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and the *41st* NATIONAL CHILD
WELFARE, JUVENILE JUSTICE
& FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE



AUGUST 23-25, 2018

PRE-CONFERENCE *Aug 22*



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TX SAN ANTONIO TX

**41st NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE,
JUVENILE JUSTICE &
FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE**

AUGUST 23-25, 2018

PRE-CONFERENCE *Aug 22*

Dear Conference Attendees,

Thank you for joining us in San Antonio this summer! The National Association of Counsel for Children is honored to present our 41st National Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Family Law Conference. This year's agenda was designed to deliver a diverse array of legal issues and hot topics in children's law, policy, and practice by distinguished faculty from across the country. From new challenges to age-old concerns, NACC seeks to provide legal education that advances the rights, well-being, and opportunities of children, strengthens and supports families, and guards against the potential harms of policies and practices that may curtail children's rights and well-being. NACC received so many proposals this year that we added a 7th breakout track and changed the plenary structure to provide more content and learning opportunities (we look forward to your feedback for next year's planning). NACC thanks all conference sponsors with special recognition to the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission for providing scholarships to Texas judges and lawyers, and for partnering with NACC to support high-quality legal representation in Texas.

NACC's conference is also an invaluable community-building opportunity and we hope you will carve out some time to connect with your colleagues for support, planning, and fun! NACC honors Child Welfare Law Specialists every year with a special CWLS reception on Wednesday, and invites all conference attendees to join NACC members, staff, and board Thursday evening for the conference reception. This is a special year for NACC as we pivot from our 40th Anniversary to a new five year strategic plan. Stay tuned for special announcements in the coming months as NACC's next strategic plan is launched.

At NACC your practice is our purpose. Our staff and board are here to serve, so please feel free to let any of us know how we can be of assistance to you. Enjoy your time in San Antonio.

Thank you,

Kim Dvorchak, JD

NACC Executive Director

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDITS



NACC conferences are typically approved by continuing education agencies in most jurisdictions and disciplines, but it is your responsibility to determine what you need to do to claim CLE credit.

- Sign in sheets will be available at the registration desk each day
- California attendees must sign in each day to receive their certificate after the conference
- All other attendees can sign in once for the entire conference and will receive their certificate after the conference

Please note that each CLE office computes time differently, and it is in their sole discretion as to how many credits to award each program and/or session. Each attendee is individually responsible for applying for and obtaining credit. A uniform certificate of attendance will be emailed to all non-California attendees after the conference for use with applying for individual credit. California attendees who have signed in will be emailed a Certificate of Attendance approved by the California State Bar. Contact your CLE office for more information.

CONFERENCE BADGES



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

CONGRATS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS



Barbara Elias-Perciful, JD

Outstanding Legal Advocate



Tara Grigg Garlinghouse, JD

Outstanding Young Lawyer

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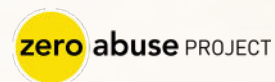
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PROGRAM : AUGUST 22-25, 2018

Pre-Conference WEDNESDAY, AUG 22

12:00pm – 4:00pm

Registration and Exhibits

9:00am – 4:30pm

Conference 17-18

Red Book Training, 3rd Edition

Betsy Fordyce, JD, CWLS, Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center

This course covers the major dependency competency areas based upon the 3rd Edition of *Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents, and State Agencies in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases* (known as the "The Red Book") and prepares attendees for the NACC Child Welfare Law Specialist certification exam.

SEPARATE REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED.

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Rio Vista

Child Welfare Law Specialist Reception

Child Welfare Law Specialists and applicants are invited to join us for an evening reception. Come get to know one another before the conference ramps up.

Conference THURSDAY, AUG 23

7:00am – 4:00pm

Registration and Exhibits

8:00am – 8:30am

Salons A-F Foyer

Breakfast

8:30am – 10:15am

Salon E

Opening Remarks

Candi Mayes, JD, MJM, CWLS, NACC Board President

Kim Dvorchak, JD, NACC Executive Director

Opening Keynote

Jerry Milner, DSW, Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau, and Acting Commissioner for the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

David Kelly, JD, MA, Special Assistant to Commissioner Milner and oversees the Children's Bureau work with courts and the legal community

The session will share the Children's Bureau's vision to reshape child welfare in the United States to strengthen families through community-based primary prevention of child maltreatment and unnecessary family disruption, to promote child and family well-being, and where removals are necessary, for foster care to be a support to families rather than a substitute for parents—all undergirded by a strong and resilient workforce. The session will highlight and discuss the essential roles that attorneys and judges play in carrying out the vision.

10:15am - 10:35am

Salons A-F Foyer

Coffee Break

10:35am – 12:05pm

Breakout Session A

A1 Immigration Relief for Undocumented Child Clients

Salons AB

Priya Konings, JD, Kids in Need of Defense, Washington, DC

Clair Doutre, JD, Kids in Need of Defense, Houston, TX

The focus of this session is understanding the intersection between family law, neglect law, and immigration law. Topics to be addressed include reasons for undocumented status, the implications of having an undocumented child client, and forms of immigration relief available to such children. This session will also explore how a family law attorney can assist an undocumented child client in obtaining legal status, as well as common pitfalls in providing such representation and additional challenges of having an undocumented child client.

A2 Innovative Strategies to Improve Education Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care

Salon D

Eliza Hirst, JD, CWLS, Office of the Child Advocate, Wilmington, DE

Peter B. Jones, JD, Delaware Family Court, Wilmington, DE

Rachael Neff, MSW, Delaware Family Court, Wilmington, DE

This session will focus on strategies, laws, and tools to improve education outcomes for youth in foster care. We will explore how trauma impacts learning and why youth who have experienced significant trauma tend to fare worse in school. We will then address the important role the judiciary plays in holding all parties accountable to ensure school stability, extra-curricular involvement, and other ways to help students in foster care. Attendees will learn about how the use of data, Memorandums of Understanding, and other policies may support educational stability for youth in foster care. The session will also address robust collaborative

practices that have been steadily improving education outcomes and benchmarks for youth in foster care.

**A3 Meeting Kids Where They Are:
A Look at Innovative CSEC
Practices in California** Conference 17–18

Kate Walker Brown, JD, National Center for Youth Law,
Oakland, CA

Tiffani Cortez, JD, Children's Law Center of California,
Monterey Park, CA

Kristina Fitz, Children's Law Center of California,
Monterey Park, CA

Since 2012, California has worked diligently to improve its understanding of and response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The panelists will provide an overview of the landscape in California and examine efforts led by child welfare to implement harm reduction policies, programs, and practices to keep youth safe and healthy. The presentation will deep-dive into initiatives in Los Angeles County, including a Victim Witness Protocol, that brings together a team of individuals to support a child who is testifying against their trafficker, and a CSEC dependency representation model bolstered by survivor expertise and specialized attorneys and case managers.

**A4 When Adolescent Clients
Become Parents** Conference 1–2

Andrew Ford, JD, Center for Family Representation,
Jamaica, NY

Karen Levit, JD, The Legal Aid Society, New York, NY

Adolescent parents in Family Court face unique challenges. This session will address strategies for representing parenting adolescents involved in the child welfare system. Our goal is to provide an overview from pregnancy to the potential termination of parental rights stage. Highlighted issues will include immigration concerns, advocating for fathers, the needs of LGBTQ+ clients, and continuity of representation.

**A5 Holistic Representation:
Better Outcomes for Children** Conference 3–4

Ellen Marrus, JD, LL.M., Univ. of Houston Law Center,
Houston, TX

Malikah Marrus, MSW, Hood College, Frederick, MD

Children who come into the legal system are typically facing myriad problems, and not only the issue that first brings them to the attention of the courts. To meet these needs there should be a team approach that includes professionals from various agencies and support networks; including lawyers that specialize in juvenile law, education



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The Chronicle of Social Change is an online news publication dedicated to solution-based news coverage of child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health and educational issues faced by vulnerable children. Find daily child welfare news headlines at www.chronicleofsocialchange.org.



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law, and immigration law, as well as social workers, educators, therapists, psychologists, and investigators. This model of holistic lawyering requires a lawyer to act as a lawyer, representing their client's expressed interests, while associating with other professionals as a team. This session will explore models for providing a holistic approach, as well as address conflict resolution between team members so that the child's team can work together towards best outcomes.

A6 Guardianship: Ensuring the Protection and Well-Being of Children with Disabilities Aging Out of Foster Care Conference 13–14

Deborah Schroth, JD, LLM, Schroth Child Law, Orange Park, FL

Wendy Robbins-McClary, JD, Dade County Legal Aid, Miami, FL

Sharon Langer, JD, Disability Independence Group, Miami, FL

Children in foster care have disabilities at approximately twice the rate of children in the community. For many disabled children who age out of the child welfare/foster care system, a formal support system such as guardianship can sometimes be the difference between life and death. This session will review the situation of Regis Little, a Florida child who died due to lack of guardianship, and detail the legislation designed to ensure disabled children have the supports they require upon aging out. Ethical issues for the child's attorney will also be discussed.

A7 How the Child Welfare System Contributes to Family Poverty Salon M

Diane Redleaf, JD, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, College Park, MD

Ruth White, MSW, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, College Park, MD

The child protection system is supposed to protect children from abuse and neglect and promote their health and well-being. But that system tends to confuse poverty with genuine neglect, thereby impoverishing the families who are the targets of its intervention and causing deterioration in children's stability and prospects for self-sufficiency. This session will focus on the many respects in which the child protection system contributes to child and family poverty.

12:05pm – 1:45pm Salon G

Lunch on Your Own or Lunch & Learn : Family Justice Initiative

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

Prudence Beidler-Carr, JD, Executive Director, ABA Center on Children and the Law

The Family Justice Initiative is a national collaborative with one unified goal: to ensure every child and every parent has high-quality legal representation when child welfare courts make life-changing decisions about their families. Join us for this interactive session as we talk about how to advocate for greater investments in high-quality legal representation for children and parents across the country, explore examples of what is working well, and think strategically about how to challenge myths surrounding parent and child representation.

THE FAMILY JUSTICE INITIATIVE IS SPONSORING THIS LUNCH FOR THE FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS. SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED.



2:00pm – 3:30pm

Salon G

Immigration 101: Representing Children in Immigration Proceedings

Priya Konings, JD, Kids in Need of Defense, Washington, DC

This session was newly added to this year's program to provide training for NACC members and conference attendees who are interested in volunteering in children's immigration cases. It is anticipated that children separated from their parents at the border and unaccompanied children will be moved across the country to sites currently unknown, and that there will be a need for volunteers to assist with children's immigration cases upon relocation. This session provides an Immigration 101 training for lawyers interested in assisting with this advocacy in their home states in the future.

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Breakout Session B

B1 In Search of a Silver Bullet: Child Welfare's Embrace of Predictive Analytics Salons AB

Christopher Church, JD, CWLS, Children's Law Center, USC School of Law, Columbia, SC

Amanda Fairchild, MA, PhD, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Daniel Gibbs, JD, MSW, Richland County CASA, Columbia, SC

Predictive analytics refers to the process of applying statistical algorithms to data to make informed guesses about future events. Although predictive analytics can help professionals make decisions more accurately, objectively, and quickly, there is a concern that some methods may result in discriminatory practices or consequences for vulnerable children and families. This workshop will examine a number of programmatic and ethical considerations for determining the appropriate role of predictive analytics in child welfare.

B2 **The Kitchen Sink: Investigating a Child's Best Interests Beyond the Scope of Dependency Court Proceedings** Salon D

Maggie Brandow, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

Jaime Cartagena, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

Jaryn Saritzky, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

This session will examine the legal and ethical duties across various jurisdictions, as well as any applicable standards or best practices, that direct attorneys to complete an independent investigation outside the scope of dependency court proceedings. We will discuss case studies in which an attorney's investigation played a significant role in the outcome of the case. We will also address what an independent investigation can look like in different contexts, including immigration, delinquency, education, child development, mental health, medical, and tort claims.

B3 **Permanency-Driven Advocacy: A Model for Getting Children Home** Conference 17–18

William Booth, JD, William Booth, PC, New York, NY

James Walsh, JD, Foster Children's Project, West Palm Beach, FL

Angela Orkin, JD, Child Advocacy Consultant, Atlanta, GA

Across the nation, the number of children in foster care is growing. As lawyers for children, we can play a critical role in helping children navigate their way back out of the system. The focus of this presentation is to discuss proven methods of moving children out of foster care, in the quickest way possible, while ensuring the best outcome for the child is achieved. The presenters will address three different levels of Permanency-Driven Advocacy: (1) legal strategy on individual cases, (2) advocacy for changes in the local system of care, and (3) advocacy for statewide changes. We will also discuss ways to implement strategies in each of these areas to improve outcomes of children in your home state.

B4 **New Research on LGBTQ Parenting & the "Best Interests of the Child"** Salon M

Todd Brower, JD, LL.M., UCLA Williams Institute, Los Angeles, CA

As the U.S. Supreme Court recognized in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) – the case confirming a Constitutional right to marriage for same-sex couples – the institutions of marriage and family are dynamic and evolving. For lawyers, judges and others interacting with LGBTQ persons and their families, accurate and current research on those families is crucial to making informed decisions about the people and cases in front of them. In this interactive session, you will enhance your understanding of issues facing

LGBTQ individuals and their families in the courts by examining the most up-to-date and peer-reviewed data on LGBTQ parenting.

B5 **Supporting Older Youth: What's the Brain Got to Do with It?** Conference 3–4

Alexandra Lohrbach, MSW, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD

Justin Kidder, Jim Casey Young Fellow, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD

Sneha Barve, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

Adolescent brain development research provides clear evidence that adolescence is a unique period of time ripe with opportunities for skill-building, healing, and growth. This interactive session is designed to translate adolescent brain science concepts into daily practice guidance for legal professionals who work with and support young people. Presenters will share relevant research on the importance of engagement and the interconnection between risk-taking and reward-seeking, as well as opportunities to promote healthy adolescent development for young people who are in or transitioning from foster care.

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April 9–10 National Conference on Access to Justice for Children and Families 2-day focus for all child law professionals	April 11–12 National Conference on Parent Representation 2-day focus on parent advocacy
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— Multidisciplinary Spotlight Sessions —
Early bird rate for 2 days = \$399
Group early bird rate for 2 days = \$375

**B6 Juvenile Justice Reform:
Looking Back
& Moving Forward**

Conference 13–14

Melissa Goemann, JD, National Juvenile Justice Network,
Washington, DC

Deborah Fowler, JD, Texas Appleseed, Austin, TX

Lauren Rose, MPA, Texans Care for Children, Austin, TX

In 2017, advocates achieved tremendous reforms to our youth justice systems. In this presentation, we will discuss juvenile justice policy trends that we have seen throughout the country in the past year, as well as youth justice advances enacted locally in Texas. Topics include efforts to reduce the number of youth in secure facilities and divert resources to local community-based alternatives, as well as reform the way that Texas handles status offenses and lowest-level misdemeanors for children and youth, and keep more youth out of the juvenile justice system. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of the intersection between direct representation of youth and policy advocacy.

**B7 Asserting the Constitutional
Rights of Children in
Dependency Proceedings
Including Asserting a Right
to Trauma-Informed Care**

Conference 1–2

Barbara Elias-Perciful, JD, Texas Lawyers for Children,
Dallas, TX

Jimmy Vaughn, Foster Youth Alum Speaker, Texas Lawyers
for Children, Dallas, TX

Although the United States Supreme Court has long recognized that children are protected by the U.S. Constitution and have Constitutional rights just as adults do, attorneys representing children in child protection cases rarely draw on these rights to serve the needs and best interests of their clients. This presentation explores an attorney's duty to assert the Constitutional rights of children in dependency proceedings and focuses on pertinent Constitutional rights of children and how those rights can be asserted to protect a child and address the child's needs in all stages of the child's involvement in the child welfare system.

3:30pm – 4:00pm

Salons A–F Foyer

Break

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Salon E

**Plenary Session I : Discrimination
& Well-Being: The Civil Rights of Youth
in Care in 2018**

Currey Cook, JD, Lambda Legal, New York, NY

Shear Avory, Biden Foundation Fellow and Former Foster
Youth, Washington, DC

Tristan Torres, Former Foster Youth, Las Vegas, NV

Megan A. Mooney, Ph.D., PLLC, Houston, TX

In almost every state, children are guaranteed, in law or agency policy, certain rights regarding freedom from illegal discrimination. For many youth in care who are not part of majority populations, their rights are violated on a routine basis and attempts to call out violations are fraught with peril. For this session, youth with lived experience in care will discuss challenges they faced and share ideas for moving forward. A panel of civil rights advocates will respond.

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Salon E Foyer

Welcome Reception

Join NACC staff, board, conference attendees, and faculty for a Texas-style welcome with appetizers and drinks.

Conference **FRIDAY, AUG 24**

7:00am – 4:00pm

Registration and Exhibits

8:00am – 8:30am

Salons A–F Foyer

Breakfast

8:30am – 10:15am

Salon E

**Plenary Session II :
Bringing Our Children Home**

Annette Nikki Campbell, JD, National American Indian
Court Judges Association, Boulder, CO

Victoria Sweet, JD, The Whitener Group, Reno, NV

Within the child welfare world, research has demonstrated the following truths: 1. Removing a child from their home, even when necessary, is generally traumatic for the child; 2. Kinship and community placements help reduce the degree of trauma felt by the child; 3. Reunification must remain the primary focus unless and until every effort has been made and it has been deemed impossible. Best practice recommendations for child representatives, parent representatives, social workers, CASAs, and GALs incorporate this knowledge, but there is also a federal law (the Indian Child Welfare Act) that requires efforts with a certain population that mirror the latest research. This session will review the law and show which legal elements meet both legal and best practices requirements. It will also make the case for understanding intergenerational patterns and recognizing the importance of heritage and connections with family and community.

Family First & Beyond: The New Act & the Future of Child Welfare Financing

Amy Harfeld, JD, Children's Advocacy Institute, Washington, DC

In February 2018, a landmark piece of federal legislation was passed – the *Family First Prevention and Treatment Act*. Family First expanded the only entitlement in child welfare, historically referred to as the “foster care entitlement”, for certain time-limited preventive services for families of children who would otherwise have been removed into foster care. This legislation reflects an evolving understanding that federal investments should prioritize safely preventing foster care placements as well as helping to pay for foster care when it is necessary. What's next? This session will discuss the federal landscape of child welfare financing, highlighting recent developments and proposals, asking what it means for our field, and emphasizing the need for continued bold advocacy.

10:15am – 10:30am

Salons A–F Foyer

Coffee Break

10:30am – 12:00pm

Breakout Session C

C1 Detangling the Web: Systems Involvement & Youth Homelessness **Salons AB**

Gabriella McDonald, JD, Texas Appleseed, Austin, TX

Michael Santos, JD, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Washington, DC

Estella Garza, LMSW, SSWS, San Antonio Independent School District, San Antonio, TX

Brett Merfish, MA, JD, Texas Appleseed, Austin, TX

As more service providers and advocates have begun to shine a light on the issue of youth homelessness, it has become undeniable that there are deep correlations between systems involvement and the likelihood that a youth will experience homelessness, and vice versa. Moreover, experiencing homelessness or systems involvement each result in their own type of traumatic experiences that can lead to negative long-term outcomes, hurting youth's chances of future stability. These issues are deeply intertwined and this session will unravel them and present policy recommendations to help prevent and end youth homelessness.

C2 Fathers Matter: Engaging, Involving & Advocating for Dads & Their Children **Salon D**

Kelly Beck, JD, National Institute of Permanent Family Connectedness, Oakland, CA

Martin Henderson, Fatherhood Matters, Inc., San Antonio, TX

A highly interactive workshop facilitated by two experts in the field of father representation, father

involvement, and training. The workshop includes an overview of the legal requirements for identifying and involving fathers and their relatives in child welfare and delinquency proceedings. We will also discuss the research surrounding obstacles and challenges fathers and practitioners face in these proceedings. A resource tool will be provided to all participants, which will help guide the practitioner to uncover intentional strengths and true commitments from the fathers they represent.

C3 ICWA Active Efforts: Collaborating with Tribes for Optimal Outcomes **Conference 17–18**

Melissa Middleton, JD, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, OK

Kayla Whalen, JD, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, OK

This session is a training opportunity geared to the various practitioners involved in juvenile deprived actions involving an Indian child or Indian children. It will include a very brief overview of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) and focus primarily on the Active Efforts requirements set forth in 25 U.S.C. 1912(d). ICWA Active Efforts will include discussion of the roles of the different parties/attorneys in provision of active efforts, and provide guidance as to what constitutes effective active efforts and how to join forces with tribal counterparts to ensure best practices are being implemented.



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C4 Pushed to the Edge: What We Can Do in Response to Federal Policy Decisions Undermining Self-Sufficiency of the Poor & Contributing to a Child Welfare System that Asks Too Much and Struggles to Meet the Needs of Youth & Families Conference 1–2

Angie Schwartz, JD, Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
Brian Blalock, JD, Tipping Point Community, San Francisco, CA

Federal safety net programs, which have been deteriorating since the 1980s, are under further attack. Additionally, many of our dedicated child welfare funding streams are about to be fundamentally shifted because of the recent passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act. In this session, we will look at the myths and realities of funding in the child welfare system with a focus on how externalized costs of various public systems has contributed to overburdening relative caregivers and pushing youth into dangerous situations and/or homelessness. The conversation will bridge the divide between our child welfare system and public benefits system to help practitioners understand how to leverage funds to support children and families and create true systemic reform within the context of deteriorating federal support.

C5 The Overlap of Family Law & Child Welfare Conference 3–4

Anastasia Cowan, JD, CWLS, Arnold & Smith, PLLC, Charlotte, NC

There is no denying that family law and child welfare law are incredibly different worlds. While ultimately the players in these two arenas have the same goal (best interest of the child/children), they have very different roles and very different scopes by which to assess that standard. This session will help family law attorneys understand important concepts such as safety assessments and access to information regarding child welfare matters. In turn, child welfare workers will deepen their understanding of child custody proceedings, including whether they can testify as an expert in a domestic case or recommend a custody modification.

C6 Housing & Health Care for Transgender Youth in Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Settings Conference 13–14

Currey Cook, JD, Lambda Legal, New York, NY
Shannan Wilber, JD, National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco, CA

Transgender youth are over-represented in child welfare and juvenile justice settings compared to their cisgender peers. All too often, transgender

youth face stigma and prejudice and heightened risk of emotional harm while in care. Access to qualified and affirming medical and mental health care, and appropriate housing and placements are two of the biggest challenges among the many issues that transgender youth face as they navigate through sex-segregated systems and uninformed or openly hostile providers. Presenters will provide interviewing techniques and courtroom advocacy skills that incorporate developing case law, professional standards of care, and recommended practices.

C7 Minors' Access to Abortion: Mandatory Parental Involvement & Judicial Bypass Salon M

Jessica Goldberg, JD, If/When/How, Oakland, CA
Amanda Bennett, MA, Jane's Due Process, Austin, TX
Anita Broderick James, JD, Henry McDonald & James, PC, Houston, TX

Currently, 37 states require young people under 18 who are seeking abortion care to either inform their parents or navigate their states' complex judicial bypass processes. This issue disproportionately impacts youth in foster care, who may not have anyone to get consent from or give notice to and are thus at the mercy of the bypass process. This session will provide an overview of parental involvement laws ("PILs") and judicial bypass procedures across the country, helping to familiarize practitioners with the process and best practices so that they can offer guidance to the minors they work with who are facing reproductive decisions.

12:15pm – 1:45pm

Salon E

Annual Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Sixto Cancel, Founder & CEO, Think of Us, Richmond, VA

Sixto Cancel's lived experience in foster care fuels his passion for shifting system policy and practice through the use of technology and data. As CEO of Think of Us, Sixto co-lead the design and execution of the first ever White House Foster Care and Technology Hackathon which resulted in new federal regulations, new funding for tech in foster care, six additional hackathons, local technology initiatives, and helped shift the national conversation about foster care and tech. Sixto has served as a Young Fellow at Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative since 2010, where he has worked on youth engagement, asset development and permanency. Sixto has been recognized as Top 24 under 24 Changemakers in Government and Forbes Top 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs.

INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION.

Breakout Session D

D1 Re-Imagining Disability, Race & Juvenile Incarceration Salons AB

Jyoti Nanda, JD, UCLA School of Law – Youth Justice Clinic, Los Angeles, CA

This session will build on research and analysis which suggests that for children of color in under-resourced schools, any learning-related disability they may have or be perceived to have is conflated with race. In turn, their disability (if it exists) is treated as a criminalized condition, remedied with punishment and in segregated classrooms – eventually leading to over-representation in the juvenile justice system. This analysis offers interventions and best practices with a focus on the role children’s advocates can play.

D2 Representing Parents with Intellectual Disabilities & Their Families Salon D

Robyn Powell, MA, JD, National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities and Their Families, Waltham, MA

As people with intellectual disabilities are increasingly integrated in their communities, increasing numbers are becoming parents. At the same time, these families are grossly underserved by the child welfare system and often face substantial discrimination. This workshop will provide attorneys with strategies and solutions for representing parents with intellectual disabilities involved with the child welfare system.

D3 Implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act: The Opportunities & Challenges in Ensuring that Children are Cared for in Families & Implications for the Legal Community Conference 17–18

Prudence Beidler-Carr, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

Rob Geen, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD

Amy Harfeld, JD, Children’s Advocacy Institute, Washington, DC

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) is the most significant federal legislation affecting our nation’s child welfare system in decades. States and tribal communities will have both significant opportunities and face numerous challenges to achieve the vision of the Act – ensuring that children are well cared for in families. This workshop will discuss key implementation issues and implications for the legal community. This workshop will also highlight CHAMPS (CHildren need AMazing Parents), a campaign designed to address one of the key challenges faced by nearly all child welfare agencies – recruiting and retaining enough high-quality foster families.

D4 The World Don’t Move to the Beat of Just One Drum: Cultural Humility & Client Engagement to Improve Best Interest Recommendations for Children from Cultures Other Than Our Own Conference 1–2

Sheri Freemont, JD, Casey Family Programs, Denver, CO

Rob Wyman, JD, MSW, Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA

Client engagement often involves navigating cross-cultural relations. Disproportionality among the client population based on race is well documented, especially among Native American children. ICWA advances several child welfare principles that can be applied to all children, including valuing the cultures of all by acknowledging the inherent values of one’s own culture, reducing the often biased lens of non-culture members, including attorneys. Clients remain the experts on what their specific cultures are. Their advocates should give those cultural strengths voice. In this session, we will help attorneys use the practice of cultural humility to foster effective client engagement and advocacy, to elevate client voice and value cultural identity and connection.

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D5 Incubating Change: Opportunities & Challenges for Legal Advocacy Groups in Cultivating Foster-Youth-Led Organizing Conference 3–4

Matt Rosen, MSW, MUP, Foster Youth in Action, Berkeley, CA
Betsy Fordyce, JD, CWLS, Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, Denver, CO

Legal aid and legal advocacy organizations have helped birth and support youth led grassroots movements that have a strong advocacy record and great promise for even larger impact. In this session, we will explore why youth-led organizing for child welfare policy change is essential and how legal aid and advocacy groups are important vehicles to support young people's collective advocacy and organizing at the grassroots. We will consider the steps that legal advocacy organizations might take to evaluate whether and how to incorporate this new approach in their own work. The session will include perspectives and experiences of young organizers as well as staff supporters.

D6 Foster Care and Religious Freedom Conference 13–14

Melissa Carter, JD, Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic, Emory Law School, Atlanta, GA

Condemned by LGBT advocates as a license to discriminate, religious exemption laws are viewed as specific threats to the civil rights of LGBT people and same-sex couples. Conversely, religious objectors argue the need for such laws to protect the free exercise of their sincerely held faith beliefs. Is a child welfare religious exemption a prudent course of action to meet the needs of children in foster care? Judges and lawyers for children, parents, and the agency are all essential stakeholders in this debate. They need to understand the values-laden rhetoric and be prepared to engage it with research, data, and the lived experiences of their clients.

D7 Education Civil Rights Legal Advocacy: Don't Represent Your Client Without It! Salon M

Miriam Rollin, JD, Education Civil Rights Alliance/National Center for Youth Law, Washington, DC

Too often, child welfare and juvenile justice system-involved youth experience education challenges that impede their ability to succeed in school and life. Those challenges can be caused or exacerbated by failures of education systems to uphold students' education civil rights. Education civil rights laws (e.g., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) exist to protect students from unlawful discrimination, and no

action of the current Congress or Administration has undermined those statutory rights. But those rights are mere words without attorneys and systems agents to ensure their enforcement and reduce children's barriers to educational success.

3:30pm – 3:45pm

Salons A–F Foyer

Break

3:45pm – 5:15pm

Breakout Session E

E1 Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists & Attorneys: Advocating Together for the Best Interests of Children Salons AB

Gabrielle Mulnick Majewski, JD, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC

Katherine Piggott-Tooke, JD, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC

Christina Schleich, JD, Cook County Office of the Public Guardian, Chicago, IL

Jessica Pierce, MD, MSc, Hampstead Hospital, Hampstead, NH

Children and youth in foster care have mental health needs far in excess of those faced by non-foster care populations of children, with up to 80% of children in care experiencing mental health issues. A purposeful, structured partnership between child and adolescent psychiatrists and attorneys can help bridge some of the critical knowledge and service gaps existing in the child welfare, educational, juvenile justice, and medical systems – thereby helping attorneys better identify and advocate for children's mental health, services, placement, and permanency needs. This presentation will highlight the unique ways in which attorneys can collaborate with child and adolescent psychiatrists to enable attorneys to better advocate across various child-serving systems.

E2 The Complementary Roles of CASA/GAL Volunteers & Children's Counsel in Implementing the Requirements of the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act Salon D

Diane Nunn, JD, National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, Seattle, WA

Darlene Byrne, JD, Presiding Judge, 126th Judicial District, Travis County, Austin, TX

Lynn LeCropane, JD, CWLS, Travis County Office of Child Representation, Austin, TX

This workshop is designed to provide an overview of the complementary roles of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers and children's counsel in child abuse and neglect proceedings as they relate to implementing the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. It will explore the roles

that CASA/GAL volunteers and children's counsel have in the identification and advocacy for children in foster care and youth at risk of sex trafficking. It will also explore their complementary roles in improving opportunities for appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities for children and youth in foster care.

E3 Strategic Approaches to Ending the Reliance on Solitary Confinement & Restraints Conference 1–2

Elissa Glucksman Hyne, JD, MSW, Children's Rights, New York, NY

Jessica Feierman, JD, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA

Nathan Kirstein, JD, Disability Rights Iowa, Des Moines, IA

Jeff Wallace, MCJ, PhD Candidate, Vision Leadership and Productions and S.T.E.P., Quad Cities, IA

The continued use of solitary confinement and restraints on confined youth, and youth in foster care, is an urgent national human rights issue that screams for heightened awareness and disruption tools for all NACC members. In this session, a discussion among national experts on impact litigation and community-based reform, moderated by a formerly incarcerated youth, will engage attendees with tools to eliminate these barbaric practices and to bring youth back home and into their communities. This interactive session with advocates from Children's Rights, Juvenile Law Center, Disability Rights Iowa, and Urban Underground Milwaukee will inform attendees on the evolving national landscape and provide strategies that attendees can take back home to create effective change.

E4 Walk a Mile in Their Shoes: The Children's Counsel Experiential Learning Module Conference 17–18

Angela Vigil, JD, Baker McKenzie, Miami, FL

Brian Blalock, JD, Tipping Point Community, San Francisco, CA

Youth involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice court process frequently travel through myriad public systems. Furthermore, many of these youth have experienced high levels of trauma, violence, instability, and loss. This session uses experiential learning to increase understanding and awareness. Using integrative teaching and simulations, we will explore what it is like to be a young person with court involvement. We will discuss best practices in child advocacy models and examine methods for screening, intake, and representation, with a focus on the experience of youth moving through various services and systems

RSVP REQUIRED; SESSION CAPPED AT 100 ATTENDEES.

E5 Achieving Permanency through Alternative Planning Conference 3–4

Jacquelyn Wilson, JD, CWLS, Travis County Office of Parental Representation, Austin, TX

Cindy Dyar, JD, CWLS, Travis County Office of Parental Representation, Austin, TX

This session will discuss how to recognize barriers to family reunification and tips for how proactive litigation and the early creation of alternative plans can overcome those barriers. Attendees will learn strategies for creating alternate permanency plans in various situations, including: ongoing risk for domestic violence between parents, how to work around a parent's delayed engagement in services, and approaches for when children are at risk for re-removal from their parents.

E6 Removing Legal Barriers to Permanency for Older Youth Conference 13–14

Melinda Haggerty, JD, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Columbus, OH

Tova Rose, BS, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Columbus, OH

The decade plus that the Dave Thomas Foundation has been supporting Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters using an evidence-based model to get older children adopted across the country has given the Foundation a unique perspective into the legal barriers keeping older youth from their forever families. This session will engage the legal partners in the child welfare system to learn how they can support permanency for older youth, including ensuring that older youth are receiving appropriate evidence-based adoption recruitment services, believing that all children are adoptable, valuing permanency over placement stability, envisioning biological family members as an important piece of the recruitment process, and consent and unpacking older youth's resistance to adoption.

E7 Best Practices & Effective Advocacy to Overcome Implicit Biases Against Transgender Youth Salon M

Jamie Julian, MSW, LCSW, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Center for Transyouth Health and Development, Los Angeles, CA

Raumak Rahmani, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

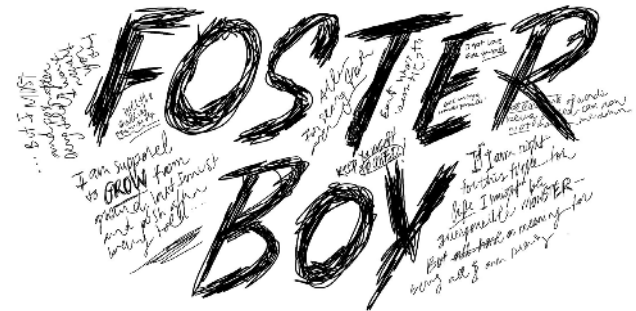
Ronnie Cheung, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

This session will challenge participants to assess their implicit biases against transgender youth and examine how such biases cause harm to transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming youth. Participants will consider issues surrounding gender dysphoria and the imminent risks and consequences of not addressing the need for appropriate services in a timely manner. The presentation will also explore best practices for attorneys, social workers, and judges to overcome biases and positively support transgender youth even when resources are limited.

Film : Foster Boy**5:15pm : Light Appetizers & Cash Bar****5:45pm : Introduction of Film Producer Peter Samuelson by Robert Fellmeth,**
Executive Director, University of San Diego Law School Children's Advocacy Institute**7:45pm : Q&A with Producer Peter Samuelson and Writer Jay Deratany (the real-life lawyer behind the film)**

Film Description: Michael Trainer is a lawyer at the center of a trial in which a for-profit Foster care agency puts a known sex offender into the same foster home as his young client Jamal, with catastrophic results. Michael, a successful litigator with a long career protecting corporate interests, wants nothing to do with Jamal's case, until a Judge forces him to accept it. Initially he sees Jamal as a kid off the street looking to grab a piece of corporate profits. But when Jamal refuses to settle the case for any amount of money, Michael begins his representation in earnest. As their work together reveals the horrifying depth of the corrupt and abusive for-profit foster care agency, Michael is transformed from cynical skeptic to fierce warrior in the pursuit of justice.

**CONFERENCE BADGE REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION,
PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO STRICTLY PROHIBITED**



MATTHEW MODINE AND LOUIS GOSSETT JR. IN *FOSTER BOY*

Conference SATURDAY, AUG 25

7:00am – 12:00pm

Registration and Exhibits

8:30am – 9:00am

Salons A–F Foyer

Breakfast

9:00am – 12:00pm

Salon E

Closing Plenary : Working with Immigrant Families: The Impact of Increased Immigration Enforcement on Child Welfare

Cristina Cooper, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

Emily Butera, MA, Women's Refugee Commission, Washington, DC

In the last year, children in the U.S. have faced dramatically increased chances of being separated from their non-citizen parents. Additionally, the resultant fear in immigrant communities of engaging with law enforcement, social service agencies, and courts can lead to increased risks for vulnerable children and families. This presentation will provide updates on relevant immigration enforcement efforts, and identify existing protections and promising practices for working with immigrant families at risk of involvement with the child welfare system.

Children's Right to Counsel

Angela Vigil, JD, Baker McKenzie, Miami, FL

John Pollock, JD, National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel, Baltimore, MD

Aaron Finch, JD, Children's Rights, New York, NY

Kim Dvorchak, JD, National Association of Counsel for Children, Washington, DC

More than fifty years after the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the constitutional right to counsel for children in delinquency cases, children's legal advocates continue to assert and litigate the right to counsel for children in dependency cases as well as other types of civil cases. *What will it take to gain wider traction and definitive recognition of children's due process rights?!* This plenary will discuss the U.S. Supreme Court's views on the legal rights of children, current legislative and litigation strategies to advance children's right to counsel in dependency and other types of civil proceedings, and analysis of the *Kenny A.* and *In re Gault* decisions. Conference attendees will be engaged in the conversation to assess the most compelling arguments to achieve judicial and legislative recognition for children's right to counsel.

11:55am

Salon E

2019 Conference Registration Raffle



We are a *powerful partner* for children

When a child's future hangs in the balance, a community of partners can make a significant difference.

Along with attorneys, child welfare professionals, and other community partners, CASA/GAL volunteers are essential allies in the court process. Our highly trained community advocates build caring one-to-one relationships with children impacted by abuse or neglect. Serving in a complementary role alongside others in the case, a volunteer court-appointed special advocate speaks up for the child's best interests.

As a result of the collective partnership between the attorneys, child welfare professionals, CASA/GAL volunteers and others in the community, more children have the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
CASAforchildren.org



SAVE THE DATES

**2019 NACC
Conference**
Anaheim, CA
August 26-28
Pre-conference Aug 25



**Anaheim
Marriott Hotel**

**2020 NACC
Conference**
Baltimore, MD
August 24-26
Pre-conference Aug 23



**Baltimore Marriott
Waterfront**

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

THE NACC

Founded in Colorado in 1977, the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is a nonprofit, multidisciplinary membership and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the cause of justice for children, youth, and families involved in child abuse and neglect cases and the juvenile justice system. NACC has worked for over forty years to strengthen the delivery and quality of legal services for children, youth, and families and to promote continuous systemic improvement to achieve the best possible outcomes.

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NACC wishes **H.D. KIRKPATRICK** a happy retirement.
Thank you for serving on our board!

40 YEARS

NACC