

A TRIBUTE TO BOB SCHWARTZ



Bob is leaving the NACC Board of Directors after six years of service.

Bob the Builder

by **Gerry Glynn** and **Kim Dvorchak**

Bob Schwartz is a founder of the field of children's legal representation. At every major development of the field over the past 50 years, Bob was there providing wisdom and strategic leadership. The NACC has been a lucky beneficiary of his guidance.

Bob started his career representing children in dependency and delinquency matters. He had the audacity to champion the rights of children and youth — in trial court, on appeal, in class action litigation, in Congress, in major law reform efforts, and internationally. From co-founding the Juvenile Law Center in 1975, to serving on numerous committees and commissions, publishing articles and books, to today, his impact on the field of child law is immeasurable. We cannot do justice to his distinguished career here but hope you will read his bio on the Juvenile Law Center [website](#).

Bob joined the NACC Board in 2016 after stepping down from his 40-year leadership of the Juvenile Law Center. NACC could not have been more fortunate to receive his guidance and expertise at a pivotal moment in NACC's organizational development. His service on the NACC Board has included guiding us through a leadership search, chairing the Nominating Committee, chairing the Strategic Planning Committee, serving on the Policy Committee, and serving as Treasurer.

Bob's notable achievements include leading a board recruitment process that accelerated the advent of the most diverse board in NACC's history. He helped procure funding and co-led an extensive strategic planning process that resulted in NACC's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan which charted a course that has more than doubled the organization's staff, impact, and revenue in just a few years. An expert in organizational development, his participation has been instrumental to NACC's growth and vitality (including recruiting NACC's current executive director).

An active participant of NACC's Policy Committee, Bob has shared his years of wisdom, insights, strategic vision, and policy expertise. During Bob's tenure shaping the implementation of NACC's Strategic Plan, NACC engaged in robust amicus practice, updated seminal products, such as NACC's Recommendations on Legal Representation of Children, and established a larger role and voice in federal policy advocacy. His serious engagement in these matters also comes with a quick wit and endearing laugh that makes him a pleasure to work with (go Phillies!).

On a more personal note, Bob has been a mentor to both of us and to so many of the current and future professionals in our field. As a mentor and coach, he readily gives his support and guidance, helping propel the leadership and achievements of others in the field.

Bob steps down from NACC's Board after serving a monumental term of service — this tribute is exactly what Bob would ask us not to do, but we cannot let him go without a little fanfare. Bob, we will miss you dearly in our meetings but know that you are only a phone call away — and yes, we will be calling! With our deepest gratitude, thank you for your service. ■