

**Child Welfare Law, Advocacy, and Practice for Ohio Attorneys and Professionals Serving Ohio Families**  
**NACC Ohio Custom Training**  
**October 2022**

*This training series is designed for Ohio attorneys who represent children, parents, and the agency; Juvenile or Family Court Staff; Children's Services Staff; or any community professionals that want to learn more about child welfare law. The presenter will use practice tips, hypothetical case studies, and polls, grounded in Ohio law, to share knowledge, skills, and best practices aimed at promoting high quality representation in Ohio child welfare cases.*

**Presented by:**

- **Kristen Pisani-Jacques, JD, CWLS, Training Director, NACC**

**Session 1: Key Advocacy Moments in an Ohio Child Welfare Case**

- **Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**
- Attendees will enhance their knowledge of key portions of Ohio statutes, case law, and court rules, and applicable federal law, and learn practical tips for high-quality legal representation in a child welfare case. This session will focus on:
  - The various competing considerations that may be facing a family;
  - The role of culturally humble representation and practice in addressing the impact of racial inequities, disproportionality, disparities, racism, and bias on families;
  - Reasonable and active efforts law, practice, and advocacy; and
  - Effective and family-centered case planning and advocacy for appropriate and individualized services and resources for families.

**Session 2: In Court and Out-of-Court Advocacy and Collaboration Throughout an Ohio Child Welfare Case**

- **Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**
- Attendees will use a hypothetical fact pattern to apply relevant in- and out-of-court advocacy tips and strategies throughout the case, focusing on the role of the attorney to achieve reunification, promote permanency, and advance family wellbeing through zealous and proactive advocacy.
- The session will highlight key portions of Ohio statutes, case law, and court rules that further attorneys' oral and written advocacy at each stage of a case, focusing on:
  - Client counseling, independent investigation, and alternative dispute resolution/collaborative practice;
  - Permanency planning, giving priority to and promoting reunification;
  - Supporting relative placements; and
  - Advocating for quality family time.

**Session 3: Selected Topics in Ohio Child Welfare Law and Practice**

- **Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**
- Attendees will learn Ohio and federal legal authority and practice tips in three areas that frequently arise in child welfare cases. This session will focus on:
  - Education advocacy in the context of child welfare cases, including federal and state sources of law, educational rights and decision-making, school stability, and the role of different attorneys in educational advocacy;
  - Special considerations for working with transition-age youth, including the Bridges Program, ancillary legal issues affecting older youth, the federal "normalcy" provisions, and reasonable efforts and permanency for older youth;
  - The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), including exploring attorneys' roles in ICPC advocacy and comparing how Ohio applies the ICPC with other states, particularly the application of the ICPC to parents.

#### **Session 4: Evidentiary Laws, Objections, and Trial Advocacy**

- **Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 5-6:30 PM ET**
- Attendees will learn practical tips and strategies, and key areas of law to enhance their trial and litigation advocacy in Ohio child welfare cases. This session will focus on:
  - Developing comprehensive and persuasive case theories and themes;
  - Effective trial preparation and case organization;
  - Child witness and testimony issues;
  - How to effectively incorporate selected hearsay exceptions into trial advocacy;
  - Making objections and preserving the record/errors for appeal; and
  - Practical trial skills tips in crafting effective examinations and arguments.