaining Social Security Benefits for Children and Parents Involved in Juvenile Court Proceedings

Diana Rugh Johnson,
MS, JD;
Joe Whitcomb, MS, JD

Hanover CDE

5: Psychotropic Medications—Too Much? Too Many? Too Young?: The Roles of the Attorney and Guardian Ad Litem

William Grimm, JD;
Edward Opton, JD, Ph.D.;
Brent Wilson, MD,

6:00-7:30pm OR

Movie: From Place to Place

LEARNING CENTER

7:30-9:00pm

This documentary tells the story of children who grew up in America's foster care system, aged out and went on to help lead efforts to radically reform America's foster care system.

To ensure we have enough space, please sign up at the registration desk for your preferred viewing time.

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

7:30am

Registration Desk Open

CENTENNIAL FOYER

7:30-8:30am

Coffee & Rolls

CENTENNIAL FOYER

8:00-9:00am

Evaluating Attorney Representation in a Changing World

CENTENNIAL 1 & 2

Janet Bledsoe, JD, LLM in Child Law, Administrative Office of the Courts;
Renia Robinette, JD, Administrative Office of the Courts

An overview of how Arkansas developed and implemented an attorney evaluation protocol for child representation which includes six major components: (1) self evaluation, (2) file review, (3) court observation, (4) data comparison, (5) stakeholder surveys, and (6) client input. It will include a discussion of challenges and lessons learned.

9:15-10:45am

Breakout Session F

Learning Center

1: Considerations for Representing Parents in Family Drug Courts *Ethics

Aurora Jones, JD

Hanover AB

2: Cutting Ties or Preserving Family Connections Through Open Adoption: Is Terminating Parental Rights and Closed Adoption Best for Our Kids?

Kathleen Cleary;
Marcie Daniluke,
Peer Mentor;
Dylan Roy, JD

Hanover FG

3: Partnering With Our Clients in Court: How Youth Participation Makes Us More Effective Lawyers

Justice Judith Kaye;
Brent Pattison, JD;
Shari Shink, JD;
Trenny Stovall, JD

Hanover E

4: The Impact of Sex Offender Registration and Notification Laws on Youth and Constitutional Challenges to Limit Their Harmful Effects

Marsha Levick, JD;
Nicole Pittman;
Riya Shah, JD

Hanover CD

5: Trauma and Resilience: A New Look at Legal Advocacy for Youth in the Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice System

Jessica Feierman, JD;
Lauren Fine, JD;

10:45-11:00am

Coffee Break

CENTENNIAL FOYER

11:00am-12:30pm

Closing: FASD as a Mitigating Factor in Litigation and Sentencing (Ethics)

CENTENNIAL 1 & 2

Ira Chasnoff, MD, Children's Research Triangle Chicago, IL

Although prenatal alcohol exposure frequently is cited as one of the leading preventable causes of intellectual disabilities in the United States, its role in causing problems with behavior and decision making in affected individuals is less often recognized. This workshop will explore the structural and functional changes that occur in the fetal brain when exposed to alcohol and link these changes to the long term cognitive and behavioral disabilities suffered by exposed children as they get older. Studies have demonstrated that up to 60% of prenatally exposed youth end up incarcerated, making the issue of prenatal alcohol exposure especially pertinent for the court system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & LOGISTICS

If you have any questions please visit the registration desk and an NACC Staffer will be happy to assist you.

There will be a message board at the registration desk which will include dinner sign up sheets, movie night sign up, lost and found and general messages to conference attendees.

Conference Committee

John Ciccolella
Jane Okrasinski
Henry Plum
Linda Weinerman
Chris Wu
Gerry Glynn
Amanda Donnelly
Randee Waldman
Diana Rugh Johnson
Stephany Zaic
Leslie Heimov
Trish McCann
Faye McCord

NACC Board of Directors

Candace J. Barr, JD
John Ciccolella, JD
Robert Fellmeth, JD
Gerard Glynn,
MS, JD/LLM
Leslie Starr Heimov,
JD, CWLS
H.D. "De" Kirkpatrick,
Ph.D./ABPP
Stephanie Smith
Ledesma, MA, JD, CWLS
Jane Okrasinski, JD
Erik Pitchal, JD
Henry J. Plum, JD
Robert L. Redfearn,
Jr., JD
Janet G. Sherwood,
JD, CWLS
John H. Stuemky, MD
Linda Weinerman, JD
Christopher N. Wu, JD

B BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Breakout Session A: Monday 10:30am-Noon

1: Can We Just All Get Along? Including the Child's Voice in Custody and Visitation Mediation

Learn different perspectives on important questions relating to your role representing a child in mediation using a case example of a divisive high profile media case and leave with a better understanding of how to effectively represent children while providing them a voice in custody/visitation proceedings.

2: Don't Just Sit There! Active Investigation and Advocacy for Child's Counsel

Child's counsel must be the driving force on every single case, taking an active role in hearings, legal arguments and issue framing. This session will provide hands-on tools for lawyers to actively investigate cases, interview clients and others, pursue evidence, and develop appropriate and persuasive case positions in their client's interest.

3: Medical-Legal Partnerships: A Prescription for Improving Child and Family Well-Being

This session will demonstrate how medical-legal partnerships reduce the injustices facing children affected by abuse, neglect, disability and poverty and provide participants with a framework for creating their own MLP to improve child and family well-being.

4: Enhancing Attorney Advocacy for Well-Being Outcomes for Foster Children

A panel with judicial, legal, academic and agency representatives will examine well-being outcomes for foster youth, including education, appropriate use of medications, maintenance of relationships, transition planning for youth aging out of care, and other outcomes to make foster youth successful in short-term happiness and long-term achievement.

5: A Balancing Act: Legal Representation and Management Duties

We will begin with a PowerPoint lecture followed by breakout sessions which requires attendee participation. These sessions will be divided into 4 main topics to include but may not be limited to: hiring and retention of staff, allocation of staff resources, coaching and discipline of staff, and committee work/distribution of work among managers.

Breakout Session B: Monday 2:00-3:30pm

1: Advocating for Children With Disabilities: Perspectives from Delinquency, Dependency and Education Law

Delinquency Public Defender, Dependency Child Advocate, and Special Education attorney address specific trial skills and advocacy needs of clients with special needs and disabilities, with an emphasis on the intersection of juvenile court and school proceedings and how to use them for the client's advantage, as well as tips to obtain services.

2: Ethical Challenges for Children's Attorneys and Attorney GALs: Practical Solutions

Whether representing the interests of children in a client-directed, best interests, or hybrid model, you most likely encounter ethical challenges on a weekly, if not daily, basis. This interactive workshop will allow you to consider these challenges in the context of existing and emerging legal frameworks and to brainstorm with and learn from others.

3: Parental Alienation in Child Custody Cases

Parental Alienation occurs most frequently in the context of divorce. It occurs when one parent intentionally denigrates the other parent in the child's presence. We will identify the ten most frequently occurring behaviors that children exhibit when this form of emotional abuse is present; and list some long-term consequences in the children.

4: The Importance of Fathers in Child Welfare

Attorneys appointed to represent fathers as well as those who represent mothers and children in child welfare cases should have specialized training that goes beyond their minimum obligations and duties.

5: What, Really, is in the Best Interest of the Child?

What does "best interests of the child" mean from the perspective of a child's developmental and psychological needs and how should those needs inform legal decisions about child welfare and child custody.

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Breakout Session C: Tuesday 10:30am–Noon

1: Stopping the Negative Effect of Police Interaction With Youth Through Education and Advocacy

This session provides an overview of the NYPD's Stop and Frisk policy, which targets young men who are stopped, questioned, and frisked. We focus on the effect of the policy on youth in dependency proceedings, criminal implications, and issues of immigrant youth. We examine ways to advise and advocate for those children through admin agencies.

2: All Together Now: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists, Child Welfare Staff, and Court Teams

This workshop will focus on the use of Infant Mental Health Teams in juvenile court proceedings to achieve permanency for children aged birth to five and to assist attorneys in better understanding the needs and/or wishes of their infant and non-verbal clients.

3: Effective Policy Advocacy in a Fiscally Conservative Era

This interactive session will challenge practitioners to expand their impact through policy advocacy. Attendees will be given strategies to influence policies that affect vulnerable children and their families and create institutional change.

4: I Lost My Lawyer's Number: Practical Low-cost Interventions to Assist the Populations Often Present in Family Court Cases

Explores some behaviors exhibited by family court parties who come from generational poverty and have limited education (e.g. using casual and non-sequential patterns of discourse, losing names and contact information of their attorneys) and suggests practical, non-controversial and low-cost interventions that would significantly help.

5: Advocacy in Cases of Parental Incarceration

Incarceration presents special challenges for reunification, reasonable efforts, and maintaining bonds between parents and children. This workshop would provide practical advocacy strategies for parents' attorneys and child advocates in cases involving parental incarceration.

Breakout Session D: Tuesday 2:00–3:30pm

1: A View from the Bench

Three judges from different jurisdictions will discuss their impressions of the state of child advocacy and advise lawyers about how to enhance their advocacy in complex juvenile cases.

2: Working With Social Workers: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Child Advocacy

This session will provide strategies for working with social workers to advance the interests of clients. Attendees will be provided with information on what quality social work looks like in practice and will learn how to effectively collaborate with and assess agency social workers.

3: Efficient & Effective: Colorado's Study of Multidisciplinary Law Offices

This session will explore the cost effectiveness and performance outcomes of multidisciplinary law offices as a model of delivering legal services to court involved children.

4: Hearing Quality, Workload, and Case Outcomes in Juvenile Dependency Case

The current program discusses the dimensions of juvenile dependency hearing quality by examining current research findings related to hearing discussion and parent engagement, how hearing quality is affected by workload, how hearing quality (especially early on in the case) is related outcomes for families and better engagement of parties.

5: Is There Really a Fundamental Right to Family Integrity?

The session examines the history of the cases dealing with a fundamental right to family integrity, look at the practical effects which each court sees flowing from its particular decision, and attempt to identify basic overarching policies which might form the basis for a coherent approach.

BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Breakout Session E: Tuesday 4:00–5:30pm

1: Advocacy for Youth With Disabilities Transitioning from the Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems

The transition to adulthood from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems is challenging for youth who need supports as adults due to a disability. This workshop will provide resources and strategies to ensure that youth receive the supports needed for a successful transition. Individual and policy advocacy strategies will be discussed.

2: Utilizing Psychological Evaluations in Delinquency Proceedings

Like many things in the juvenile justice system psychological evaluations can help and hinder how children involved in delinquency proceedings are served. This presentation provides an overview of what should and should not be contained in a psychological evaluation and how advocates can use that information to serve a child's best interest.

3: The Special Needs of Adolescent Girls in the Child Welfare System

Adolescent girls in the child welfare system have gender-specific needs and face gender-specific risks. Practitioners will learn: how and why girls need different approaches and services than boys; the role of trauma in girls' lives; and how to work with girls in ways that minimize the impact of risk factors and build resiliency.

4: Obtaining Social Security Benefits for Children and Parents Involved in Juvenile Court Proceedings

A comprehensive look at Social Security law under Title XVI of the Social Security Act and a lesson on how to obtain Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for disabled children and adults who are involved in the child welfare system.

5: Psychotropic Medications—Too Much? Too Many? Too Young?: The Roles of the Attorney and Guardian Ad Litem

This workshop meeting will review the controversy concerning “off-label” psychotropic medication – and long-term sedation – of children and youth in foster care. The essential role of children's attorneys in current reform efforts will be emphasized, as well as the practicalities of representing children's interests in and outside the courtroom.

Breakout Session F: Wednesday 9:15–10:45am

1: Considerations for Representing Parents in Family Drug Courts

This session will focus on the ins-and-outs for defense attorneys in Family Drug Treatment Courts. Working collaboratively on a team with opposing parties presents many issues that may challenge the way you represent your client. This session will open discussion on ways in which this type of court program can be beneficial and pitfalls to avoid.

2: Cutting Ties or Preserving Family Connections Through Open Adoption: Is Terminating Parental Rights and Closed Adopting Best for Our Kids?

This workshop will discuss different approaches and perspectives when dealing with TPR and adoption, including: How do parents' and children's attorneys navigate complex litigation issues related to TPR and post adoption contact?; What can attorneys do to stop TPR, or when TPR occurs, to preserve familial and cultural relationships?

3: Partnering With Our Clients in Court: How Youth Participation Makes Us More Effective Lawyers

The “voices” of children and youth are claimed by attorneys, caseworkers, and caseworkers, yet young people continue to emancipate from the system feeling they never had a voice. Engaging and empowering young people in the courts and in the community will make us better lawyers, will more completely inform the courts and will inspire change.

4: The Impact of Sex Offender Registration and Notification Laws on Youth and Constitutional Challenges to Limit Their Harmful Effects

This session will provide attendees with an overview of sex offender registration and notification (SORN) laws across the country and their impact on youth, including a discussion of recent research and how to effectively use expert testimony. It will provide practical strategies to challenge SORN laws at the trial and appellate level.

5: Trauma and Resilience: A New Look at Legal Advocacy for Youth in the Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice System

Our discussion will focus on trauma and its implications for lawyers for older court-involved youth. Through an interactive workshop, we will use case studies to explore how attorneys should respond to, and integrate research on trauma into representation of clients in foster care. Participants will consider opportunities and potential pitfalls.

Cooperating Organizations

**American Academy of Assisted
Reproductive Technology Attorneys**

**National Child Abuse and Neglect
Training and Publications Project**

**International Society for Prevention
of Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Georgia Court Appointed
Special Advocates, Inc.**

National CASA Association

Exhibitors

Bookworks

Gem Art Studio

Navajo Jewelry & Crafts

Office for Victims of Crime

West Love Color and Culture

**Loyola's Children's
Legal Rights Journal**

**Academy of Professional
Family Mediators**

**Florida Association of
Counsel for Children**

**OnlineParentingPrograms.com
Family Education Resource Center**

**National Association
of Counsel for Children**

www.NACCchildlaw.org

1-888-828-NACC

NACC

