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August 11, 2023

Dear Frank,

Congratulations on receiving the Distinguished Achievement Award from the National Association of Counsel for Children! It has been an honor and joy to work with you over the years, and this award is a well-deserved reflection of your work on behalf of our most vulnerable youth. You are a role model and inspiration to your friends, your colleagues, and our entire community.

The full impact of your work is difficult to put into words. As Executive Director of the Support Center for Child Advocates for over 30 years, you have provided counsel, justice, and opportunity for every child served by the Support Center, as well as guidance and friendship to the lawyers you inspired to join you in that work. The growth and success the Support Center experienced under your storied tenure is what other organizations aspire to — and due in no small part to your leadership and guidance. Not only has the organization expanded, it has evolved, with your empathy, wit, and kindness as the pillars of its foundation.

Beyond your leadership of the Support Center, you have done important work to change child services for the better, both in our region and across the nation. You have strengthened ABA guidelines and standards for lawyers and advocates working with vulnerable children across the country. Your work advising and supporting similar organizations across the United States, both formally and informally, has been invaluable; it helped shape the national landscape of legal aid for children. The impact of your career stretches far beyond the Philadelphia area, and your work strengthening legal safeguards for children will be remembered for decades to come.

Leaders like you are fundamental to our community. You exemplify the meaning of a compassionate leader, providing a voice for forgotten and neglected children. I am honored both to call you a dear friend and to be able to celebrate your decades of dedication to this most essential work for children and families.

Your Friend,



May Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

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Dear National Association of Counsel for Children Award Committee,

I am very honored to be writing this letter of recommendation in support of Frank Cervone's nomination for the Distinguished Achievement Award. I cannot think of a better candidate for this award than Frank Cervone.

Frank was a founding member of the ABA Section of Litigation Children's Rights Litigation Committee (CRLC) back when it was called the Task Force on Children. After serving as a member for three years, he served as chair of the then Task Force from 1995-1998 and then a member of the working group until 2012, rotating off after 20 years of service.

The mission of the CRLC is to inspire and assist lawyers to undertake the direct *pro bono* representation of children by supporting and encouraging the development or improvement of children's law programs. Frank was (and remains) devoted to this mission and has supported countless children's law centers around the country in their development by providing guidance and advice. Frank had a direct hand in helping the following programs get started: The Children's Law Center of Minnesota, Montgomery Child Advocacy Program in Norristown, PA, New Orleans Pro Bono Project (specifically the Children's Law Project) and Oklahoma Lawyers for Children, among others. In addition, Frank has presented programs around the country focused on how to start a children's law project, including presentations at the ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference and the ABA Center on Children and the Law Conference. When Frank helped to start the then Task Force on Children in 1992, there were far fewer children's law projects than when he left in 2012. Perhaps no one more than Frank helped with the proliferation of children's law centers around the country during that 20-year period.

Frank has been an active leader in the development of children's law on a national level. He participated in the **Conference on Ethical Issues in the Legal Representation of Children** at Fordham University in 1996. At the conference Frank was one of more than 70 lawyers, judges, legal scholars and representatives of other professions who worked together to develop recommendations to improve the representation of children. Articles, responses, recommendations and reports from the conference are published in a special edition of the Fordham Law Review, March 1996. The conference and law review fundamentally impacted the representation of children in this country. Frank later participated in a follow-up conference in 2006 **Representing Children in Families: Exploring the Relationship Between Children's Advocacy and Justice Ten Years After Fordham**. During the conference Frank led the working group focused on the role of the children's lawyer. I was a member of that working group and was incredibly impressed with Frank's ability to create a collaborative and supportive process given the contentious nature of our topic. Thanks to his leadership our group was able to formulate recommendations that were incorporated into the larger recommendations of the entire conference.

Frank has also played a leading role in the development of ABA Policy and Standards, assisting with the development of both the **Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases** (adopted by the ABA in 2/96), the **Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Children in Custody Cases** (2003) and the **Model Act Governing the Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Cases** ("Model Act")(2011). The Model Act was first introduced to the ABA House of Delegates in 2009 but had to be withdrawn in the face of aggressive opposition, particularly from the Family Law Section. For

two years after the Model Act was withdrawn, Frank held countless meetings with those who opposed the Model Act and during that time consistently reminded those of us working towards its passage, that those who opposed the Model Act were not our enemies but were people of good will who cared deeply about the welfare of children. Thanks to his patience, hard work and collaboration, the Family Law Section eventually voted *unanimously* to co-sponsor the Model Act. Those who had worked so vigorously to oppose the Model Act eventually became partners and co-sponsors. The significance of this really cannot be overstated and is due directly to Frank's work. In 2011 the ABA House of Delegates voted to adopt the **Model Act Governing the Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Cases** with virtually no opposition.

In addition to being a national leader, Frank has been an active leader within his state, has won countless awards and has grown his program into a nationally respected organization serving thousands of children.

I am so grateful that I have been able to work with Frank and call him a friend. He has taught me and so many lawyers around the country so much in addition to impacting the lives of too many children to count. As he retires from this field of children's law, to which he has given so much, it is the ideal time to honor his contributions with a Distinguished Service Award.

Sincerely,

Catherine Krebs  
Committee Director