

Welcome to

Anaheim
and the

**42nd NATIONAL
CHILD WELFARE
LAW CONFERENCE
AUG 26–28, 2019**

PRE-CONFERENCE AUG 25

Program

**Promoting Excellence
Building Community
Advancing Justice**

NACC

National Association
of Counsel for Children

Welcome!

to the National Association
of Counsel for Children's

42nd National Child Welfare Law Conference

Dear Conference Attendees,

Welcome to Anaheim! The National Association of Counsel for Children is honored to host this annual gathering of child welfare law, policy, and advocacy professionals for three days of learning and exchange. The theme of this year's conference is the cornerstone of **NACC's 2019–2023 Strategic Plan: Promoting Excellence, Building Community, Advancing Justice.**

We gather to **Promote Excellence** in legal representation. This year's program provides opportunities to enhance individual legal advocacy, institutional law office management, as well as civil and appellate litigation. We set the standard for technical excellence for all children, parents, and agencies, recognize the hundreds of Child Welfare Law Specialists among us, and congratulate this year's Outstanding Children's Law Office: the Children's Attorneys Project of The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada!

We gather to **Build Community** among practitioners and advocates. Anaheim means "home by the Santa Ana River" and for many of us, attending the NACC conference is like coming home — a reunion of friends and colleagues from across the country which rejuvenates our spirits, strengthens our resolve, and expands our knowledge and thinking. If this is your first NACC conference, welcome home! Our conference program intentionally carves out networking opportunities for you to meet, reconnect, strategize, and simply enjoy each other's company.

Last but not least, we gather to **Advance Justice** for children and families. This is a pivotal moment for transformational change in practice and policy to keep children safely with family, to promote their well-being, and to ensure access to justice and equal protection for ALL children and families. The challenges are many, but the power of our collective advocacy can and will improve systems.

Join the conversation on social media using #NACC2019. We are NACC. Together we are #PromotingExcellence, #BuildingCommunity, and #AdvancingJustice. Thank you to our distinguished faculty, generous sponsors, and exhibiting partners for your engagement and support. This year's event would not be possible without our small but mighty team and the support of our Board of Directors — thank you!

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

Thank you,
Kim Duorchak, JD, NACC Executive Director

Continuing Legal Education Credits



NACC conferences are typically approved by continuing education agencies in most

jurisdictions and disciplines. 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 link to uniform certificates of attendance will be emailed post conference to all attendees.

- Sign in sheets will be available in the platinum lobby every day of the conference
- 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

CALIFORNIA MCLE HOURS

Pre-Conference	General: 6.5
Red Book Training:	Ethics: 1
Pre-Conference	General: 3.75
CLOC:	Ethics: .5
3-Day Conference:	General: 16.5
	Elimination of Bias 4.5

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



Outstanding Children's Law Office :
**Children's Attorneys Project
(CAP), Legal Aid Center of
Southern Nevada**



Distinguished Achievement Award :
**David P. Kelly, JD, MA, Children's
Bureau, Washington DC**

NACC extends a Special Thanks to our:

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and to the following people who participated in the development and production of the conference:

CONFERENCE WORKGROUP

Currey Cook, JD,
CONFERENCE WORKGROUP CO-CHAIR;
Director, Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project,
Lambda Legal

Janet G. Sherwood, JD, CWLS,
CONFERENCE WORKGROUP CO-CHAIR;
Deputy Director, Advokids

Robert Schwartz, JD, Executive Director Emeritus,
Juvenile Law Center and Beck Chair in Law,
Temple University Beasley School of Law

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Interim Director, Literature for All of Us Chicago

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Family Law Division, Committee for Public Counsel
Services Massachusetts

Brooke Silverthorn, JD, CWLS, Lecturer,
Georgia State University College of Law

Pre-
Conference

Sunday, Aug 25, 2019

9:00am – 4:30pm

ORANGE COUNTY 2-3

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

12:00pm – 5:00pm

ORANGE COUNTY 1

Children's Law Office Convening

As part of NACC's 2019–2023 Strategic Plan, NACC is launching 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 who contract with counties and states to represent children. The convening will 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.

Law Office Mentoring & Development

Leslie Starr Heimov, JD, CWLS, Executive Director

• Children's Law Center of California

Carolyn Griesemer, JD, Executive Director

• Children's Legal Services of San Diego

Multidisciplinary Practice & Expertise Development

Scott Hollander, JD, Executive Director • KidsVoice

Alison Stankus, JD, MSW, Multidisciplinary Training

Coordinator • Cook County Public Guardian

Holistic Advocacy: Law Office & Nonprofit Partnerships

Leslie Starr Heimov, JD, CWLS, Executive Director

• Children's Law Center of California

Jennifer Braun, JD, Executive Director

• The Alliance for Children's Rights

Legislative Advocacy & Title IV-E Funding for Legal Representation & Training

Ashley Chase, JD, CWLS, Staff Attorney & Legislative

Liaison • Colorado Office of the Child's Representative

Sue Abrams, JD, Policy Director •

Children's Law Center of California

SEPARATE REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED

5:30pm – 7:00pm

ELITE 2 - 3

CWLS Reception

Child Welfare Law Specialists and applicants 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.



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7:00am – 4:00pm

PLATINUM LOBBY

Registration and Exhibits

8:00am – 8:30am

PLATINUM 7-10

Breakfast

8:30am – 10:15am

PLATINUM 5-6

Welcome and Opening Plenary**Opening Remarks****Candi Mayes, JD, MJM, CWLS** • NACC Board President**Kim Dvorchak, JD** • NACC Executive Director**Opening Plenary : Permanency and Well-Being in Extended Foster Care: Using the Law, Lessons from Adolescent Development, and Youth Advocacy to Strengthen our Advocacy****Jennifer Pokempner, JD** • Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA**Jennifer Rodriguez, JD** • Youth Law Center, San Francisco CA**Angie Schwartz, JD** • Alliance for Children's Rights, Sacramento CA

The goal of the child welfare system is for youth to return home or find family through other avenues. Advocates and policy makers have worked hard to build extended foster care systems to provide support for youth when we have failed to find them permanency by age 18. As more and more states offer extended foster care, advocates continue to work to ensure that the support and services that youth receive after age 18 in care are high-quality, effective, and still focus on permanency and building connections with caring adults. This session will explore models for effective legal advocacy and representation in extended foster care and aims to confront the challenges that attorneys face in advocating for their clients and changing the way systems treat and serve older youth and young adults. Many of our extended care systems have not changed to reflect the needs of young adults and the need to balance provision of support and guidance with opportunities for autonomy, growth, and learning. Providing age-appropriate and family-based living settings as well as meeting the complex needs of parenting youth, youth with disabilities, and LGBTQ youth remains a challenge that often leaves the youth most in need without support and sometimes pushed out of the system. In this session we will present strategies that use the law, lessons from adolescent development, and from our work with youth leaders to equip attorneys to advocate for excellent services in extended foster care.

10:15am - 10:30am

Break

10:30am – 12:00pm

Breakout Session A**A1 ICE Custody Programs: Child Welfare/ Family Separation Law and Policy**

PLATINUM 1-2

Jennifer Mertus, JD • Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Custody Programs Division, Washington DC**Jessica Jones, JD** • Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Custody Programs Division, Washington DC

This presentation/training will provide an overview of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) immigration enforcement policy that protects children and families who are impacted by immigration enforcement. Specifically, this presentation will provide an overview of ICE's Parental Interests Directive, which addresses ICE's handling of cases involving parents, legal guardians, caretakers of minor children, and parents involved in both immigration court and child welfare proceedings.

A2 Tools of the Trade: Child Welfare Information Gateway

PLATINUM 3

Erin Bader, MSW • Child Welfare Information Gateway, Fairfax VA

Child Welfare Information Gateway is the congressionally mandated and federally funded information service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Information Gateway covers a wide range of child welfare topics, including child abuse prevention, recognizing child abuse and neglect, family preservation, foster care, achieving and maintaining permanency, adoption, state and federal laws and policies, and national data. The resources and publications on Information Gateway help professionals in child welfare and closely related fields connect with reliable and relevant information that support participants' practice and provide them with the tools and knowledge to help them address the needs of children and families in their communities. This session will explore and connect professionals with various resources and publications available from Child Welfare Information Gateway, and other federally funded programs, that can help inform and improve their work.

A3 Youth Advocacy: Why Having Youth at the Decision-Making Table is Important for Systemic Change

ORANGE COUNTY 1

Cathy Moffa, MSW, MLSP • Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA**Marcia Hopkins, MSW** • Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA**Shy Hill** • Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA

Juvenile Law Center's Youth Advocacy Program is a leader in advancing systemic change in the juvenile justice and child welfare system with youth voice at the forefront. We believe in the power of youth voice. Young people are experts on their own lives, and their lived experiences should inform policies that affect them. Since 2008, Juvenile Law Center's youth advocacy programs have prepared young people to lead advocacy and policy reform efforts in their local communities and beyond. In early 2015, our Juveniles for Justice members had several of their recommendations reflected in changes made to Title I, Part D of the Every Student Succeeds Act, which passed in Congress later in 2015. Our youth advocates have led many critical policy changes, from improving access to record expungement to empowering youth in foster care in dependency court. They speak directly to lawmakers and make national media appearances; their resources and tool kits have been used across the country. This session serves to educate those seeking to incorporate authentic youth voice and expertise into their work by demonstrating the best models of bringing youth to the table for decision-making and policy change. During this session, participants will be provided concrete tools and strategies to work with youth to develop policies and make legislative changes that are driven by youth experience and expertise in the child welfare and juvenile justice system.

A4 The ICPC Then and Now: Where It Started, Where It Is, and Where It's Going

PLATINUM 4

Jonathan Conant, JD • Jonathan D Conant, Attorney At Law, PLLC, Prescott AZ

Stephen Pennypacker, JD • Partnership for Strong Families, Inc., Gainesville FL

This session will present the ICPC in a manner that all attendees will be able to grasp, starting by explaining the history of the Compact and why it came into being through its evolution to an in-depth discussion of the current Compact and how it operates. The session will conclude with a discussion of the proposed future changes and electronic transmission of data through the NEICE platform to speed the ICPC placement process.

A5 LAW OFFICE TRACK: Developing and Sustaining Effective Legal Advocacy Through Training and Supports

ORANGE COUNTY 2

Sheri Danz, JD, CWLS • Office of the Child's Representative, Denver CO

Amy Karp, JD • Committee for Public Counsel Services, Boston MA

Michelle Jensen, JD, MSW • Office of the Child's Representative, Denver CO

This interactive session will allow participants to identify challenges and strategies for developing and sustaining effective attorney practice through training and supports. The examples of Colorado and Massachusetts will offer a platform to discuss comprehensive approaches to identifying attorney training needs, effective implementation of adult learning principles, methods for developing and sustaining effective practice through ongoing supports, and opportunities for accessing federal and local training dollars. Ideas for evaluating training programs and strategic planning for cultivating a learning and practice environment, maximizing limited training dollars, and building on existing programs will also be explored. While presenters will share concrete resources and examples from their states, the goal of this session is for participants to learn from each other and to leave with new training ideas as well as specific action steps for increasing training and supports.

A6 Impact Litigation and Other Advocacy on Behalf of Youth in Care Who Languish in Locked Psychiatric Hospitals Beyond Medical Necessity: Examination of the Problem, Its Effect on the Children, and Innovative Advocacy Strategies to Address the Problem

ORANGE COUNTY 3

Charles Golbert, JD • Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago IL

Brian Finley, JD • Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago IL

Mark Ruehl, PhD • Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago IL

Some youth in care are vulnerable to mental health episodes that require short-term treatment in a psychiatric hospital due to trauma they have experienced. However, many states have a shortage of placements, especially for youth with specialized needs. As a result, youth sometimes languish in locked psychiatric hospitals after they are ready for discharge. During this time, they fall behind in school, are locked indoors for most of the day, have greatly curtailed ability to visit with family and friends, cannot participate in sports and extracurricular activities, and are housed with patients going through psychiatric and behavioral episodes. The children can feel abandoned and less valued than other kids. This is a profound violation of the children's civil and human rights. Moreover,

because psychiatric hospitalization is more expensive than other placements, the practice is a curse to the taxpayers as well as the impacted youth. The Public Guardian's Office of Cook County and the Chicago civil rights law firm of Loeuy & Loeuy entered into an innovative partnership to address this problem by filing a federal class action, money-damages lawsuit against the responsible state officials. This session will discuss the problem, how it impacts children, this innovative lawsuit, and other advocacy strategies to address the problem on behalf of individual youth and systemically.

A7 Assessing & Facilitating Placement Changes Through the Attachment Lens: Reducing Toxic Stress for Children in the Foster Care System

ORANGE COUNTY 4

Allison Maxon, LMFT • National Center on Adoption and Permanency, Mission Viejo CA

Tabatha Kallman, JD • Advokids, Corte Madera CA

Ms. Tabatha Kallman, JD, will introduce Advokids Hotline data and profile cases that demonstrate the complexities and challenges presented by placement disruptions. She will discuss a trauma-informed approach to analyzing a placement change, the questions that should be asked before a move, and the importance of preventing precipitous moves. Ms. Kallman will also discuss the importance of transition plans whenever a child experiences a non-emergency placement change. Ms. Allison Maxon, clinician, educator, and advocate specializing in attachment, child development and trauma, will outline attachment theory and types of attachment patterns as a way to understand the key clinical constructs in developmental and relational trauma. Infants and children must learn to attach in order to get their primary developmental needs met; repeated primary attachment disruptions create toxic stress and traumatic losses and often lead to attachment-deflecting behaviors as a mechanism of self-protection to avoid further psychic trauma and distress. Ms. Maxon will lead attendees through an activity, tools, and resources practitioners can apply to their cases to better assess, facilitate, and maintain healthy attachment relationships in a child's life.

12:00pm – 1:45pm

ELITE 2-3

Lunch on Your Own or Lunch & Learn: Human-Centered Design Solutions for Child Welfare: Introducing New Tools of the Trade

Jessica Mason, Founder and CEO

• The Social Impact Studio, Brookline MA

What if the child welfare system served families as quickly and efficiently as Amazon? With as much joy and delight as Disney? These organizations and the services they offer were explicitly designed to meet the fundamental interests, needs, and desires of the people who use them. How might we take the same approach to better serve children and families? This approach — Design Thinking — is spreading like wildfire across sectors. Proponents and converts alike are making big bets that it can revolutionize the way we address some of the world's most complex challenges. What is design for social impact? What does it look like in practice? What does it mean to design in an ethical and equity-centered way? Join us for an interactive session that asks and answers these questions with real stories from the field and opportunities to explore and practice design in the moment. This session will be applicable for both practicing attorneys representing children, parents and caregivers and to those involved in systems-level reform.

SEPARATE REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED

Breakout Session B**B1 Exploring Civil Rights Protections for Parents in Recovery from an Opioid Addiction** **PLATINUM 1-2****Carla Carter, JD** • U.S. DHHS – Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC**David Roman, JD** • U.S. DHHS – Office for Civil Rights, Washington DC

Federal civil rights laws may protect persons with a substance use disorder from unlawful discrimination in child welfare programs, activities, and services. Ensuring that persons in recovery from an opioid addiction have equal access to parenting opportunities increases the likelihood of positive child welfare outcomes for children and families. This workshop will provide essential information about how federal nondiscrimination laws apply to child welfare agencies and court systems with respect to a broad range of their activities, including investigations, child removal, parent-child visitation and child welfare hearings. The presentation will enrich the comprehension of these nondiscrimination laws and deepen understanding, through discussion of participants' experiences, of how child welfare agencies and state court systems can meet their responsibilities to promote the well-being of children and families while ensuring civil rights compliance for persons with opioid use disorders. This presentation will impart a strong foundational knowledge of when a drug addiction is and is not considered a disability under the ADA and Section 504, and the applicability of the definition of disability to individuals in recovery from an opioid use disorder.

B2 Permanency for LGBTQ+ Youth: Legal Strategies and Promising Practice to Empower Natural Supports **PLATINUM 3****Currey Cook, JD** • Lambda Legal, New York NY, NACC Board Member**Thomas Hudson** • Biden Foundation, Washington DC**Ariel Bustamante** • Los Angeles LGBT Center, Los Angeles CA**Shannan Wilber, JD** • National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco CA

LGBTQ+ youth are over-represented in systems of care across jurisdictions, are more likely to be placed in congregate care settings, and to exit the child welfare system having not achieved permanency. Despite the renewed emphasis on decreasing these outcomes, professionals serving LGBTQ+ youth still often struggle in engaging families/caregivers and communities of support that affirm the youth's identity. Blending the expertise of leading legal advocates, national advocacy campaigns, lived experience, and federally evaluated, evidence-informed intervention models, participants will learn about existing precedent and best practices in supporting LGBTQ+ youth's exit to permanency, as well as policy advocacy strategies and legal tools to affect systems-level change. This multidisciplinary workshop will particularly address the intersections of SOGIE, FFPSA, trauma-informed care, and client-directed advocacy.

B3 21st Century Child Welfare Permanency: Trends and Developments **ORANGE COUNTY 1****Meredith Schalick, JD, MS** • Rutgers Law School, Camden NJ**LaShanda Adams, JD** • UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, Washington DC, NACC Board Member

This session will provide attendees with critical information about permanency outcomes for children. Using AFCARS data, policy reports, legislative updates, and case law, the presen-

tation will offer an overview of permanency for youth along with information on programs and efforts to try to increase permanency rates, including reinstatement of parental rights and re-adoption. Focusing on all permanency outcomes, the session will identify lessons learned from trends and developments so that attendees can explore and consider changes in law or policy to improve permanency outcomes in their jurisdictions.

B4 A Judge, a Prosecutor, and a Defense Attorney Walk Into a Bar: An Interactive Discussion on Handling Cases in Small Communities **PLATINUM 4****Hon. Ellen Griffith** • Child Protection Court of the Permian Basin, Midland TX**Kimberly Toulet, JD** • Midland County Attorney's Office, Midland TX**Lilly Plummer, JD** • The Law Office of Lilly A Plummer, Odessa TX

In this presentation, a judge, a prosecutor, and an attorney who represents both parents and children, will engage the audience in an interactive discussion about the challenges of child welfare in smaller and rural communities, including the limited number of service providers, attorneys, foster homes, and other support systems. Limited resources present a problem across the country for those working to better the lives of children and their families. This collaborative session will provide an opportunity to brainstorm creative solutions to the unique problems facing the child welfare system.

B5 LAW OFFICE TRACK: Under Pressure: Using Reflective Case Consultation to Battle Burnout and Secondary Traumatic Stress **ORANGE COUNTY 2****Kim Cobb, MSW** • Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago IL**Alison Stankus, JD, MSW** • Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago IL**Elise Melrose, JD** • Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago IL**Alexandra Vargo, JD** • Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, Chicago, IL

Sustaining a cohort of dedicated professionals in today's children's law office requires a dual commitment. Maintaining and developing child advocates means not only cultivating expertise within the field, but also acknowledging the need to create space for staff to manage the impact of secondary traumatic stress (STS). This session aims to provide a concrete process to address the elephant in the room: attorneys, judges, and other child welfare professionals work closely with children and families who suffer shattering trauma. As a result, some of the most dedicated child advocates struggle with STS. The presentation will first discuss vicarious trauma, STS, and compassion fatigue; how these responses can negatively affect legal advocacy and client relationships; and how to combat compassion fatigue and burnout. The presentation will then introduce a project undertaken by the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian to address STS and compassion fatigue experienced by its staff, outlining its three-year program to date and introducing the reflective case consultation process, and involving the attendees in group and interactive exercises. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of both the successes and barriers the presenters have encountered in implementing the project, as well as guidelines and tools for duplicating the project in the participants' organizations.

B6 Addressing Education in Residential Treatment

ORANGE COUNTY 3

Hon. Rob Hofmann • 452nd Judicial District, Mason TX

Jamie Bernstein, JD • Supreme Court of Texas
Children's Commission, Austin TX

National data indicates education outcomes for children in foster care are poor. Challenges related to school stability, information sharing, meeting behavior-related needs, and providing special education and related services are all enhanced when a child is placed in Residential Treatment. The session will equip stakeholders with an understanding of relevant federal laws and opportunities for attorney and judicial engagement. The presentation will also address strategies for collaboration across the child welfare and education systems.

B7 Race and Class Disparities in Child Welfare and Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings: Prevalence, Causes, and Solutions

ORANGE COUNTY 4

Cara Nord, JD, CWLS • Office of the Child's Representative, Denver CO

Hon. Regina Walter, retired • Educating Children of Color Summit, LLC, Colorado Springs CO

This interactive session will open with questions testing participants' knowledge of statistics related to the prevalence of race and class disparities in child welfare and juvenile delinquency proceedings. The second segment will address the causes of race and class disparities. One cause — implicit bias — will be explored through hands-on activities. The closing segment will address potential solutions to race and class

disparities. Resources, practical tools, and strategies will be shared by the facilitators and the participants.

3:30pm - 4:00pm

Break

4:00pm - 5:30pm

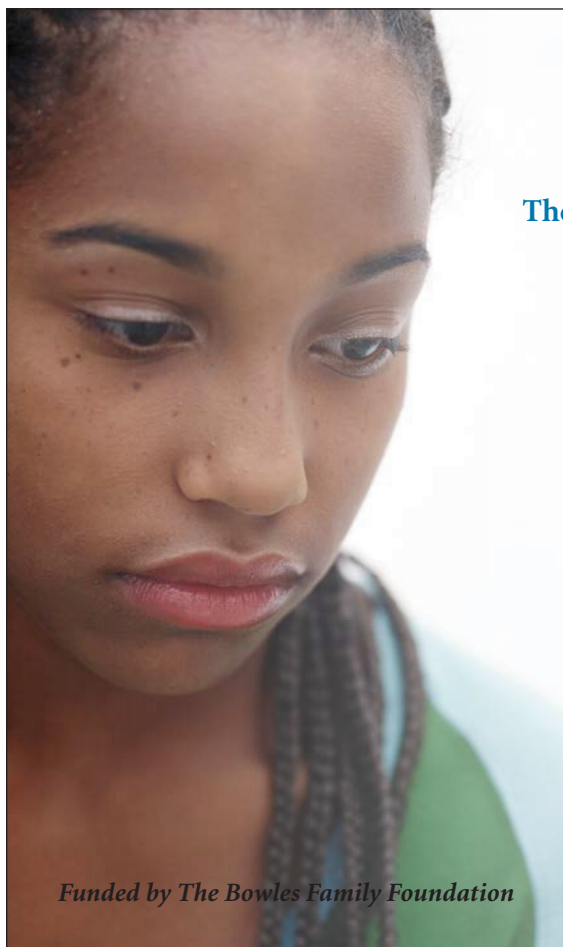
PLATINUM 5-6


Plenary Session I : Understanding the ABA Child Safety Guide and Using it to Offer Hope and Resilience

Robert Wyman, JD, MSW • Casey Family Programs, Seattle WA

Jennifer Renne, JD • ABA Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

The ABA's "Child Safety: A Guide for Judges and Lawyers" offers a structure of language and thought that enables child welfare court participants to analyze, discuss, negotiate, mediate, and litigate using commonly understood words and concepts that connect on-the-ground social work with court rule- and law-based findings and decisions. By building structure underneath broad legal language often found in child welfare laws, the Guide promotes clearer understanding of the reasons for child removal and the type of reasonable efforts that might have prevented it or would eliminate the need for it. It also should make more acute the disagreements that reach the courtroom, and leave smaller spaces for intuition, bias, and "gut feelings" that so often predominate the practice. During this session we will cover a basic overview of the Guide, with the hope it will prompt your further exploration. Then, we will explore the concept of Hope, its role in the success of families





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who achieve favorable outcomes in their case, and the means by which our advocacy can focus on building components of resilience rather than focus on identification of and fixing problems.

5:30pm – 6:30pm

PLATINUM LOBBY

Welcome Reception

Join NACC staff, board, conference attendees, and faculty in the Platinum Lobby for appetizers and drinks.

Tuesday, Aug 27, 2019

7:00am – 4:00pm

PLATINUM LOBBY

Registration and Exhibits

8:00am – 8:30am

PLATINUM 7-10

Breakfast

8:30am – 10:00am

PLATINUM 5-6

Plenary Session II : Indian Child Welfare Act: Impacts and Outcomes

Sheri Freemont, JD • Casey Family Programs, Denver CO, NACC Board Member

Jack Trope, JD • Casey Family Programs, Denver CO

Rosa Soto Alvarez • Pascua Yaqui Tribal Councilwoman

We will discuss legal updates, practice tips that are supported by ICWA gold standard principles that best serve children and families, as well as share a real-life example of how ICWA matters. Ms. Soto Alvarez is grateful to have been raised in her tribal community (thanks for ICWA) after her removal from her mother as a child. Her connection to her tribe and culture is demonstrative of the power of connection. She is now a tribal leader and advocate for ICWA nationwide.

10:00am – 10:30am

Break

10:30am – 12:00pm

Breakout Session C

C1 Continuity Counts: Coordinated Systems for Students in Transition

PLATINUM 1-2

Hailly Korman, JD • Bellwether Education Partners, Washington DC

Five million children and youth are cared for by our nation's social service agencies because they're experiencing homelessness, foster care placement, incarceration, or other challenges. And all of these young people will also show up in our schools while juggling other competing priorities. Can you put yourself in the shoes of one of these young people? Can you successfully navigate the kinds of circumstances they regularly face, like juggling schoolwork and childcare, preparing for the G.E.D. while employed full-time, or meeting the demands of a probation officer while trying to finish a high school diploma? Derived from real stories shared by actual students, *Rigged* is a choose-your-own-adventure-style game designed to represent the impossible tradeoffs that pit these young people's dreams, desires, and responsibilities against the wants and needs of the various adults placed in their lives

to support them through difficult transitions. With the goal of high school graduation in mind, participants will be asked to complete common tasks or solve plausible problems under the constraints faced by a real student on an authentic time-line. While difficult, it is possible for you to win the game by receiving your high school diploma. *Rigged* (thegameisrigged.org) illustrates the various challenges students experience daily and underscores the need for coherent and comprehensive systems that empower students to advocate for themselves and give the adults in their lives the resources they need to serve them well. In this session, participants will use Bellwether's interactive online empathy-building game to discuss three principles of coordinated systems to serve young people who have experienced disruptions to their education pathways. Participants will then learn about the ways that local advocates have effectively used the game to spark movement for policy change in public agencies as well as the ways that agency leaders have applied the three principles to reform their systems.

C2 Child Welfare & Immigration: Tools for Improving Outcomes for Immigrant Families in the Child Welfare System

PLATINUM 3

Rachel Prandini, JD • Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco CA

Neha Desai, JD • National Center for Youth Law, Oakland CA

Melissa Adamson, JD • National Center for Youth Law, Oakland CA

Over the past two years, policies impacting immigrant children have changed in profound and alarming ways. Enhanced immigration enforcement combined with a fear of engaging with social service agencies may lead to an increased risk of children in immigrant families entering the child welfare system. Recognizing the unique needs of this population and drawing from our respective expertise in children's rights and immigration law, the National Center for Youth Law and Immigrant Legal Resource Center collaborated to create a toolkit for child welfare agencies on working with immigrant families. In this session, the panelists will share best practices for working with detained or deported parents, identifying immigration relief options for children and families, using a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach, and collaborating with foreign consulates and embassies to achieve the best outcome for children and families. While the toolkit was created to inform the practice of child welfare agencies in California, a significant portion of its content is relevant to all states.

C3 Reproductive Health Equity for Foster Youth: Unpacking the Inequities and What Advocates Can Do

ORANGE COUNTY 1

Rebecca Gudeman, JD, MPA • National Center for Youth Law, Oakland CA

Luciana Svidler, JD • Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park CA

Recent research demonstrates harsh reproductive realities for youth in foster care. All foster youth are eligible for Medicaid services, and child welfare agencies are legally responsible for ensuring their health needs are met. Despite this, foster youth face disproportionately high rates of unintended pregnancy and childbirth, barriers to sexual health education and services, and too often, intentional coercion regarding reproductive choices. By age 21, approximately a third of foster and former foster youth will be parents, often unintentionally, which impacts their opportunities and outcomes in multiple areas. In this workshop, a panel of attorneys and youth with lived experience will present the latest data on sexual and

reproductive health outcomes for youth in care using national and local data, and unpack some of the structural barriers that have led to such outcomes, including explicit and implicit bias. Participants will explore their own values and biases relating to sexual and reproductive health for youth. The panel will also discuss strategies being piloted by the Los Angeles Reproductive Health Equity Project (LA RHEP), a partnership of cross-sector stakeholders and a youth advisory board working to dismantle systemic barriers to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care services for youth in care, and decrease rates of unintended pregnancy. Using lessons learned and youth voice, the panel and participants will consider how these strategies can apply across jurisdictions, and the specific roles that judges, caseworkers, caregivers, advocates, and others can play in supporting the healthy sexual development of youth.

C4 Supporting the Education Outcomes of Foster and Probation Youth

PLATINUM 4

Jill Rowland, JD • Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles CA
Alaina Moonves-Leb, JD, MA • Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles CA

Those working with foster and probation youth often ask the youth how they are doing in school, and we know that nationally the answer is "extremely poorly." However, the way that those who work with youth in schools and in and out of court respond to that poor performance can make an incredible difference in closing the achievement gap. Youth in care face a multitude of challenges due to trauma, mobility, and, in many cases, a history of unmet needs. To truly impact foster youth, it is crucial to understand their unique challenges and provide targeted interventions. The Foster Youth Education Toolkit, created in partnership between key California groups working with foster youth from all different perspectives, including the Alliance for Children's Rights, the California Department of Education, the Child Welfare Council, and the Association of California School Administrators, provides the blueprint for how school districts can build a comprehensive foster youth education program. In addition to school districts, foster youth also need the support of those in the court system to succeed in their education. In 2018, the Court Companion to the Toolkit was created in partnership with the groups representing attorneys for youth, judges, and other court-based professionals. This document follows the same format of laws, best practices, and tools, but is specifically catered to those supporting foster and probation youth in court including social workers, probation officers, attorneys for youth and parents, and judges. The presentation will highlight these tools and how to utilize them to support positive education outcomes for foster and probation youth. Topics covered will include national issues related to school stability and ESSA, and California-specific rights including immediate enrollment, partial credits, and AB 167/216 graduation.

C5 LAW OFFICE TRACK: Developing Training for Adult Learners

ORANGE COUNTY 2

Andrew Yost, JD, PhD • Public Knowledge, LLC, Federal Way WA
Allison Olson, MS • Public Knowledge, LLC, Federal Way WA
Stacey Obrecht, JD, CWLS • Public Knowledge, LLC, Cheyenne WY

Do you need training, or do you need a learning program? Can you build from what you already have or do you need to start from scratch? How do you decide? Where do you start? In this session on designing and developing trainings, participants will learn about adult learning theory and how to apply it to the design and construction of learning opportunities for

your court system. We will provide design and development resources, online learning templates, and ideas of where and how to begin to improve your training!

C6 The Stubbornness of Inequity: Implicit Bias and its Systemic Impact in Perpetuating Institutional Racism

ORANGE COUNTY 3

Hon. Robert Lowenbach, CWLS •
J. Robert Lowenbach Consulting, Greeley, CO

For years, professionals within the child welfare, juvenile justice and adult criminal systems have recognized the unfairness of over-representation and disparate outcomes for children, families and persons of color in our systems. Various strategies have been employed to mitigate these disparities. Unfortunately, the inequities persist. In order for our brains to work efficiently, a great deal of activity must go on behind the scenes. In general, this is a blessing that allows us to "act" on routine matters without "thinking." But what if this "hidden" thought process is influenced by improper considerations? This session is designed to help participants gain insight into how their "history" influences all of their decisions and may lead them to decisions that are influenced by improper biases. Finally, participants will learn that implicit bias and institutional racism is not a subject that can be affected by individual action alone. Participants will work with their colleagues to strategize on the broad and inclusive actions that are necessary to impact these inequities.

C7 Plan of Safe Care: What Legal Professionals Need to Know About Serving Mothers Affected by Opioid Use Disorders

ORANGE COUNTY 4

Gail Barber, MSW • Children and Family Futures, Lake Forest CA
Carma Umpleby • Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Centers, Phoenix AZ
Sabrina Ayers Fisher, JD • Office of the Public Advocate, Maricopa County, Mesa AZ

In July 2016, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) was signed into law, including amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The CAPTA amendments focused on improving well-being and safety for infants affected by prenatal substance exposure and their families or caregivers by: including both legal and illegal substances in the categories of infants to be identified, specifying requirements for notification to child protective services, stipulating the development of a plan of safe care that includes the treatment needs of the family or caregiver in the plan, and increasing the monitoring requirements. This presentation highlights opportunities provided by the recent legislative changes to improve outcomes for families affected by substance use disorders and help families remain together safely. Presenters will discuss approaches attorneys can take to support parents with substance use disorders and advocate for family-centered plans of safe care to improve safety, permanency, well-being, and recovery outcomes. Representatives participating in the National Quality Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams will discuss how they developed a collaborative team to address the needs of infants and families affected by substance use disorders and prenatal substance exposure. They will highlight strategies for best practices to adapting a family-centered collaborative approach and ensuring that parents affected by opioid use disorders are properly connected to medical, substance use disorder, and recovery support services.

Annual Luncheon

David Ambroz • Co-Founder, FosterMore, Los Angeles CA

David Ambroz, co-founder of FosterMore with lived experience from the foster care system, to law, to corporate philanthropy, will discuss the power of media to change public perception and outcomes for youth and families. FosterMore is a coalition of businesses and philanthropic organizations across an array of industries that has come together to build a better future for youth in foster care. The organization's goal is to rebrand America's foster youth by celebrating their accomplishments and potential, securing support for academic success, and creating a pipeline of potential foster parents. The organization recently launched the Donate Your Small Talk campaign, an initiative that asks America to stop wasting their small talk on mindless conversations on things like the weather or weekend plans, and donate it to talk Foster Care. Because just talking about Foster Care can help foster care. Attendees will gain insights in communications and messaging to inform their own work.

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Breakout Session D

D1 Employing a Harm Reduction Approach to Serving Children and Youth Who have been Commercially Sexually Exploited: A Blueprint of California's Approach

PLATINUM 1–2

Mae Ackerman-Brimberg, JD, MSW • National Center for Youth Law, Collaborative Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative, Oakland CA

Leslie Starr Heimov, JD, CWLS • Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park CA, NACC Board Member

Kelley Hartman, BA • California Department of Social Services, Sacramento CA

Currently, no evidence-based best practices exist for serving commercially sexually exploited (CSE) children and youth. However, the harm-reduction approach has been recognized as a promising practice to engage and meet the unique needs of this population. Harm-reduction is grounded in the principle that the individuals receiving and engaging in services, youth in this context, are the central practitioners of harm-reduction. Service providers are the facilitators, whose role is to connect those youth to programs and services. The framework acknowledges the youth's own agency and centers that child in decision-making. Contrary to traditional approaches, harm-reduction instead prioritizes long-term safety; recognizing lasting change is not immediate, trust-building takes time, and returning to exploitive situations is a part of the recovery process. In this workshop, participants will first learn a brief historical context of the harm-reduction approach and evidence of its impact when used to support individuals with substance use disorders, as well as adult sex workers. Further, the presenters will demonstrate how the approach is applied to CSE youth, its limitations and barriers, and how utilizing such an approach is beneficial and impactful.

D2 How Children's Lawyers Can Transform the Child Welfare System

PLATINUM 3

Angela Orkin, JD • True North Child Advocates, Atlanta GA

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

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

Can children's attorneys transform the child welfare system by reducing the time kids are in care? Absolutely. Any children's

lawyer, in any state, with any judge, and any child welfare agency, has the power to transform the system. It can all start with a single case, or it can be a systemwide effort. In this session, the hosts of The Children's Law Podcast will show concrete ways to reduce the time children spend in foster care and will address common barriers to getting children home. Attendees will leave this presentation armed with the confidence to take on the issues that prevent good outcomes for kids. And yes, to transform the system.

D3 Civil Rights in Child Welfare Practice ORANGE COUNTY 1

Dylan de Kervor, JD, MSW • U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Federal Coordination & Compliance Section, Washington DC

Emy Lopez • A2JConsultants, Denver CO

Naike Savain, JD • Children's Law Center, Washington DC

Child welfare agencies and courts have seen an increase in the number of limited English proficient (LEP) families receiving child welfare services and interacting with courts. As a result, complex factors such as linguistic interventions and legal concerns related to civil rights often complicate child welfare decision-making. Using short, hypothetical case studies, a panel of civil rights, court, and child welfare experts will identify and discuss barriers LEP families may encounter through the continuum of child welfare interventions with a special focus on court proceedings, the role of federal civil rights laws and enforcement, and promising strategies to ensure LEP families have improved outcomes.

D4 The Every Kid Needs a Family Initiative: Towards Family-Like Placements for All Children

PLATINUM 4

Kristi Lovelace, JD, CWLS • J. Kristi Lovelace & Associates, Jackson GA

Sue Lake, JD, CWLS • Children's Legal Services of San Diego, San Diego, CA

Anissa Patton, JD, CWLS • Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney, Newnan GA

Children do better living in families, but forty percent are placed in congregate care without a demonstrated clinical or behavioral need. Last year, NACC, with the ABA, created an advocacy tool to assist attorneys in advocating for placement in family settings. This year, NACC formed a pilot workgroup of CWLS attorneys to use the toolkit in court hearings and discuss the use of the toolkit. The toolkit provides a framework for advocacy and questions to ask in court based on law, social science, and equity. This workshop will discuss the toolkit and report on the workgroup progress so far.

D5 LAW OFFICE TRACK: Development of an Effective and Progressive Practice Model for Child Welfare Representation ORANGE COUNTY 2

Janice Wolf, JD, CWLS • Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas NV

Amy Honodel, JD, CWLS • Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas NV

Kimberly Abbott, JD • Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas NV

The presenters will discuss the development of a sustainable and progressive system of representation for children in dependency/protection proceedings. The presentation will include ideas and approaches in fundraising, legislative efforts to advance child rights and protection, staff development and training, and relationships with community partners and stake holders.

D6 Expert Witnesses: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How?

ORANGE COUNTY 3

Chris Henderson, JD, MA • Office of the Child's Representative, Denver CO

Cara Nord, JD, CWLS • Office of the Child's Representative, Denver CO

In this interactive session, participants will enhance their trial skills related to expert witnesses by analyzing a fact pattern and discussing a variety of legal topics. First, participants will identify who they would like to call as witnesses to support their position and whether those witnesses would need to be qualified as experts. This identification will lead to discussions of lay versus expert opinions, evidentiary rules regarding experts and how these standards differ/play out in different states. Of particular interest will be a discussion of whether and how caseworkers are being treated across the county. Second, participants will analyze considerations regarding the decision to identify a witness and/or endorse a witness as an expert. This analysis will lead to discussions of how privilege/confidentiality issues are playing out in Colorado and other states. Third, participants will identify the planning/preparation/procedures necessary to successfully call the person as an expert. This identification will lead to discussions of disclosure and payment issues, as well as effective preparation of expert witnesses. Finally, participants will develop a plan for an effective direct and cross examination of the expert, which will include hands-on trial skills practice.

D7 Advocating for a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System: A New Approach to System Reform Litigation

ORANGE COUNTY 4

Tara Ford, JD, CWLS • Stanford Law School, Stanford CA

Kathryn Eidmann, JD • Public Counsel, Los Angeles CA

This session will address a new approach to the use of class action litigation to catalyze reform of the child welfare and behavioral health systems pioneered in *Kevin S. v. Jacobson*, the recently filed system reform litigation in New Mexico. The case, filed on behalf New Mexico foster youth, Disability Rights New Mexico and the Native American Disability Law Center, is an innovative approach to child welfare reform litigation in two respects: First, *Kevin S.* is organized around the principle that the state has a legal obligation to protect the health and well-being of the children in its care by affirmatively addressing and accommodating the impact of trauma in the child welfare system. We know that every child entering foster care is highly likely to have experienced multiple forms of trauma and that exposure to complex trauma deeply impacts child development, health, and well-being. Second, *Kevin S.* recognizes that providing foster youth with the essential care, stability, treatment, and support to which they are entitled requires a coordinated approach at the intersection of both child welfare and behavioral health systems. It therefore includes claims against both agencies and brings disability discrimination, substantive due process, and Medicaid Act claims. It further incorporates the unique needs of Native foster youth by including claims under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Breakout Session E

E1 Reasonable Efforts and Relative Preference

PLATINUM 1-2

Hon. Leonard Edwards, retired • Los Altos Hills CA

This session will focus on federal law regarding reasonable efforts and relative preference. This will be an interactive session in which the presenter will address the following: how to change in-court behavior, the structure of juvenile court regarding appointment of attorneys, the importance of reasonable efforts findings, and how to elevate reasonable efforts to prevent removal arguments in court proceedings.

E2 Litigation Strategy Workshop: How to Advance Children's and Parent's Rights Before State Courts

PLATINUM 3

Marsha Levick, JD • Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA

Jessica Feerman, JD • Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia PA

This session will explore current, front-line issues in the child welfare space that present systemic problems and that may be ripe for systemic litigation challenges in the state courts. Because the federal courts have generally considered many dependency issues to be most properly addressed through the state courts, we will work with workshop attendees to identify key challenges for parent and child litigants and then map out specific state court strategies to address them. We will discuss the importance of making a record for appeal; identify potentially favorable jurisdictions; discuss "best plaintiff" strategies; and propose a blueprint for addressing issues.

E3 The Family First Prevention Services Act: Protecting Children, Keeping Families Together, and Advancing Equity

ORANGE COUNTY 1

Alexandra Citrin, MSW, MA • Senior Associate, The Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington DC

The Family First Prevention Services Act realigns child welfare financing with what research tells us is best for children and families, however, in order for the intent and vision of the law to be achieved implementation is critical. States must seize the opportunity to promote and support better outcomes for all children and families — including for children and families of color, LGBTQ+ youth, and expectant and parenting youth. During this breakout session participants will learn about the basic concepts and requirements of FFPSA, opportunities for advancing equity, areas of concerns in implementation related to increasing disproportionalities and disparities, and strategies for improving the system's ability to support children, youth, and families.

E4 Recognizing and Representing the "Other" Child: Bi/Multi-Racial Children in Foster Care

PLATINUM 4

Heather Wilson, JD • Children's Law Center of California, Lancaster CA

Pamela Wright, JD • Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park CA

The U.S. Supreme Court, in one of its landmark civil rights decisions *Loving v. Virginia* (1967), struck down all state laws banning interracial marriage. Thirty-three years later, the 2000 United States Census allowed persons to self-identify as more than one race, for the very first time in U.S. census history. Increasingly, marking "Other" as the only option for persons who identify with more than one race, is not feasible or truly reflective of the population, both in and outside the

3:30pm – 4:00pm

Break

child welfare system. This session will address how to better serve bi-racial/multi-racial children and families in the child welfare system. We will discuss the significance of recognizing that bi-racial/multi-racial children and families exist and the reasons this population has historically been ignored. Participants will also learn about the benefits and challenges bi-racial/multi-racial children and families in the foster care system face, as they relate to placement, services, reunification, permanency planning, and policy.

E5 LAW OFFICE TRACK: New Mexico's Interdisciplinary Representation **ORANGE COUNTY 2**

Leslie Jones, JD, CWLS • New Mexico Family Advocacy Program, Santa Fe NM

Caitlin DiFiore, LMSW • New Mexico Family Advocacy Program, Albuquerque NM

Queva Hubbard • New Mexico Family Advocacy Program, Santa Fe NM

The session will educate and call practitioners to think deeply about changing the way families in the child welfare system are represented. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a panel conversation describing New Mexico's interdisciplinary model of practice through the use of interdisciplinary teams consisting of an attorney, licensed social worker, and parent mentor, and how this model has experienced increased parent engagement, improved the accuracy of assessments for needed services, and increased collaboration between the judiciary, child welfare agencies, services providers, and parents. This model is designed to strengthen families by increasing the overall well-being of parents and their engagement in their child welfare case, which directly impacts the well-being of their children and the likelihood of successful reunification. I.) Leslie Jones will discuss in depth the role of interdisciplinary practice, her experience from a parents' attorney perspective, and the outcomes she's experienced as a result of this practice model. Christi Fields will discuss the clinical case management perspective and how she collaborates with attorneys, parents, child welfare agencies, and community service providers. Queva Hubbard will discuss her role as a parent mentor and how her personal experience helps encourage parents in moving forward towards successful outcomes. II.) A case scenario will be presented, and the panelists will discuss how they would interface with the facts, circumstances, and parties to the case through their role in the interdisciplinary practice model. The panel can also take questions about their responses to the case scenario. III.) The session will end with Sarah Jacobs (CIP Director) discussing how New Mexico's courts and child welfare agency have come together to support interdisciplinary representation, the steps they collaboratively took to seek federal support, involvement in the ABA's Family Justice Initiative, current state legislation, and New Mexico's active efforts to improve legal representation.

E6 Helping Victims Become Survivors: Specialized Courts for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children **ORANGE COUNTY 3**

Jessica Heldman, JD • Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego CA

Fanny Yu, JD • San Diego County District Attorney's Office, San Diego CA

Kimberly Oros, JD • Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park CA

With increased awareness of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and recent legislative reforms aimed at preventing victimization and better serving victims, a number of juvenile courts have developed innovative models to address the needs of CSEC. With specialized dockets and

dedicated and trained attorneys and judges, dependency and delinquency courts can play a vital role in establishing a well-informed and responsive approach to effectively serving this population of youth. This workshop will provide an overview of various CSEC court models from around the nation, as well as a detailed look at the San Diego RISE (Resiliency is Strength and Empowerment) Court and the Los Angeles DREAM (Dedication to Restoration through Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentoring) Court from attorneys who developed and staff the programs. The RISE Court is a collaborative program that uses a multidisciplinary approach to address the needs of delinquent youth who are victims of exploitation. The DREAM Court provides a specialized courtroom in which all staff are trained to work with dependent exploited youth, providing increased expertise, consistency in practice, and better outcomes for CSEC. The workshop will describe the process of establishing a specialized CSEC court, explain the current functioning of these trauma-informed and harm reduction approach models, and explore lessons learned from the experience within the existing courts.

E7 Integrative Interviewing: What State-of-the-Art Child Interviewing Teaches Minors' Counsel About Questioning Clients Before and During Trial **ORANGE COUNTY 4**

Thomas Lyon, JD, PhD • University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, Los Angeles CA

Jacqueline Phillips, JD • Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park CA

Meghan Grim, JD, CWLS • Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park CA

This session will focus on effective interviewing of child clients and integration of those skills into the everyday practice of dependency counsel. Participants will review Dr. Lyon's 10 Step Investigative Interviewing Process and discuss how application of this interviewing methodology can help attorneys to conduct thorough and powerful independent investigations, resulting in well-informed advocacy. This session will also address how these investigative interviewing skills can be adapted for use in court during trials to elicit effective, streamlined, and results-oriented client testimony that will create a powerful record to support your arguments and rebuff objections.

5:30pm – 8:00pm

PLATINUM 5–6

Movie Night : FOSTER

Film Screening with Introduction by Kim Dvorchak

Q&A Discussion after the Movie with:

Filmmaker Deborah Oppenheimer

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

Jessica Chandler, MSW • Children's Social Worker, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services

Lanny Wilson • CARE Case Manager, Children's Law Center of California

Oscar®-winning filmmakers Deborah Oppenheimer and Mark Jonathan Harris (Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport) reunite to go beyond the sensational headlines and stereotypes to upend some of the most enduring myths about foster care and those involved in the system. Interweaving gripping personal stories of children and youth, parents and foster parents, with deep insights from social workers, advocates, judges, and others, FOSTER traces a complex path through an often misunderstood world.

Wednesday, Aug 28, 2019

Notes

7:30am – 12:00pm

PLATINUM LOBBY

Registration and Exhibits

8:00am – 8:30am

PLATINUM 7-10

Breakfast

8:30am – 10:15am

PLATINUM 5-6

**Plenary Session III : From Our Perspective:
Engaging Young People in the Implementation
of the Family First Act**

Angel Petite, BS • FosterClub, Seaside OR

Tim Decker, BA • Social Innovation Partners, LLC, Jefferson
City MO (formerly Director of the Missouri Children's Division)

**Members of the National Foster Youth & Alumni
Policy Council**

The Family First Prevention Services Act is the most monumental piece of child welfare legislation in over 20 years; to ensure meaningful implementation it is essential that youth expertise leads and informs implementation. Whether you are a judge, attorney, or advocate, learn how you can ensure your work is informed by youth perspective. We believe experience equals expertise. Explore the profound impact that including youth expertise can have when considering how to effectively serve children, youth, and families. Join an interactive dialogue with members of National Foster Youth & Alumni Policy Council. Discuss opportunities and priorities regarding prevention services, ensuring appropriate placements (including congregate care/group home placements), post-permanence supports, and improved supports for older youth, including Chafee and ETV services.

10:15am – 10:30am

Break

10:30am – 12:00pm

PLATINUM 5-6

**Plenary Session IV : When Opportunity
Knocks: Leveraging Title IV-E Funding to
Advance Legal Representation for Children and
Families**

David Kelly, JD, MA • Children's Bureau, Washington DC

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

Jill Malat, JD, CWLS • Office of Civil Legal Aid, Seattle WA

Vivek Sankaran, JD, CWLS • University of Michigan
School of Law & Casey Family Programs, Ann Arbor MI

Dan Wilde, JD • Wyoming Guardian ad Litem Program, Cheyenne WY

The federal government recently expanded how the states can receive reimbursement for foster-care-related expenses to include reimbursement for funds spent providing legal representation to children and parents in child welfare proceedings. This session will provide up-to-the-minute developments on this exciting new policy and how states and practitioners have leveraged funding to improve legal representation.

12:00pm – 12:05pm

PLATINUM 5-6

**43rd National Child Welfare Law Conference
Registration Raffle**

Please be sure to visit these exhibitors

located throughout the Platinum Lobby



2020 2021 SAVE THE DATES

2020 NACC Conference

August 24–26, 2020

PRE-CONFERENCE AUG 23

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront

2021 NACC Conference

August 14–16, 2021

PRE-CONFERENCE AUG 13

Hyatt Regency Denver

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

The NACC

Founded in 1977, the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the rights, well-being, and opportunities of children impacted by the child welfare system through access to high-quality legal representation. NACC provides programs and resources that improve the quality of legal representation for children, parents, and agencies; we support a community of hard-working and dedicated professionals and help attract and retain diverse talent in the children's legal advocacy profession; and we advocate for policies that advance rights, including the right to counsel for children and parents.

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