



# 46TH NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE LAW CONFERENCES

Online Sep 20–22, 2023



## NEW SPEAKERS! NEW AGENDA!

Online conference registration is included for all Minneapolis attendees.

### REGISTER NOW!

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

## 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!

### REGISTER NOW FOR THE ONLINE CONFERENCE

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

# NACC

National Association  
of Counsel for Children

## 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 and online for learning and exchange. Thank you to this year's conference sponsors and exhibitors for helping make this event possible.

In Minnesota NACC acknowledged that we gathered on the ancestral and occupied homelands of the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations. NACC further acknowledged 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 online 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.

We hope you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee as you watch, and stay active online in the chat with your colleagues.



Kim Dvorchak, JD  
Executive Director



LaShanda Taylor Adams, JD  
Board President

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## 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

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

### 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 **ONLINE 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.

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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.



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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 Rixin, 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

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YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS



The Imprint is an independent daily news outlet focused on the nation's child welfare and youth justice systems.



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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.



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.

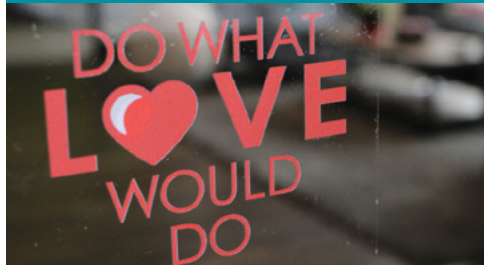
### Influence

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)





## 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.



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**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.



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**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>

	<b>ONSITE Pre-Conference Red Book Training</b>	<b>ONSITE Conference (including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn)</b>	<b>ONLINE Conference</b>
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>
	<p>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:</p> <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>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening</b></p> <p>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:</p> <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>	<p>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:</p> <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>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit</li> </ul>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 hours of Ethics/Professionalism credit (Session OP4)</li> </ul>
<b>OHIO</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Professional Conduct credit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.5 hours of Professional Conduct credit (Sessions B1, C1, and E1)</li> </ul>	<p>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:</p> <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>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics credit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 hours of Ethics credit</li> </ul>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 hours of Ethics credit (Session OP4)</li> </ul>
<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>	<b>ACCREDITED</b>
	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 credit hours may apply to Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit</li> </ul>	<p><b>Including Pre-Conference CLOP Convening and Lunch &amp; Learn</b></p> <p>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:</p> <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>	<p>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:</p> <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.

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