

NEXT GEN NEWS



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Hi! My name is Leyda Garcia-Greenawalt, and I have the pleasure of being the National Law School Student Organizer for NACC. I would like to welcome you to Next Generation News! NACC is excited to create and hold this space in the Guardian for students to share their work and ideas with other professionals in the field of child welfare. Students can also submit their research, write a brief op-ed or policy analysis, and give advice to future generations of law students. Perhaps even sharing some child welfare-related books and movies and reviewing them. The possibilities are endless!

In that same spirit, I ask that you indulge me as I share about an incredible program that I had the privilege to be a part of. My “Dear Diary” moment, if you will. I recently attended the Bergstrom Child Welfare Law Fellowship Training in Ann Arbor, Michigan from May 23rd to May 25th. Alongside fellow NACC student members and new colleagues, I learned from experts in the child welfare field about trauma, advocacy, bias, poverty, and race. We were joined by presenters from all over the country such as Professor Vivek Sankaran, Professor Sacha Coupet, Dr. Jim Henry, Professor Frank Vandervort, Judge T.J. Ackert, Rick Barinbaum, and Christopher Church. To be a Bergstrom Fellow is to be a part of a network of over 100 professionals who have, in the last 30+ years, sat in the same seat I’m sitting in. There’s comfort in knowing that the future of children’s lawyering is in the hands of such courageous, loving, and strong-minded powerhouses. After attending this program, I eagerly look forward to attending my first NACC conference in Baltimore this summer, where we will be joined by Professor Vivek Sankaran and his colleagues (see the [NACC 2022 Dual Conference eBrochure](#) for conference information).

Thank you for allowing me this moment to share my thoughts with you. If you have something you’d like to share with Next Generation News, please email me at Leyda.GarciaGreenawalt@NACCchildlaw.org. I can’t wait to hear from you! ■