



# JOIN US AT THE 46TH NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE LAW CONFERENCES

## 2023 DUAL CONFERENCE In Minneapolis... and Online



### ONSITE CONFERENCE

Aug 10-12, 2023

PRE-CONFERENCE  
AUG 9  
Hyatt Regency  
Minneapolis



### ONLINE CONFERENCE

Sep 20-22, 2023

Online conference registration is included with Minneapolis dual-conference registration, or may be purchased separately.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**STAY INFORMED**

Details are posted to [NACCchildlaw.org](https://NACCchildlaw.org) as they become available.

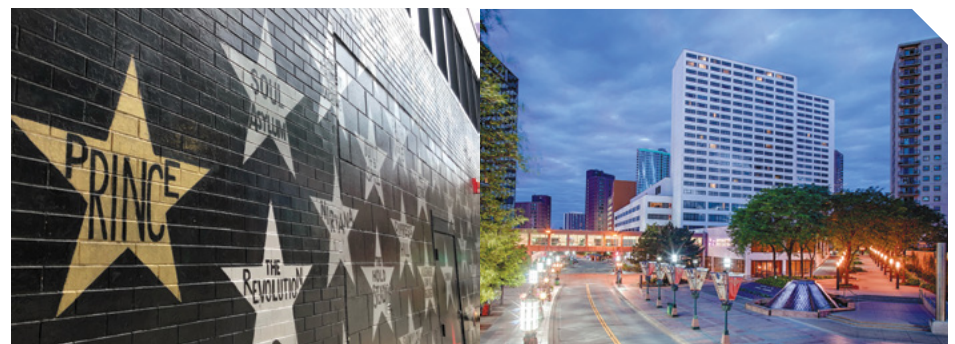
# NACC

National Association  
of Counsel for Children

## From Learning to Action: Shared Accountability for Disrupting Harm and Promoting Healing

This year's conference theme recognizes that all system actors have a shared responsibility to promote family integrity, center the voices and experiences of individuals with lived expertise, engage in authentic partnerships, and actively work towards equity and justice.

These continue to be trying times but know this – each and every one of you can make a meaningful impact. We thank our expert presenters for providing us the tools, strategies, and techniques we need to serve children, parents, families, and kin – and we thank all of you for your commitment to this work. You inspire and motivate us!



△ FIRST AVENUE CONCERT VENUE IN THE HISTORIC GREYHOUND BUS DEPOT

△ HYATT REGENCY DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS



## WELCOME TO THE 46TH NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE LAW CONFERENCE!



We are thrilled to host this annual gathering of child welfare law, policy, and advocacy professionals in Minneapolis for three days of learning and exchange. Thank you to this year’s conference sponsors and exhibitors for helping make this event possible.

NACC acknowledges we gather on the ancestral and occupied homelands of the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations. NACC further acknowledges the labor of captive and enslaved Africans held in Minnesota. We remember George Floyd and all victims of police violence. To move beyond acknowledgement to action NACC has made donations to two local non-profit organizations: the **ICWA Law Center**, which strengthens, preserves, and reunites Indian families and tribes and **Seeds Worth Sowing** which supports Black and brown parents and caregivers in Minneapolis through economic support and community connection. Please consider making your own donation.



The theme of this year’s conference is *From Learning to Action: Shared Accountability for Disrupting Harm and Promoting Healing*. Our theme builds upon last year’s theme of learning and unlearning. As Maya Angelou said “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” All of us have a shared responsibility to promote family integrity, center the voices and experiences of individuals with lived experience, and actively work towards equity and justice. This year’s conference program translates bold, innovative ideas into action, and provides concrete tips and skills for all attorneys and professionals to integrate into their daily practice.

### AT NACC, YOUR PRACTICE IS OUR PURPOSE.

Our staff, Board of Directors, and Emeritus Board are here to serve and support your conference experience. This event is a rich opportunity to learn, to improve skills, build community, and find renewed inspiration and commitment to this work. Throughout the conference we encourage you to network with NACC’s National Advisory Council on Children’s Legal Representation (NACCLR) and connect with your NACC State Coordinator.

Thank you for joining us and for the work you do every day. Our work and our responsibilities are intense, and self-care is paramount. We hope you take some time to explore Minneapolis and have some fun at NACC’s Paisley Park tour and 80’s Dance Party. Snap a photo at our step and repeat, post on the conference app, and join the conversation on social media.

We are NACC. Together we are Promoting Excellence, Building Community, Advancing Justice.

Kim Dvorchak, JD  
Executive Director

LaShanda Taylor Adams, JD  
Board President

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING YOUR OWN DONATION TO THESE LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.



The ICWA Law Center





## ABOUT NACC

Founded in 1977, the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is a nonprofit professional membership and advocacy organization dedicated to advancing justice for children, youth, and families.

NACC trains and certifies attorneys who represent children, families, and agencies; supports a diverse community of professionals; and advocates for policy reform alongside young people and families.

The child welfare system often separates children from parents or guardians accused of abuse or neglect. A judge in family court determines whether to remove a child from their family and place them in the foster care system. The court decides where a child will live, where they will go to school, and what contact they will have with their family. The system affects hundreds of thousands of young people in the United States each year – disproportionately children from low-income families and children of color. Family separation is often traumatizing. A child involved in these proceedings needs a well-trained lawyer to ensure the court hears their voice, protects their rights, and keeps them safely with their family when possible. With a child's safety and connection to family at stake, court proceedings work best when all parties – children, parents, and agencies – have legal representation. NACC helps lawyers do this important work. NACC is the only national organization accredited by the American Bar Association to certify attorneys as Child Welfare Law Specialists.

### OUR MISSION

NACC advances children's and parents' rights by supporting a diverse, inclusive community of child welfare lawyers to provide zealous legal representation and by advocating for equitable, anti-racist solutions co-designed by people with lived experience.

### OUR VISION

Every child, parent, and family is well-supported in their community and has equitable access to justice through culturally responsive, client-centered legal representation.



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



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



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



## THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE ABSTRACT WORKGROUP!

Kathryn Banks

Amy Karp

Judy Peterson

Hon. Karen Braxton

Debra Kovats

Kristen Pisani-Jacques

Currey Cook

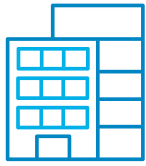
Christina Lewis

Kayla Powell

Louis Gasper

Judy Nord

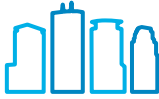
Jennifer Thompson



## THE HOTEL [↗](#)

Our onsite conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Rooms are available for \$165 per night for a single king or two queens. [Book your stay now!](#)

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403



## THE CITY [↗](#)

Explore [Minneapolis](#) and its [Cultural Districts](#). Support [Black-owned businesses](#), [Native American-owned businesses](#), [Hispanic-owned businesses](#), and support the [LGBTQ+ Community and businesses](#).



## 2023 COVID PRACTICES

NACC is mindful of the health and safety of all attendees at the 46th National Child Welfare Law Conference in Minneapolis. NACC currently does not require proof of vaccinations, waivers, or masks at any of our onsite events. However, circumstances and public health recommendations can change, and it may be necessary to adhere to new mandates required by the hotel, city, or state. We will keep all attendees updated on any changes that may impact the conference.

NACC will have hand sanitizer and disposable masks available throughout the conference. In addition, we ask all attendees who are feeling unwell or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, to kindly not attend the conference.



## SPONSOR, EXHIBIT, ADVERTISE [↗](#)

Sponsorship, Exhibiting, and Advertising are excellent ways to promote your organization, products, and services to a wide range of multidisciplinary legal professionals serving children and families.

We offer the option to designate all or a portion of your sponsorship to scholarships for attendees with financial need, who are students, and/or who advance diversity in the child welfare legal profession.



## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION CREDITS

NACC is seeking CLE accreditation in select states for live onsite and online participation. We are not seeking accreditation for self-study or on-demand formats. See more information beginning on [page 30](#). If you have any questions regarding CLE, please email [CLE@NACCchildlaw.org](mailto:CLE@NACCchildlaw.org).



## CONFERENCE APP

More information is coming – be sure to check back soon.

The first 500 attendees will receive free copies of *A Child of the Indian Race: A Story of Return*, by Sandy White Hawk, and *A Place Called Home*, by David Ambroz — our featured speakers in Minneapolis!

THESE MATERIALS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT AND SUPPORT FROM CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS.



[www.Casey.org](http://www.Casey.org)

NACC EXTENDS A **SPECIAL THANKS** TO OUR 2023 CONFERENCE SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS!

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSORS



AND A BIG THANKS TO Institute to Transform Child Protection FOR THE **AFTERNOON COFFEE BREAKS!**

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





**ONSITE AT THE  
HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS  
THURSDAY, AUG 10 – SATURDAY, AUG 12**

JUMP TO ONLINE PROGRAM [↗](#)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9** **ONSITE** **PRE-CONFERENCE** ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME

7:30AM – 5:30PM	<b>REGISTRATION DESK</b>	Nicollet Alcove, 1st Floor
8:00AM – 5:00PM	<b>EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE INSTALLATION</b>	Mirage, 2nd Floor
9:00AM – 5:00PM	<b>EXHIBITORS</b>	Nicollet Promenade, 1st Floor

**9:00AM – 4:30PM** **RED BOOK TRAINING, 4TH EDITION** [↗](#) Lakeshore Ballroom, 1st Floor

**PRESENTER** **Betsy Fordyce, JD, CWLS**

The Red Book Training is NACC’s signature training, designed to provide a comprehensive overview of child welfare law and practice as well as to assist attorneys in preparing for the Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) certification exam. This one-day training is based on the newly published 4th edition of *Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents, and Agencies in Neglect, Abuse, and Dependency Cases* – more commonly known as the Red Book. The training will cover the following areas of the Red Book, as well as practice exam questions:

- Overarching Legal Structure and Themes
- Legal Case from Beginning to End
- Discrete Issues
- Lawyering Roles
- Essential Lawyering Skills

**SEPARATE REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED** [↗](#) | **BOX LUNCH INCLUDED**

**10:00AM – 4:30PM** **CHILDREN’S LAW OFFICE PROJECT CONVENING** Nicollet Ballroom A, 1st Floor

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

**SEPARATE REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED** [↗](#) | **BOX LUNCH INCLUDED**

**10:00AM – 10:15AM** **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CHILDREN’S LAW OFFICE GUIDEBOOK**

**10:15AM – 11:15AM** **SHATTERING FALSE STIGMAS AND STEREOTYPES ABOUT FOSTER CARE**

**PRESENTER** **Keri Richmond, BS** – Unbelievably Resilient  
**Cordelia Cranshaw, MSW** – Unbelievably Resilient

In this session, Unbelievably Resilient will share their personal experiences moving from trauma to triumph to equip the audience with tangible ways that they can help to shift the conversation in the child welfare system



from harmful narratives to rewriting the messaging in a way that encourages solutions. Speakers will share how to reframe these issues in a way that shatters the false stigmas and stereotypes about individuals involved in the foster care system, leads to solutions, and highlights strategies that hold lived experts at the center of this work in the most ethical and respectful way.

11:15AM – 11:30AM **BREAK**

11:30AM – 12:30PM **TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN COLORADO: THE TRANSITION TO CLIENT-DIRECTED LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

**PRESENTERS** Ashley Chase, JD, CWLS – Office of the Child’s Representative  
Sheri Danz, JD, CWLS – Office of the Child’s Representative  
Chris Henderson, JD – Office of the Child’s Representative

Colorado’s Office of the Child’s Representative (OCR) will present on their recent efforts to transition from a best interests of the child legal model to a client-directed legal model, from inception, through legislation and implementation. OCR will cover why this shift was necessary, how they approached the change, what legislation looked like, how implementation has gone, and what lessons were learned. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to approach this in other states and how empowering this is for children and youth.

12:30PM – 1:30PM **LUNCH AND NETWORKING | BOX LUNCH INCLUDED**

1:30PM – 2:30PM **FROM MODEL ACT TO RULES: AN ADVOCACY ROADMAP**

**PRESENTERS** Jeff Briggs, JD – Northern Nevada Legal Aid  
Amy Honodel, JD, CWLS – Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

In 2022, Nevada adopted formal rules of practice for children’s lawyers based upon the 2011 ABA Model Act. Because Nevada is a diverse state, in population, geography and resources, proponents of the rules faced a number of obstacles. The presenters will provide a basic roadmap for moving from a concept to a concrete rule, and explain how they were able to reach consensus on (1) representing preverbal and non-verbal children, (2) training prerequisites, and (3) frequency of contact.

2:30PM – 2:45PM **BREAK**

2:45PM – 3:45PM **REFLECTIVE PRACTICE: LEADING FROM THE INSIDE OUT**

**PRESENTERS** Sabina Mendoza-Hardesty, LICSW, MSW – University of Nebraska’s Children’s Justice Clinic  
Michelle Paxton, JD – University of Nebraska Children’s Justice Programs

Professionals working in the juvenile system are often ill-equipped to navigate the complex relationship dynamics and the emotional ramifications of these cases. The intrusive nature of the work often leads to high rates of stress and burnout which ultimately affect the quality of representation provided. Reflective Practice assists in mitigating the emotionally intrusive nature of the work by examining internal processes and how they impact decision-making. Assumptions, personal feelings, and biases often go unrecognized without this type of practice which, in turn, negatively impacts their advocacy. This session introduces participants to the fundamentals of Reflective Practice and how implementing this practice can improve personal well-being and advocacy.

3:45PM – 4:15PM **NETWORKING**

4:15PM – 4:30PM **CLOSING REMARKS**



1:00PM – 5:00PM

## CHILD WELFARE LAW CAREER FAIR OPEN HOUSE

Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

The NACC career fair aims to promote jobs in child welfare for law students, recent grads, and persons with lived experience in foster care. Additionally, network with NACC members and national law office leaders and fill vacancies or recruit for internships/fellowships. Prior to the career fair, NACC will provide registered employers a list of students/prospective candidates who have registered for the career fair. Likewise, registered prospective candidates will receive a list of registered employers. Networking, resume-swapping, and scheduling interviews will occur during this open house.

SEPARATE REGISTRATION FOR ATTENDEES REQUIRED [↗](#)

SEPARATE REGISTRATION FOR AND FEE FOR EMPLOYERS REQUIRED [↗](#)

FOR PEOPLE ALSO ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, EMPLOYER TABLES  
WILL REMAIN OPEN AUGUST 10-12 FOR THE CAREER FAIR

5:00PM – 6:00PM

## CWLS RECEPTION

Regency Room, 2nd Floor

NACC extends a warm invitation to Child Welfare Law Specialists, CWLS applicants, Red Book Training attendees, and participants from the Children's Law Office Project Convening to attend this event. This reception offers a unique opportunity to come together, celebrate your remarkable achievements, and connect before the conference kicks into high gear.



## THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 ONSITE CONFERENCE DAY 1

ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME

7:30AM – 5:30PM

### REGISTRATION DESK

Nicollet Alcove, 1st Floor

8:00AM – 5:00PM

### EXHIBITORS

Nicollet Promenade, 1st Floor

8:00AM – 5:00PM

### CAREER FAIR

Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

8:00AM – 5:00PM

### EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE INSTALLATION

Mirage, 2nd Floor

8:00AM – 8:30AM

### BREAKFAST

Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

8:30AM – 8:45AM

### WELCOME

Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

PRESENTERS **LaShanda Taylor Adams, JD** – NACC Board President  
**Kim Dvorchak, JD** – NACC Executive Director

8:45AM – 10:15AM

### PLENARY 1

Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

#### **P1** *A Child of the Indian Race: A Story of Return – Sandy White Hawk Speaks on Adoption, Indigenous Rights, and the Indian Child Welfare Act*

PRESENTER **Sandy White Hawk**

NACC is honored to open the 46th National Child Welfare Law Conference with remarks by Sandy White Hawk, Founder and Director of the First Nations Reparations Institute and Director of Healing Programs for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Ms. White Hawk, a Sicangu Lakota adoptee from the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota, is a national expert and spokesperson on issues of adoption and the child welfare



system. With this event closely following the Supreme Court decision in *Brackeen v. Haaland*, indigenous rights and the Indian Child Welfare Act will be front and center.

Sandy White Hawk will be signing copies of her new book, *A Child of the Indian Race: A Story of Return*, in the Nicollet Promenade during the following break, and during lunch.

10:15AM – 10:45AM **COFFEE BREAK** Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

10:45AM – 12:15PM **BREAKOUT SESSION A**

**A1 Indian Child Welfare in a Post *Brackeen v. Haaland* World: Where do We Go from Here?**

Northstar A, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Kimberly Cluff, JD** – California Tribal Families Coalition  
**April Olson, JD** – Rothstein Donatelli

The Indian Child Welfare Act (“ICWA” or the “Act”) was passed in 1978 in response to decades of federal and state policies and practices that involved removing Indian children from their homes, often for no reason, and placing them in non-Indian foster or adoptive homes or boarding schools, in a deliberate campaign to assimilate Indians into western culture. In the recent Supreme Court case of *Brackeen v. Haaland*, the State of Texas and individual plaintiffs challenged the constitutionality of the Act and alleged it hurt Indian children. In this session, attendees will learn about the history and background behind the passage of the ICWA and why the ICWA is still needed today. Attendees will also learn why the ICWA is referred to as the “gold standard” in child welfare and how its provisions protect families. Finally, the presenters will cover the Supreme Court opinion in *Brackeen v. Haaland* and discuss potential future challenges to the Act.

**A2 Laws, Policies, Practice Tips, and the Importance of Sibling Connections to Youth Wellbeing**

Greenway A-E, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Lily Colby, JD** – With Lived Experience  
**Tisha Ortiz, BS** – With Lived Experience  
**Leecia Welch, JD** – Children’s Rights

This session will explore the importance of sibling connections from a lived experience and research perspective, as well as the policy and practice landscape relating to the rights of siblings in foster care. The session will begin with an overview of the literature demonstrating the importance of the sibling connection to positive outcomes and achieving permanence for youth in foster care. It will then explore the federal and state laws and cases that address the rights of siblings. Finally, it will explore positive practice developments that have demonstrated success in supporting sibling bonds and opportunities for practice improvement. The session features lived experience partnership in its development and implementation.

**A3 Catch-22 of Parents with Mental Health Issues in Child Welfare Cases: Disentangling the Myth that Mental Health Incapacity Implies Parental Incapacity**

Greenway F-J, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Amber Walden, JD** – Family Law Office of Training and Education Services, LLC

Often the mental health assessments that practitioners rely on are not evaluating parents’ abilities to actually care for their children, but rather they are focused on the parents’ symptoms of psychoses or past trauma. Research and data show that parents with mental illness may be sufficiently capable of properly caring for their children. This session will discuss how using Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act may make it possible for advocates for parents to bring to light unfounded assumptions about the capacity of parents with mental illnesses, and how to advocate for services tailored to meet the needs of the parent for family reunification. The session will also cover tips and strategies, from a mental health provider, on how to decipher assessments and effectively communicate with a parent with mental health issues.

**A4 Healing through Love: Our Journey After Surviving the System**

Regency Room, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Kristen Powell, BA** – National Advisory Council on Children’s Legal Representation  
**Marquan Teetz** – Annie E. Casey SOUL Implementation Team  
**Alexandria Ware, MS** – Children’s Rights

This session will dive deeply into breaking down the conference theme, *From Learning to Action: Shared Accountability for Disrupting Harm and Promoting Healing*. The roundtable panel of people with experience in youth-serving systems will discuss how to co-create and promote healing, love, and justice in youth-serving systems. By doing this, we can move away from a punitive system and center love and relationships in every decision affecting families and youth, giving back the power to the families and communities to discuss what will help that family heal. During this session, the presenters will dive into the following topics: transformative justice, advocacy, family integrity, and mental health. The session will highlight how you can’t have love without justice or justice without love.

**A5 Breaking Down Silos and Bridging Gaps: Youth Homelessness & Child Welfare**

Northstar B, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Whitney Bunts, MSW** – True Colors United  
**Tiffany Haynes, BS** – True Colors United

Young people experiencing homelessness touch multiple systems, including the child welfare system. However, the child welfare and homelessness service systems are siloed and lack coordination of care for this incredibly vulnerable community. Young people experiencing homelessness have either been missed or underserved by systems designed to protect them. Like young people in foster care, young people experiencing homelessness face abuse, neglect, and economic vulnerability. In this session, the presenters will center the lived experience of young people who have been impacted by the child welfare system and housing instability, provide context on these overlapping crises, and offer discussion and solutions centered on lived experience and the latest research.

**A6 Child Abuse Registries: The Road to Reform**

Lakeshore Ballroom, 1st Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Melissa Carter, JD** – Barton Child Law & Policy Center, Emory University  
**Chris Hempfling, MBA, JD, CWLS** – BrightSpring Health Services

Most states maintain records of child abuse investigations in a statewide database, sometimes referred to as a central registry or child abuse registry. These registries, which are used for employment screening and assessing suitability of foster and adoptive parents, appeal to policymakers and the public as a tool to enhance child protection, yet they do little to promote child safety. Instead, their operation often violates the due process rights of the parents and caregivers named on them and is cause for litigation, public criticism, and advocacy campaigns for legislative repeal. This interactive session will review the legal framework of child abuse registries, share data and case anecdotes to sharpen arguments about their inequitable impact, and present avenues for reform.

12:15PM – 2:00PM **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN & SANDY WHITE HAWK BOOK SIGNING**

OR

12:30PM – 1:45PM **LUNCH & LEARN**

Lake Superior, 5th Floor

**Preventive Legal Advocacy & Pre-Petition Representation: Where We Are, Where We Are Headed, and What We Are Learning**

**PRESENTERS** **Cary Bloodworth, JD** – University of Wisconsin Law School  
**Kristen Foster, JD** – Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate  
**Maria Griglio, JD, CWLS** – Children’s Law Center of California

Preventive legal advocacy and pre-petition programs are the result of strategically targeted efforts to support families through upstream civil legal services that address social determinants of health and safely reduce instances of unnecessary child welfare system involvement. Building on the work of the National Preventive Legal Advocacy Partnership, child welfare experts and representatives from existing and emerging preventive legal advocacy

programs across the country have been coming together monthly to explore issues related to the successful implementation of upstream civil legal advocacy. This session will provide a brief synopsis of the preventative legal advocacy cohort's work and serve as an opportunity for participants to consider where the movement is headed and the important lessons we're learning along the way.

SEPARATE \$75 REGISTRATION REQUIRED | SPACE IS LIMITED | LUNCH INCLUDED

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

**B1 Black Women Speak: Is it Secondary Trauma or Just Trauma?**

Northstar A, 2nd Floor

PRESENTERS **Amanda Carter, JD** – The Legal Aid Society  
**Sheneka McKenzie Sage, LMSW** – The Legal Aid Society  
**Chanel Smith, JD** – The Legal Aid Society

This panel includes three women of color who have worked in the child welfare legal field for over ten years collectively. Like many BIPOC advocates, the experience of serving clients and families is very similar to their personal experience. The children and families impacted mirror their own communities and families. The panelists are also impacted by racial trauma, systemic harm, and oppression – both personally and within their caseloads – which burdens their ability to thrive in the workplace without support. In the recent article, *Secondary Trauma at Work: Why We Experience It and How We Cope* (Teen Vogue), panelist Chanel Smith exposes how secondary traumatic stress impacts Black women differently. This frank dialogue will offer tools to leaders to help support wellness in the workplace for BIPOC advocates.

**B2 Demystifying ASFA: The Legacy, the Harms, and Potential Solutions**

Greenway A-E, 2nd Floor

PRESENTERS **Tyhesia Simpson, LICSW, LMSW** – Maryland Family Resources, Inc.  
**Pierrea Wallace, JD** – Children's Law Center (DC)

This training will apply a racial justice lens to the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). The presenters will examine America's legacy of separating children from their families, the historical prioritization of adoption that led to ASFA's development, and how racism and classism informed America's method of resolving issues of poverty and trauma by destroying the parent-child relationship. The session will examine ways in which social science combats ASFA's purported goals. Participants will learn about the Stages of Change in human behavior to explain why neglect and abuse all too often cannot be resolved in a fifteen-month timeline. We will discuss how under ASFA, attachment theory is often used to harm families rather than to advocate for their existence. We will end by sharing concrete, practical ways to combat ASFA's harms.

**B3 Child Witness Issues: To Call or Not to Call... That is the Question**

Greenway F-J, 2nd Floor

PRESENTERS **Christina Lewis, JD, CWLS** – National Association of Counsel for Children  
**Kristen Pisani-Jacques, JD, CWLS** – National Association of Counsel for Children

How young is too young to testify? Is testifying in court harmful or empowering for a child? Should attorneys object to a child testifying in chambers or through deposition? How would you even cross examine a child – and should you? This interactive trial skills session will attempt to answer these questions by exploring the law and best practices regarding child testimony issues. The presenters will discuss issues to consider in calling a child as a witness (or preventing that child from testifying), including competency, hearsay, and emotional harm. The session will also cover testimonial accommodations and the application of the Confrontation Clause, preparing the child for testifying, and how to appropriately structure a direct and/or cross examination of the child. Participants will leave this session with concrete tips and strategies to incorporate into their trial practice when facing child witness issues.

**B4 Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Prevent Dual System Involvement through Community-Based and Legal Support of Youth and their Families** Regency Room, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Beverly Schulerbrandt, JD** – American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
**Macon Stewart, MSW** – Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Dual system youth, or those involved in both the child welfare and juvenile legal systems, face dismal outcomes compared to their peers. This population disproportionately consists of marginalized groups who experience high rates of trauma, home removal, congregate care placement, and prolonged stays in detention. These factors and many others correspond with an increased likelihood for reoffending, commercial sexual exploitation, homelessness, and school dropout. This session will discuss strategies that define the role of judicial officers and legal representation, along with maximizing interagency collaboration. This session will also include the importance of early identification, centering youth and family voice, and using multidisciplinary approaches to capitalize on community resources.

**B5 Meet the Authors of *The Story of Foster Care Vol. 2: The Intersection of Foster Care & Human Trafficking*** Northstar B, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Betty Beatty, BA** – Empty Frames Initiative  
**Sarah Chambers, LCSW** – Empty Frames Initiative  
**Khalila Riga** – Empty Frames Initiative

Join Empty Frames Initiative for a conversation panel with the artists and authors of this work as they discuss the evolution of their understanding of this topic, their takeaways from the gallery and book’s creation, and their hopes for people working in this field. Viewers will have the opportunity to hear from survivors, anti-trafficking professionals, and child welfare workers on the intersection of foster care and human trafficking. They will learn from each panelist the joys and struggles of taking ownership of their story. Then, they will have the chance to safely submit questions for the panelists, via text, that will be reviewed by a moderator in real time.

**B6 Preventing Legal Deserts in Our Rural Communities: Insights from a Child Welfare Attorney Fellowship** Lakeshore Ballroom, 1st Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Michelle Paxton, JD** – University of Nebraska Children’s Justice Programs

Rural communities severely lack access to attorneys – a phenomenon known as legal deserts. In child welfare, the challenges are even greater given the number of attorneys often required and the unique skillset necessary to provide high-quality representation. In response, the University of Nebraska launched the Children’s Justice Attorney Education Fellowship Program to increase interest, competency, and commitment among rural attorneys practicing in Nebraska’s juvenile courts. This innovative approach to continuing legal education provides fellows eight months of education, expert case consultation, and reflective practice. This session will discuss the unique challenges for rural child welfare attorneys and how innovative programming improves advocacy.

3:30PM – 4:00PM **COFFEE BREAK** Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

4:00PM – 5:30PM **PLENARY 2** Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

**P2 A Place Called Home: A Memoir - David Ambroz Speaks on Homelessness, Foster Care, Poverty, and Advocacy**

**PRESENTER** **David Ambroz**

David Ambroz is a national poverty and child welfare expert and advocate. He was recognized by President Obama as an American Champion of Change. He currently serves as Head of Community Engagement (West) for Amazon. Previously he led Corporate Social Responsibility for Walt Disney Television. After growing up homeless and then in foster care, he graduated from Vassar and later from UCLA School of Law (JD). He is a foster dad living in Los Angeles, CA. Drawing from his memoir, *A Place Called Home*, Ambroz will discuss growing up homeless in New York for eleven years and his subsequent years in foster care, offering a window into what so many kids living in poverty experience every day.

**David Ambroz will be signing copies of his new book, *A Place Called Home: A Memoir*, during the following welcome reception.**



5:30PM – 6:30PM WELCOME RECEPTION

Northstar Promenade, 2nd Floor

NACC invites you to come mingle, engage, and connect with fellow conference attendees over appetizers and drinks. It's a time to unwind, celebrate your achievements, and immerse yourself in a community of dedicated advocates for children, parents, and families. David Ambroz will be signing copies of his new book.

6:30PM – 9:30PM PAISLEY PARK TOUR

Offsite

Join NACC friends and colleagues for a private tour of Paisley Park, Prince's home and studio in Chanhassen, Minnesota, outside Minneapolis. Registration includes round-trip charter bus transportation and a 2-hour private tour. Capacity is limited to 200 so register today!

SEPARATE \$75 REGISTRATION REQUIRED



FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 ONSITE CONFERENCE DAY 2

ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME

7:30AM – 5:30PM REGISTRATION DESK

Nicollet Alcove, 1st Floor

8:00AM – 5:00PM EXHIBITORS

Nicollet Promenade, 1st Floor

8:00AM – 5:00PM CAREER FAIR

Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

8:00AM – 5:00PM EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE INSTALLATION

Mirage, 2nd Floor

8:00AM – 8:30AM BREAKFAST

Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

8:30AM – 10:00AM PLENARY 3

Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

P3 Supreme Court Roundtable: Children's and Parent's Rights at the Highest Court

- PRESENTERS
- Kimberly Cluff, JD – California Tribal Families Coalition
  - Currey Cook, JD – Lambda Legal
  - Noran Elzarka, JD – If/When/How
  - Amber Koonce, JD – NAACP Legal Defense Fund
  - Joanna Woolman, JD – Institute for Children, Families and Communities at Mitchell Hamline School of Law

This session will provide an overview of seminal Supreme Court jurisprudence from recent years, focusing on opinions that have significantly shaped civil rights and the practice of child protection law. SCOTUS cases impacting reproductive health, LGBTQIA+ protections, indigenous rights, and affirmative action will all be discussed. In an increasingly unfederated landscape, panelists will explain the current import of these cases and provide tips on how best to advocate for children and parents at the state level.

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10:00AM – 10:30AM **COFFEE BREAK**

Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

10:30AM – 12:00PM **BREAKOUT SESSION C**

**C1** **Racial Disparity in Child Welfare: The American Bar Association's Response through the Passage of Resolution 606**

Northstar A, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Prudence Beidler Carr, JD** – American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
**Brenda C. Robinson, JD, CWLS** – Children's Law Center of California  
**Ashley D. Williams, JD** – Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.

The ABA Commission on Youth at Risk in 2022 dared to author a resolution addressing the disparate representation of Black children in the child welfare system. The Commission saw an opportunity to call all legal professionals to acknowledge the history of slavery perpetuated by the oversurveillance of and underinvestment in Black families in America as a pervasive, ongoing, and root cause of the disproportionate involvement of Black families within the system. It took two years to develop and gain support for this resolution. The session will discuss the resolution's impact across the U.S., as well as internationally with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recognizing that racial injustice in child welfare is an urgent human rights issue.

**C2** **The Role of Lawyers in Healing: Grief Support for Women whose Children are Parented by Others**

Greenway A-E, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Jenny Eldredge, MTS** – Bellis  
**Miriam Itzkowitz, MSW, LICSW** – Institute to Transform Child Protection, Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
**Natalie Netzel, JD, MSE** – Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Bellis offers support groups for women whose children are parented by others. Group participants had questions about what occurred during their CPS involvement and what rights they still have related to their children. In response, law and social work students from the Institute to Transform Child Protection (ITCP) developed a partnership to help women obtain their court files to better understand the status of their parent/child relationship. The project uncovered the potential for practitioners of law to be healers through the lens of narrative theory. Without concrete answers to their questions, many felt stuck. As the team from ITCP partnered with participants, their legal work transformed into healing work that helped to fill in the blanks of a narrative that can then potentially be understood and grieved.

**C3** **Practical Considerations for Ensuring High-Needs Youth in Foster Care Receive Appropriate Services & Supports**

Greenway F-J, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Kimberly Abbott, JD, CWLS** – Children's Attorneys Project, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada  
**Danyell Cadell, JD, LCSW** – Children's Attorneys Project, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada  
**Laila-Rose Hudson, JD** – Children's Attorneys Project, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Additional attention is required to ensure the extraordinary needs of youth in foster care who are medically fragile, have significant mental health diagnoses, or have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are being addressed. During this session, attorneys, including, one former foster youth, will discuss special considerations when advocating for such high-needs youth. Considerations include eligibility for Social Security Disability, services from state programs for individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, the availability of specialized supportive services and placements, as well as appropriate assessments and diagnoses. Participants will leave with practical tips and a checklist to help better advocate for high-needs children.

**C4 Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline: A Holistic Approach to Representing Students with Disabilities in Suspension & Delinquency Cases**

Regency Room, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Melinda Andra, MA, JD** – The Legal Aid Society  
**Keri Mabry, LMSW** – The Legal Aid Society  
**Mikila Thompson, JD** – The Legal Aid Society  
**Marie Mombrun, JD** – The Legal Aid Society

Schools often use exclusionary disciplinary policies to push out vulnerable students, including students in foster care, students with disabilities, students of color, English language learners (ELL), and LGBTQ+ students. Those who are most impacted live in the intersection of these spaces. With a focus on comprehensive advocacy and solutions, staff from the Kathryn A. McDonald Education Advocacy Project will highlight using an interdisciplinary approach to ensure that children with family court involvement receive the educational services they need, thereby combating the school-to-prison pipeline. Using case studies as a guide, the presenters will discuss effective collaboration between education advocates, family court practitioners, and social workers to achieve the best possible outcomes for court-involved youth.

**C5 Remembering Cornelius Fredericks: Addressing Big Residential's Failures**

Northstar B, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Chelsea Maldonado** – Lived Experience Expert  
**Dawn J. Post, JD** – Dawn J. Post, LLC  
**Amanda Simmons, JD** – Ambika Law, PC

For-profit residential behavioral health services is a huge industry that preys on vulnerable youth by exploiting states, child welfare, and delinquency systems that are suffering severe shortages of foster care and community-based therapeutic placements, as well as adequate mental health providers and treatment strategies. Staff are paid minimum wage, lack relevant experience, and are poorly trained, and many of these institutions have been the subject of criminal and licensure investigations. Youth are frequently restrained, either chemically or physically, and the facilities fail to address the underlying and ongoing trauma youth experience, incurred in and, in part, perpetrated by the systems they come from. This session will address the predatory nature of the behavioral health industry, how it impacts youth in the foster care and juvenile systems, and the legal and policy challenges presented. Participants will learn how the ICPC can be used by individual practitioners to challenge placement in these facilities and about current legislative and policy initiatives to address institutional abuse at both the state and federal level.

**C6 What Children's Attorneys Should Know and Do to Confront America's Hidden Foster Care System**

Lakeshore Ballroom, 1st Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Sharon Balmer Cartagena, JD, MSW** – Public Counsel  
**Karla Johnson, JD, MPH** – Mobilization for Justice, Inc.  
**Diane Redleaf, JD** – Family Defense Consulting

This session will address the many hidden ways the child protection regulation system separates children from their parents and makes placements that go unreviewed by juvenile courts, evading essential protections in the formal foster care system. The presenters will address how the practices harm children and their families and the specific impacts on children, parents, and extended family, especially in communities of color. Participants will learn specific steps to challenge the practice through individual representation in juvenile court, appeals, and civil rights litigation, and the presenters will introduce the audience to the multifaceted advocacy underway to address the overuse of hidden foster care. The presenters will also highlight the impact on teen parents, relative caregivers, and the inter-relationship with probate court.

12:15PM – 1:45PM **ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND AWARDS**

Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

12:15–12:45 LUNCH SERVED; 12:45–1:25 AWARDS CEREMONY (food service will be paused)

2:00PM – 3:30PM **BREAKOUT SESSION D**

**D1 Preventing System Involvement and Closing the Gap Between Recommended Practice, Policy, and Reality for Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse Youth in Out-of-Home Systems**

Northstar A, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Alexander Coccia, PhD** – Center for the Study of Social Policy  
**Daniele Gerard, JD** – Children’s Rights  
**Elliott Hinkle, BS, PSS** – Unicorn Solutions LLC  
**Sruti Swaminathan, JD** – Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

This session will give advocates and policymakers information and strategies to promote safety and wellbeing for transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse (TNGD) youth in child welfare and juvenile legal systems and for youth experiencing homelessness. In response to the recent onslaught of state action targeting TNGD youth, Elliott Hinkle of Unicorn Solutions, Children’s Rights, Lambda Legal, and the Center for the Study of Social Policy recently published an update to the 2017 Safe Havens report that provides an overview of current law and policy. The authors will share their findings, advocacy strategies, and recommendations, all informed by TNGD youth with lived experience. The session will focus on how to improve systems, invest in community, address ongoing harm, and support TNGD youth in their homes.

**D2 The Weaponization of Attachment Theory in Child Welfare**

Greenway A–E, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Jessica Handelman, LCSW** – Private Practice  
**MJ (Maleeka) Jihad, MSW** – Colorado Office of Respondent Parents’ Counsel

Attachment Theory was first established in the 1940s/1950s to provide a theoretical framework for the evaluation and understanding of a child’s connection and bonding experience with their parent(s). Through the lens of attachment theory, many child welfare professionals make predictions as to the best placement option for a child in foster care based on their relationship with the caregivers or care providers. Attachment theory has become a tool to determine if children will reunify with their birth family, be placed with kin-relatives, or become adopted by non-family members from foster care. International psychology professional expert MJ (Maleeka Jihad) and attachment/trauma specialist Jess Handelman will educate participants on the weaponization of this theory.

**D3 Effective, Empathetic Representation of Parents in Dependency/Child Protection Cases**

Greenway F–J, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Larene Randle Wade** – Minnesota One-Stop for Communities  
**Jennifer L. Thompson, JD** – JLT Law & Mediation

Effective advocacy for parents in the child protection/dependency system requires not only technical prowess, but a great deal of empathy. The combination of experienced, knowledgeable legal counsel with the lived experience of parent mentors can help clients navigate their way through a challenging process. Even if parent mentors are not available in your jurisdiction to guide parents directly, attorneys can still learn from their experiences to provide more empathetic advocacy for their clients. In this session, an experienced and zealous parent’s attorney will present with a mentor with lived experience on how to effectively weave the law and humanity together to influence fact-finders, guardians ad litem, social workers, and even their own clients, to see the best in their clients.

**D4 Promoting Success for Children of Incarcerated Parents**

Regency Room, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **The Honorable Marguerite Downing** – Los Angeles Superior Court  
**Brenda C. Robinson, JD, CWLS** – Children’s Law Center of California  
**Ruben Ruiz** – Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.  
**Ashley D. Williams, JD** – Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.

There are over 2.7 million children in the United States with an incarcerated parent. A large number of those children are involved in the child welfare system. Parental incarceration creates significant barriers to reunification. This panel will include two voices with lived experience – a formerly incarcerated father who successfully reunited with



his son and a former foster youth who is now a successful attorney representing parents in the dependency system. This session will also address barriers to reunification experienced by incarcerated parents, best practices to eliminate barriers for legal practitioners, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and tools utilized by judges and lawyers in Los Angeles County, one of the largest child welfare systems.

**D5 Supporting Immigrant Children and Families: Identification of Immigration Remedies and Effects on Permanency and Placement** Northstar B, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Cristina Cooper, JD** – American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
**Rachel Konrad, JD** – Casey Family Programs

For system-involved immigrant children and their caregivers, family integrity, security, permanency, and other case outcomes are often directly impacted by their ability to access and receive help with their immigration status. Attorneys in the child welfare law setting should know how to screen clients for immigration law needs, understand how immigration may affect clients' access to services, and confront potential bias toward immigrant children, parents, and other family members. This session will offer guidance on effectively engaging immigrant clients in the child welfare context and addressing their individual needs. Presenters will offer an overview of eligibility for a variety of forms of immigration relief and will highlight potential avenues to immigration lawyer referrals.

**D6 When Child Welfare Agencies Use Juvenile Jails as Placements for Children: The Problem, Its Effects on Children, and Innovative Advocacy Strategies** Lakeshore Ballroom, 1st Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Charles Golbert, JD** – Office of the Cook County Public Guardian  
**Lisa Mombo** – Office of the Cook County Public Guardian  
**Nicholas Youngblood, JD, MA, MPA** – Office of the Cook County Public Guardian

Youth dually involved with the child welfare and juvenile legal systems sometimes remain in detention after a judge has ordered their release. Due to a shortage of placements, especially for youth with complex needs, jail becomes their placement. Such dually-involved youth are confined to their cells much of the day without the services they need, have limited to no contact with their family, fall behind in school, are housed in a dangerous environment, and feel abandoned. The Office of the Cook County Public Guardian partnered with the firm Loevy & Loevy to address this problem by filing a federal class action, money-damages lawsuit. This session will discuss the problem, how it impacts children, and innovative strategies to address the problem on behalf of individual youth and systemically.

3:30PM – 4:00PM **COFFEE BREAK** Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

4:00PM – 5:30PM **BREAKOUT SESSION E**

**E1 Cops Without Guns – Why Diversity Alone is Not a Solution to Systemic Racism** Northstar A, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Nesta Johnson, JD** – National Center for Lesbian Rights  
**Lucina Kayee** – Atlas of Blackness  
**Patience Zalanga** – Minnesota Legal Rights Center

The recent brutal murder of Tyre Nichols by five Black police officers reveals in stark clarity the reality that diversity within a system cannot, in itself, prevent systemic racism. In the context of that fatal interaction, the officers' personal identities as fellow Black men – and any associated sense of shared community or kinship they might have felt toward Mr. Nichols – was subsumed within their professional identity as police officers. The child welfare system, and the field of social work more broadly, has a deeply racist past and present. Like BIPOC police officers, social workers, prosecutors, and other BIPOC professionals within the child welfare system are enculturated into a regime which is inherently biased against BIPOC, poor, disabled, queer, and other marginalized persons. This session will recognize that BIPOC professionals can and do perpetuate systemic racism, and that doing so can cause significant moral conflict/injury, resulting in increased rates of burnout and attrition. The presenters will review and acknowledge the racist/colonial roots of the social work profession, and the present reality that many BIPOC

persons do not view social workers as “helpers,” but as “cops without guns.” The session will also explore historic mutual aid within African-American communities as a model for community-led, family-based, antiracist solutions to address child maltreatment.

**E2 Resiliency Courts: Changing Court Culture, Reducing Trauma, and Honoring Families**

Greenway A-E, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Richard Smart, JD** – Smart Move Training, LLC  
**Chris Wu, JD** – National Center for State Courts

Resiliency courts can change the conversation and culture of child welfare hearings to reduce trauma and focus on family success. Grounded in a foundation of understanding and addressing trauma, and building on family strengths, Michigan’s Resiliency Courts program is now rolling out across the state in a unique multimedia format designed to foster judicial leadership and stakeholder collaboration. Resiliency courts level the field and empower parents to actively participate in planning to preserve their families. Through slides, video clips, and interaction with the audience, presenters will demonstrate key parts of the curriculum and discuss how participants can begin making changes in their own courts. Hear how Resiliency Court principles can transform your jurisdiction.

**E3 Abortion and Gender-Affirming Care: How do Recent Changes in Laws Impact Foster Youth Access to Care and Attorney Obligations to their Clients?**

Greenway F-J, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Rebecca Gudeman, JD, MPA** – National Center for Youth Law  
**Luciana Svidler, JD** – Children’s Law Center of California

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* as well as attacks on trans youth have pushed abortion and gender-affirming care rights to the forefront of political discourse. Even before this, youth in care faced significant barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive care. This workshop will review the landscape of newly enacted state laws impacting access to abortion and gender-affirming care across the country, grounding that discussion in the larger historical context of reproductive oppression and barriers that youth in care have faced. The presenters will discuss the specific implications of these laws on healthcare access, ask what the obligations of both agencies and advocates are to support health care, and talk about ethical implications for lawyers to support access to criminalized care.

**E4 Safe and Equitable Crisis Response for Young People**

Regency Room, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Whitney Bunts, MSW** – True Colors United  
**Meredith Giovanelli, MPH** – Children’s Rights  
**Bobbi Taylor** – Proximate Solution Consulting

This session will target legal and policy professionals who work with children and young adults to discuss the positive impacts of mobile response service (a 24-hour rapid response service for youth and families that are experiencing crisis, a traumatizing event, or any other mental health symptoms) as an alternative to law enforcement response. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the criminalization of mental illness and how it intersects with the child welfare, housing, and juvenile legal systems; the relationship between the 988 hotline and mobile response models; and critical principles for mobile response implementation.

**E5 Child Support Obligations for Child Welfare-Involved Families: The Impact and a Road to Legal and Policy Solutions**

Northstar B, 2nd Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Jill Berrick, MSW, PhD** – University of California, Berkeley  
**Richard Pittman, JD, CWLS** – Louisiana Public Defender Board  
**Shrounda Selivanoff, BAS** – Children’s Home Society of Washington

In 2022, the Children’s Bureau and the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement jointly changed their guidance on enforcing child support obligations for parents who are separated from their children to foster care. States now have an opportunity to forward legislation to implement the new guidance and reduce the number of parents required to pay for their child’s stay in out-of-home care. This session will discuss the work behind that change and the evidence regarding the impact of child support obligations on families. The session will further discuss “financial abandon-

ment” as a ground for termination of parental rights and the associated thorny legal and social issues, including potential constitutional challenges. This session is aimed at policymakers and legal advocates.

**E6 From Federal Law to State Policy: Delivering on Youth-Centered Responses to Serving Homeless and Sexually Exploited Youth** Lakeshore Ballroom, 1st Floor

**PRESENTERS** **Michelle Basham, MPA, JD** – Mitchell Hamline School of Law/MN Department of Economic Development  
**Beth Holger, MA** – The Link

In this session, participants will learn about overlapping topics of youth homelessness and sexual exploitation. Presenters will discuss youth homelessness and the unique vulnerabilities they face to abuse and exploitation, in particular, sexual exploitation. Presenters will explore the landscape of federal and state legislation that has emerged in an effort to protect youth, the shift from prosecuting youth involved in trafficking as juvenile delinquents to treating them as victims, and existing and emerging solutions to serve these youth. Session participants will also learn about the overrepresentation of LGBTQ and BIPOC youth among homeless and sexually exploited youth, the reasons for this overrepresentation, and strategies for developing culturally relevant, youth-focused interventions.

**7:30PM – 10:00PM 80s DANCE PARTY** Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

Get ready to travel back in time to the decade of big hair, leg warmers, and funky beats at this year’s 80s-themed dance party! Dress to impress in your best retro attire (there will be prizes!) and hit the dance floor with your friends and colleagues as we rock out to the best hits of the 80s including Prince, Madonna, Whitney Houston, and so many more!

**SEPARATE \$35 REGISTRATION REQUIRED** [↗](#)



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 ONSITE CONFERENCE DAY 3**

ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME

**7:30AM – 12:00PM REGISTRATION DESK** Nicollet Alcove, 1st Floor

**8:00AM – 12:00PM EXHIBITORS** Nicollet Promenade, 1st Floor

**8:00AM – 12:00PM CAREER FAIR** Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

**8:00AM – 12:00PM EMPTY FRAMES INITIATIVE INSTALLATION** Mirage, 2nd Floor

**8:00AM – 8:30AM BREAKFAST** Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

**8:30AM – 10:00AM PLENARY 4** Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

**P4 First, Do No Harm: The Ethical Considerations of Working with Persons Impacted by the System**

**PRESENTERS** **Amelia Franck Meyer, MSW, LISW, EdD** – Alia  
**LaMikka James, AA** – Alia  
**Kate Luster, LCSW** – Rock County Human Services

There is rising pressure (with good reason) to include impacted persons (“Lived Experts”) in ways they have not been historically included. However, without proper preparation, the intention can be very different than the impact, and there is potential for real harm. When working with persons who have been negatively impacted by the systems designed to serve them, professionals in the system have an ethical obligation to engage in the preparation work necessary to become a more trusted community partner. This preparation work is challenging and requires attending to the “Five C’s”: context, compassion, change, consistency, and collaboration. This approach was co-designed with impacted persons and systems leaders to help build the awareness and mindset shift needed to act in ethical ways.

10:00AM – 10:30AM **COFFEE BREAK**

Exhibit Hall, 1st Floor

10:30AM – 12:00PM **CLOSING PLENARY 5**

Nicollet Ballroom, 1st Floor

**P5 A Mile in Her Shoes: Roundtable with a Foster Mom, a Former Foster Child, and a Mom Who Lost Her Kids**

**PRESENTERS** Shayna Davis  
Valerie Shore, JD – Shore Law Services LLC  
Sarah Williams, BA – MDHHS

As the title suggests, this session will be led by three women approaching the child welfare system from three dramatically different perspectives. Valerie, now an attorney with experience representing parents and children in the system, was in foster care for a portion of her childhood. Shayna is a mother of six whose children were taken due to allegations of neglect and then were split up and shuffled around various foster homes for over five years. Sarah is a foster parent, an adoptive mother, and an advocate for open adoption and family unity. Each presenter will discuss the current state of the child welfare system based on her own unique experience. Participants will assess strategies for healing and disrupting harm that take a broad range of life experiences into account.

12:00PM **CLOSING AND RAFFLE**

Join us as we draw the raffle winner of a complimentary registration to next year's Child Welfare Law Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.



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Alia is a Minnesota-based, national nonprofit and our mission is to transform child welfare systems so all children can live safely with their families.

We help child welfare leaders and their teams meaningfully engage and codesign with their communities to address shared challenges in transformative ways.

Alia builds deep, lasting relationships and customized services, supporting our partners through all phases of work – from awareness to sustainable change.

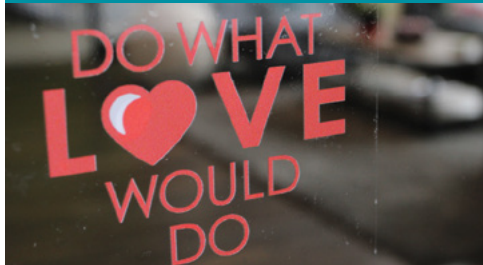
### Influence

Alia builds the case for change by creating opportunities for leaders and organizations to think differently about every facet of child welfare transformation.



### Transform

Alia mobilizes leaders to codesign solutions with parents and communities to keep families safely together.



### Equip

Alia supports all areas of organizational wellbeing to ready the mindset, practice, structure, and cultural foundations needed for transformation.



Don't miss our plenary session Saturday, August 12th, "First, Do No Harm: The Ethical Considerations of Working with Persons Impacted by the System." presented alongside our partners from Rock County, WI Human Services Department.

For five years Alia has been supporting the Rock County vision of transformation, with the end goal of eliminating racial disparity. Visit us at to our exhibit booth to learn more!

[www.aliainnovations.org](http://www.aliainnovations.org)



Scan to learn more

[info@aliainnovations.org](mailto:info@aliainnovations.org)



# ONLINE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY, SEP 20 – FRIDAY, SEP 22

JUMP TO ONSITE PROGRAM

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 ONLINE CONFERENCE DAY 1 ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME

### 10:00AM – 10:15AM WELCOME

PRESENTERS LaShanda Taylor Adams, JD, NACC Board President  
Kim Dvorchak, JD, NACC Executive Director

### 10:15AM – 11:45AM PLENARY 1

#### OP1 Choose Belonging: Erasing the Gap in Child Welfare to Help Youth Succeed

PRESENTER Gaelin Elmore, BA – Gaelin Speaks LLC

Belonging is a fundamental and innate need for every single person to grow, develop, learn, attach, and thrive – mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. Due to life circumstances, youth navigating the child welfare system experience a deficit, or a gap, in their belonging experience. Studies show that the top three sources of belonging for all youth are family, school, and community. Statistically, all three of the top sources are virtually guaranteed to change as a child navigates the system. In this session, the presenter will discuss and explore the science (both neuro and psychological) behind belonging, the unique gap that youth in child welfare face, and why it is important for us to choose belonging in every part of our work.

### 12:15PM – 1:45PM ONLINE BREAKOUT A

#### OA1 Supporting Education Rights through Collaboration Between the Court and the Education System

PRESENTERS Alaina Moonves-Leb, JD – Alliance for Children’s Rights  
Mark Rodgers, M.Ed. – Bonita Unified School District  
Jill Rowland, JD – Alliance for Children’s Rights

Education is key to success in life, and unfortunately youth involved in the court system continue to demonstrate some of the worst education outcomes in the country due to challenges including mobility, trauma, and unmet needs. To improve outcomes, youth need coordinated support. This session will utilize and share access to the Court Companion to the Foster Youth Education Toolkit, which provides information about the education rights of youth in foster care and/or on probation, and how all the key parties in the lives of youth can and must work together to support improved education outcomes. The session will describe key roles and responsibilities for education rights holders, social workers, probation officers, attorneys for youth, attorneys for parents, county counsel, judicial officers, and school districts.

#### OA2 Ameliorating Risk and Supporting Families Impacted by Substance Abuse: One Family’s Story

PRESENTERS Rebecca Ingerman, JD, CWLS – Children’s Law Center of California  
Jason McCreery

Children and families often enter the child welfare system for substance abuse-related issues, but does substance use by a parent always pose a substantial danger to their child? A father whose children were removed due to substance use issues will share his experience and discuss barriers he faced on his way to successful reunification. Counsel for his children will share how various treatment options and extensive litigation impacted her analysis of risk to the children. Together the presenters will explore the stigma attached to substance abuse and treatment,

what reasonable efforts look like in these cases, and how attorneys can frame their advocacy and independent investigations to ameliorate risk and promote family maintenance and reunification.

2:15PM – 3:45PM **ONLINE BREAKOUT B**

**OB1 It's Not Just a Bill: Using Legislative Advocacy to Effectuate Change in Child Welfare**

**PRESENTERS** **Lakesia Collins, BA** – Illinois State Senator, 5th District  
**Danielle Gomez, JD** – Office of the Cook County Public Guardian  
**Elise Melrose, JD** – Office of the Cook County Public Guardian

The Office of the Cook County Public Guardian represents nearly 7,000 youth with open child welfare cases. In addition to courtroom advocacy, the office advocates for systemic change through legislation based on their clients' experiences. This session will give participants a roadmap on how to advance legislation to achieve change for clients, including how to identify issues ripe for legislative change, how to develop a coalition of stakeholders with shared interests in child welfare, and how to ultimately advocate for changes in the law. The presenters will share their examples of legislative initiatives that include proposals based on their clients' experiences, such as ensuring youth's benefits are conserved for their future use and youth voices are heard regarding their experiences in care. Illinois State Representative Lakesia Collins is a champion for youth in care in Illinois, motivated in part by her lived experience.

**OB2 Addressing Empathic Exhaustion: Fostering Meditation and The Five Steps 2 Wellness**

**PRESENTER** **Dawn J. Post, JD** – Dawn J. Post, LLC

Attorneys for children are often mislabeled as suffering from burnout and having a thin skin when they exhibit psychological distress, changes in cognitive schema, and relational disturbances that affect their work. This session will create a dialogue among the participants about the subject of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, and brainstorm solutions. Participants will learn about the organization Fostering Meditation which includes The Five Steps 2 Wellness: Meditation, Yoga, Expressive Writing, Community, & Nutrition. The program also has a built-in professional quality-of-life scale test for participants to determine how they experience compassion fatigue and secondary trauma. The program concludes by identifying strategies to address compassion fatigue and secondary trauma.

4:15PM – 5:45PM **ONLINE PLENARY 2**

**OP2 Online Keynote Address: Born in June, Raised in April: Exploring Identity, Building Relationships, and Navigating Differences!**

**PRESENTER** **April Dinwoodie** – Born in June, Raised in April: What Adoption Can Teach the World!

With the calendar as a guide, transracially adopted person and host of the popular podcast *Born in June, Raised in April: What Adoption Can Teach the World*, April Dinwoodie will candidly explore the importance of healthy identity development, the power of building strong relationships, and the urgency of facing differences of race, culture, and class. This keynote will offer an overview core themes and concepts connected to each month of the year, with these points:

- Uplifting the importance of healthy identity development on the continued journey of self-awareness, compassion, and empathy.
- Elevating skill and ability in building strong relationships.
- Increasing confidence and capacity in facing differences of race, culture, and class.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 ONLINE CONFERENCE DAY 2

ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME

10:00AM – 11:30AM ONLINE BREAKOUT C

OC1 The Journey to Abolition in Child Welfare

PRESENTERS Jesse Hartley, MS, MSW – University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Tanya Rollins, MSW – Inspiring Voices - Equity and Inclusion Consulting, LLC

Child welfare abolition is heavily debated and highly misunderstood. A system described as broken is working as designed. Black families are targeted, surveilled, and forcibly separated under the guise of support with over half of Black children interacting with the system by age 18. Abolition pushes against carceral logic, encouraging a reimagining of community support. For those currently confined to the system, shorter-term steps must also be recognized along the path to abolition. Interim advocacy can encourage divestment from the system, reduce the power and reach of the state, and most importantly, prioritize the voices of impacted communities. Abolition is not a singular event but rather a process toward eliminating carceral systems while working towards healing-centered approaches.

OC2 Centering Youth & Survivor Voice to Transform Approaches to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children/Youth

PRESENTERS Kate Walker Brown, JD – National Center for Youth Law Maria Contreras, MPP – National Center for Youth Law Chelsey Holzer, BA – Project 180

Despite a growing emphasis on recognizing commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) as the abuse it is, the voices, experiences, and preferences of youth and those with lived experience are often ignored both in individual decisions impacting their lives and at the system and policy level. This session will describe three innovative approaches to transforming California’s practice and policy approach to serving youth impacted by CSE, including a new pilot youth feedback structure for centering youth voice in individual and system-level decisions, collaboration with California’s CSEC Action Team Advisory Board, comprised of adult lived experience experts, and the role of harm reduction approaches in serving youth impacted by CSE.

12:00PM – 1:30PM ONLINE BREAKOUT D

OD1 Poverty or Dependency: Eliminating Biases in Our Advocacy and Representation

PRESENTERS Christina Bridger, JD, CWLS – Gwinnett County Department of Child Advocacy and Juvenile Services Tara-Anne Canada, JD, CWLS – Gwinnett County Department of Child Advocacy and Juvenile Services

This session will be an interactive discussion on poverty not being a true basis for dependency, although poverty could be the result of factors that are actually the true basis for a dependency. The focus will be on differentiating poverty (and other cultural or lifestyle factors) from dependency. Drug addiction, improper care of mental health, and other poor decisions may lead to dependency and neglect. In return, these stigmas could have developed because of poverty consequentially becoming a cycle that is difficult to break or recover from. Often services, support, and even an open mind are sufficient to satisfy the best interests of a child, leading to a decision to keep the child in the home versus removal. Participants will learn practice points to consider when working with families experiencing poverty, cultural differences, and lifestyle alternatives, and resources to consider when serving a family that may need extra support or services to maintain or establish a child’s well-being and avoid court intervention and removal.



**OD2 The Importance of Empathy in the Age of Social Justice Movements: A Guided Conversation about Cultural Loss and Forgiveness**

PRESENTER **MJ (Maleeka) Jihad, MSW** – Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel

Empathy and compassion are not only lacking within the child welfare and juvenile court systems, but they are also missing within the individuals on the front lines who are working with the most vulnerable populations with the highest needs. All parties including children, families, and professionals have seen and experienced the injustices within the system, leaving most feeling sad, angry, disappointed, hopeless, exhausted, and traumatized. So how do we get out of this cycle of fear, pain, and depression? MJ (Maleeka Jihad), a social worker and PhD student, will lead a conversation about the negative impacts of forced cultural assimilation on European immigrants from collective cultures into an individualist (White American) society, and how it has created an apathetic culture towards others. Participants will understand the importance of empathy, compassion, and forgiveness, how they can implement empathic culture to change their work environments, and the connections between collective and individualistic cultures.

2:00PM – 3:30PM **ONLINE PLENARY 3**

**OP3 Supreme Court Roundtable: Children's and Parent's Rights at the Highest Court**

PRESENTERS **Kimberly Cluff, JD** – California Tribal Families Coalition  
**Currey Cook, JD** – Lambda Legal  
**Noran Elzarka, JD** – If/When/How  
**Amber Koonce, JD** – NAACP Legal Defense Fund

This session will provide an overview of seminal Supreme Court jurisprudence from recent years, focusing on opinions that have significantly shaped civil rights and the practice of child protection law. SCOTUS cases impacting reproductive health, LGBTQIA+ protections, indigenous rights, and affirmative action will all be discussed. In an increasingly unfederated landscape, panelists will explain the current import of these cases and provide tips on how best to advocate for children and parents at the state level.

4:00PM – 5:30PM **ONLINE BREAKOUT E**

**OE1 Closing the Front Door: Reimagining Mandated Reporting through a Social and Racial Justice Lens**

PRESENTERS **Miriam Itzkowitz, MSW, LICSW** – Institute to Transform Child Protection, Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
**Katie Olson, JD** – Institute to Transform Child Protection, Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Participants will be asked to challenge their previous beliefs about mandated reporting and consider that their decisions have an impact beyond the reporting call. The presenters will replace the outdated mantra of "when in doubt, report" with discussion of the reasonable belief standard, critical thinking, and building relationships to create communities with autonomy to protect their own children without government interference. This session will discuss legal requirements, the history of reporting, and the connection between race, poverty, and the child welfare system, while acknowledging that there are cases where reporting is required. The presenters will discuss ways to distinguish cases of maltreatment from cases of poverty and other non-maltreatment stressors where alternative responses may be appropriate.

**OE2 Lifting Engagement, Lowering Resistance: Applying Motivational Interviewing to Child Welfare – Theory, Techniques, and Initial Results**

PRESENTERS **Brad Lundahl, PhD, MSW** – University of Utah College of Social Work/eSym  
**Stacy Pittman, JD, CWLS** – Pittman Law

Individuals involved in child welfare are expected to engage in efforts to strengthen family functioning and reduce child abuse/neglect. Success in such efforts involves many ingredients including transportation, time, access, finances, support, classes, physical health, and mental health. If, however, an individual is not motivated to engage in

family-strengthening efforts, then they are unlikely to follow through or maintain change. Motivational interviewing (Miller & Rollnick 2013) is an evidence-based approach increasingly used in child welfare to promote motivation and reduce resistance and is endorsed by the Family First Prevention Services Act. This session will highlight motivational interviewing's key theoretical underpinnings and skills along with noting specific efforts in Idaho, Michigan, and California.



## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 ONLINE CONFERENCE DAY 3

ALL TIMES CENTRAL TIME

### 10:00AM – 11:30AM ONLINE PLENARY 4

#### OP4 To Share or Not to Share: How to Ethically Navigate Treatment Confidentiality Laws to Ensure Best Outcomes

**PRESENTERS** Susan Abrams, JD – Children's Law Center of California  
Rebecca Gudeman, JD, MPA – National Center for Youth Law  
Robert Waring, JD, CWLS – Young Minds Advocacy

Understanding state and federal treatment confidentiality laws is no easy feat. Preserving confidentiality can seem to conflict with collaboration in building case plans for youth and families. As more states adopt a team approach, there are more opportunities to share information. But disclosure of confidential treatment information can have serious consequences, destroying trust between a child and their provider and resulting in refusal to engage in treatment. This session will unpack NACC's recommendations that attorneys have a responsibility to protect the integrity of the client's therapeutic relationships. Participants will learn how best to support their clients' privacy and promote healing in various circumstances, while ensuring decision-makers can access information needed for good outcomes.

### 12:00PM – 1:30PM ONLINE BREAKOUT F

#### OF1 Making a Collective Impact in Child Welfare: Combating Disproportionality based on Race within the Child Protection System

**PRESENTERS** Kristen Foster, JD – Maricopa County Office of the Public Advocate  
Monika Gilchrist – Family Involvement Center  
Amanda Rexin, BA – Office of the Public Advocate

This session will address disproportionality by race and ethnicity in CPS contact and cases in large U.S. counties including Maricopa County, which has the highest percentage rate for Black children being subjected to a CPS investigation (63.3%). The presenters will discuss how they are attempting to challenge this issue within the system through the use of multidisciplinary team legal representation of parents. Participants will learn tips on how to identify and challenge issues of racism in their cases, how to connect parents to resources and services in their community when race is an issue in the case, ideas for prevention of a dependency case for targeted racial and ethnic communities, and template motions and pleadings.

#### OF2 Improving Cross-System Collaboration to Reduce Stigma and Increase Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment Services

**PRESENTERS** Latonya Adjei-Tabi, MPA – National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare  
Alexis Balkey, MPA – National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the Courtroom: A Bench Card for Judicial Professionals Serving Parents and Children Affected by Opioid Use Disorders (OUD) is a resource developed by the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare to help collaborative teams improve systems and services for families affected by OUD. This session will provide concrete tips and skills professionals can utilize while working with families involved in the child welfare and dependency court systems. Specifically, this interactive session will show how implementing the use of a bench card focused on MAT in conjunction with cross-system collaboration can help reduce stigma and improve treatment outcomes.



2:00PM – 3:30PM **ONLINE PLENARY 5**

**OP5 Meaningful Child/Youth Participation in Child Welfare Hearings: A National Discussion of Policies, Laws, Statistics, Struggles, and Strategies**

**PRESENTERS** Elizabeth Arrieta – Office of the Child’s Representative  
Sheri Danz, JD, CWLS – Office of the Child’s Representative  
Cara Nord, JD, CWLS – Office of the Child’s Representative

Many social scientists, advocates, and national organizations have extolled the benefits of meaningful child/youth participation in child welfare hearings, including greater breadth and depth of information, system transparency, accountability, better decisions, and child/youth empowerment and buy-in. Despite these and other such benefits, increasing child/youth participation in child welfare hearings can be a difficult challenge – at least, it has been in Colorado. This session will explore policies, state and national laws, statistics, struggles, and strategies related to meaningful child/youth participation in child welfare hearings. Come ready to share your thoughts and ideas, then leave inspired and armed with practical tools.

4:00PM – 5:00PM **CLOSING, AWARDS, AND RAFFLE**

Join us as we present this year’s Promoting Excellence Awards. We will also draw the raffle winner of a complimentary registration to next year’s Child Welfare Law Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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## NACC CONGRATULATES THE 2023 PROMOTING EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

NACC presents the *Promoting Excellence Awards* annually to individuals and organizations making significant contributions to the rights and well-being of children and families through excellence in legal representation.



### OUTSTANDING LEGAL ADVOCATE : **SHEREEN WHITE, JD**

As the Director of Advocacy and Policy at Children’s Rights, Shereen works to bridge the rights of children and parents, leading advocacy to protect family integrity and well-being. In 2021, Shereen brought her scholarship and deep knowledge of systemic racism to the publication *Call to Action* with the goal of ending the disproportionate removal of Black children from their families. In 2022, Shereen led a team of advocates calling on the United Nations to hold the United States accountable for its failure to address racial discrimination. Shereen believes it is important to partner with people with lived experience and is the daughter of a Black man separated from his mother and siblings to the child welfare system. As one of Shereen’s nominators said, “Shereen is an outstanding person who brings enormous talents and passion to this very difficult work with joy, humor, and wisdom. She is an important part of a moment and movement that is leading to better, happier, and safer lives for children.”



### OUTSTANDING NEW LAWYER : **KAVEH LANDSVERK, JD**

Kaveh Landsverk is an attorney for the Children’s Law Center of California’s Pre-Filing Representation Project. Kaveh helped create the organization’s program to help prevent the children of dependent clients from entering the foster care system. As of July 2022, 61 of the 73 clients served were in the custody of a parent, three had been placed with relatives, and nine were in foster care. Kaveh’s nominator said: “One of Kaveh’s notable qualities is his dedication to client-centered practice. Kaveh builds rapport and creates a safe space for clients to share concerns and goals.” Kaveh is also a member of CLC-CA’s Reducing Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Committee and works on a team capstone project *Advancing Racial Justice and Equality Capstone* through Georgetown University.



### OUTSTANDING LAW STUDENT : **ROSE WEHRMAN**

Rose Wehrman’s lived experiences led her to pursue undergraduate roles in Teen Court, the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Board of Directors, and – after graduation – teaching in a K-8 Philadelphia access center serving low-income families. Rose was the first person in her family to attend school beyond college. Beginning at Columbia Law School, Rose was a Public Interest/Public Service Fellow and Public Interest Chair of First Generation Professionals. Rose interned at the Support Center for Child Advocates, Juvenile Law Center, Education Law Center, the Youth Sentencing and Reentry Project, and was a Bergstrom Child Welfare Fellow at Columbia Law School. Additionally, Rose was a Research Assistant for Professor Josh Gupta-Kagan on the links between poverty, race, and child neglect allegations and will join his Family Defense Clinic next fall.



### DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT : **FRANK CERVONE, JD**

Frank Cervone served as Executive Director of the Support Center for Child Advocates in Philadelphia for more than 30 years. His good humor and sharp intellect have changed hearts and minds, brought unlikely partners together, and resulted in remarkable reform. During Frank’s tenure, his organization experienced transformational change, growing its annual budget from under \$500,000 to more \$5.1 million, building an endowment of \$7 million, and more than doubling the number of people served annually.

In addition, Frank is a national leader. He participated in the Conference on Ethical Issues in the Legal Representation of Children in 1996 and its follow up. He also helped develop many American Bar Association Policies and Standards, was a founding member of the ABA Section of Litigation Children’s Rights Litigation Committee, and guided children’s law centers across the country. Perhaps no one more than Frank helped with the proliferation of children’s law centers during the 90s and 00s. Frank’s advocacy reflects his kindness, empathy, and quick wit. He exemplifies the compassionate leadership and humility needed to move this difficult work forward.



COLORADO OFFICE OF  
**THE CHILD’S  
REPRESENTATIVE**

### OUTSTANDING CHILDREN’S LAW OFFICE/AGENCY : **COLORADO OFFICE OF THE CHILD’S REPRESENTATIVE**

Founded in 2001, the Colorado Office of the Child’s Representative exemplifies best practices in an agency/contract model and provides strong leadership to advance youth rights. OCR created a Lived Expert Action Panel, and dedicated Engaging and Empowering Youth Attorney and Equity Diversity and Inclusion staff attorney positions. OCR also advances multidisciplinary representation by adding social work professionals, made a case consultant model, and drew Title IV-E funding to enhance legal services and training. OCR led the 2022 effort to change the model of representation for youth 12 years of age or older from a best interest to a client-directed, and in 2023 OCR secured an 18% increase for contract attorneys to \$100/hour.



**Ballard  
Spahr  
LLP**

### OUTSTANDING PRO BONO PARTNER : **BALLARD SPAHR LLP AND ROBERT GUTIERREZ, OF COUNSEL**

NACC is pleased to present its inaugural Outstanding Pro Bono Partner Award to Ballard Spahr, LLP, and Robert S. Gutierrez, Of Counsel. Since 2020, Ballard Spahr provided more than 80 hours of legal services pro bono to help NACC publish the Fourth Edition of *Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents, and Agencies in Neglect, Abuse, and Dependency Cases* and the forthcoming Second Edition of the *Children’s Law Office Guidebook*. Ballard Spahr’s assistance with contracts, copyright, and related publication questions was foundational to the publication of this book that will shape practice and policy. NACC is particularly grateful to Robert Gutierrez for his timely guidance, drafting, and review. NACC also thanks Pro Bono Counsel Lisa Swaminathan, Associate Michael Shymon, and Attorney and now Assistant Professor Lorelee Sundra.

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Please stay tuned for NACC's *Conference CLE FAQs and Details Guide* on our website for important instructions on the CLE sign-in process, reporting responsibilities, session evaluations, and accreditation status updates.

### ACCREDITATION STATUS

NACC has or will be applying for CLE accreditation in 8 states for onsite participation in Minneapolis and live, real-time participation during the online conference. Accreditation status for these states will be updated below as more details become available. The online sessions will be recorded and available for later viewing, but NACC will not be seeking accreditation for on-demand viewings (recordings) in any jurisdiction and NACC will not track or report on-demand participation for any attendee.

### FOR JURISDICTIONS NOT LISTED BELOW

It is the responsibility of attendees to independently apply for CLE credit in any jurisdiction where NACC, as the sponsor, did not seek CLE accreditation. We encourage you to review the individual CLE application requirements in your jurisdiction as soon as possible (especially with regard to the online portion of the conference). Please take a moment to determine if there are specific application timelines that must be adhered to in your jurisdiction such as pre-approval of online programs before the event or short submission periods after the event. If you have any questions regarding CLE, please email [CLE@NACCchildlaw.org](mailto:CLE@NACCchildlaw.org).

	ONSITE Pre-Conference Red Book Training	ONSITE Conference (including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch & Learn)	ONLINE Conference
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	<b>PENDING</b>	<b>PENDING</b>	
	<p>This participatory activity is pending accreditation by the State Bar of California as follows: The maximum total number of credits an individual may receive for this pending activity is <b>6 hours</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Legal Ethics credit</li> <li>• 0 hours of Recognition &amp; Elimination of Bias credit</li> <li>• 0 hours of Competence Issues credit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> <p>This participatory activity is pending accreditation by the State Bar of California as follows: The maximum total number of credits an individual may receive for this pending activity is <b>20.25 hours</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Legal Ethics credit</li> <li>• 7.5 hours of Recognition &amp; Elimination of Bias credit (Sessions A1, B1, C1, D1, and E1)</li> <li>• 0 hours of Competence Issues credit</li> </ul>	More information coming soon
<b>COLORADO</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>
	<p>This course is accredited by the Colorado Board of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education for a maximum of <b>7 units</b> of credit, including a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 units of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity credit</li> <li>• 0 units of Legal Ethics credit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> <p>This course is accredited by the Colorado Board of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education for a maximum of <b>24 units</b> of credit, including a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 units of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity credit (Sessions B1, C1, D1, and E1)</li> <li>• 0 units of Legal Ethics credit</li> </ul>	<p>This course is accredited by the Colorado Board of Continuing Legal and Judicial Education for a maximum of <b>18 units</b> of credit, including a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.8 units of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity credit (Session OF1)</li> <li>• 1.8 units of Legal Ethics credit (Session OP4)</li> </ul>
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>
	<p>This course is approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association for a maximum of <b>6 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics credit</li> <li>• 0 hours of Professionalism credit</li> <li>• 0 hours of Law Office Management credit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> <p>This course is approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association for a maximum of <b>20.25 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics credit</li> <li>• 6 hours of Professionalism credit (Sessions B1, C1, D1, and E1)</li> <li>• 0 hours of Law Office Management credit</li> </ul>	<p>This course is approved by the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association for a maximum of <b>15 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 hours of Ethics credit (Session OP4)</li> <li>• 1.5 hours of Professionalism credit (Session OF1)</li> <li>• 0 hours of Law Office Management credit</li> </ul>

	ONSITE Pre-Conference Red Book Training	ONSITE Conference (including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch & Learn)	ONLINE Conference
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This course is approved by the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>6 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics or Professional Responsibility credit</li> <li>• 0 hours of Elimination of Bias credit</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> <b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening</b> This course is approved by the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>19 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics or Professional Responsibility credit</li> <li>• 4.5 hours of Elimination of Bias credit (Sessions B1, C1, and E1)</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This course is approved by the Minnesota State Board of Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>15 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 hours of Ethics or Professional Responsibility credit (Session OP4)</li> <li>• 1.5 hours of Elimination of Bias credit (Session OF1)</li> </ul>
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This course or a portion thereof is approved by the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>6 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> <b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b> This course or a portion thereof is approved by the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>18 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This course or a portion thereof is approved by the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>15 hours</b> of credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit (Session OP4)</li> </ul>
<b>OHIO</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This program is approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>6 hours</b> of CLE credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Professional Conduct credit</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> <b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b> This program is approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>20.25 hours</b> of CLE credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.5 hours of Professional Conduct credit (Sessions B1, C1, and E1)</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This program is approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education for a maximum of <b>15 hours</b> of CLE credit, including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 hours of Professional Conduct credit (Sessions OP4 and OF1)</li> </ul>
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This program is approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of <b>6 hours</b> of CLE credit including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics credit</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> <b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b> This program is approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of <b>20 hours</b> of CLE credit including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics credit</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This program is approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of <b>15 hours</b> of CLE credit including a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 hours of Ethics credit (Session OP4)</li> </ul>
<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the maximum amount of <b>6 credit hours</b> , of which a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 credit hours may apply to Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> <b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b> This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the maximum amount of <b>20.25 credit hours</b> , of which a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.5 credit hours may apply to Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit (Sessions B1, C1, and E1)</li> </ul>	<b>ACCREDITED</b> This course is approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the maximum amount of <b>15 credit hours</b> , of which a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 credit hours may apply to Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit (Sessions OP4 and OF1)</li> </ul>



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NACC advances children's and parents' rights by supporting a diverse, inclusive community of child welfare lawyers to provide zealous legal representation and by advocating for equitable, anti-racist solutions co-designed by people with lived experience.

# Promoting Excellence # Building Community # Advancing Justice

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# REGISTER NOW FOR NACC'S 46TH NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE LAW CONFERENCES!



## ONSITE CONFERENCE

Aug 10-12, 2023

PRE-CONFERENCE AUG 9

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis



## ONLINE CONFERENCE

Sep 20-22, 2023

Online conference registration is included with Minneapolis dual-conference registration, or may be purchased separately.

**REGISTER NOW!**

**STAY INFORMED**

Details are posted to our [NACCchildlaw.org](http://NACCchildlaw.org) as they become available.

### DUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

ONSITE IN MINNEAPOLIS + ONLINE CONFERENCE [↗](#)

Child Welfare Law Specialists	\$ 450
NACC Individual or Organizational Member	\$ 575
Non-Member	\$ 775

### OPTIONAL ONSITE SESSIONS & ACTIVITIES

#### PRE-CONFERENCE RED BOOK TRAINING

WEDNESDAY, AUG 9 | 9:00AM – 4:30PM | BOX LUNCH INCLUDED [↗](#)

Child Welfare Law Specialists	\$ 150
NACC Individual or Organizational Member	\$ 225
Non-Member	\$ 300

#### PRE-CONFERENCE CHILDREN'S LAW OFFICE PROJECT CONVENING

WEDNESDAY, AUG 9 | 10:00AM – 4:30PM | BOX LUNCH INCLUDED [↗](#)

NACC Individual or Organizational Member	\$ 100
Non-Member	\$ 150

#### PRE-CONFERENCE CHILD WELFARE LEGAL CAREER FAIR OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, AUG 9 | 1:00PM – 5:0PM

All Attendees   Registration Required <a href="#">↗</a>	\$ FREE
Employers   Registration Required <a href="#">↗</a>	\$ 50

#### LUNCH AND LEARN | THURSDAY, AUG 10 | 12:15PM – 1:45PM [↗](#)

All Attendees	\$ 75
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#### PAISLEY PARK TOUR | THURS, AUG 10 | 6:30PM – 9:30PM [↗](#)

All Attendees	\$ 75
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#### 80s DANCE PARTY | FRIDAY, AUG 11 | 7:30PM – 10:00PM [↗](#)

All Attendees	\$ 35
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### ONLINE-ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION [↗](#)

Child Welfare Law Specialists	\$ 275
NACC Individual or Organizational Member	\$ 400
Non-Member	\$ 600

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for 2024!*

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