Call for Pitches

NACC Quarterly Law Journal - *The Guardian*

Deadline: December 7, 2026

NACC seeks pitches for its quarterly law journal, The Guardian. If you have a perspective on child welfare law and want to write about it, we want to hear from you!

NACC publishes its law journal for NACC members quarterly. We are looking for pitches for all 2027 editions.

NACC's 50th Anniversary as an organization will be in 2027.

To mark the milestone, NACC is especially looking for pitches related to how the legal rights of children and families developed over the past 50 years, what protections remain vulnerable, or what legal developments may define the next 50 years of child welfare law. See specific themes for each edition below.

Learn more and submit a pitch through the form on NACC's website. It's quick and easy. NACC will consider submissions received by December 7 for our 2027 editions. If you have already submitted a pitch in recent months, NACC will consider your pitch. If NACC accepts your pitch, NACC staff will contact you to discuss a timeline for drafting your article.

People with lived experience in the child welfare system are particularly encouraged to submit a pitch, even if they are not a lawyer. Law students are encouraged to submit a pitch for our Next Gen News section.

NACC determines which pitches to accept for potential drafting and publication. All decisions are final. NACC cannot contact everyone who submits a pitch. If NACC accepts your pitch, NACC staff will contact you in the coming weeks and months to discuss article drafting process and timeline.

NACC Seeks Pitches for These Types of Articles:

- **Lead Article**: 1200-1500 words. In-depth analysis, policy, or practice.
- **Learning from Lived Expertise**: 1200-1500 words. First-person perspectives of people who have experienced the system firsthand as young people, parents, or kinship care providers. NACC does not define working in the system as lived experience.
- **Next Gen News**: 800-1000 words. This article category is reserved exclusively for current law students. Student research, op-eds, reviews, and advice.

- **Resource Spotlight**: 600-800 words. Overview, why it matters, and how to use it.
- **Short Feature**: 300-700 words. Practice tips, reviews, and interviews.

Preferred Themes for 2027 Editions:

Spring Edition: Justice Is Not Equal

Editorial focus: Examining systemic inequities in child welfare, the historical and contemporary factors that contribute to disparate outcomes, and the legal profession's responsibility to challenge practices that undermine justice for children and families.

Potential article topics:

- The intersection of poverty and child welfare involvement
- Racial disproportionality and disparities in child welfare decision-making
- The evolution of legal protections for children and parents
- Challenging bias in investigations, removal, and permanency decisions
- Perspectives from families who have experienced inequitable treatment

Summer Edition: The Meaning of Family

Editorial focus: Exploring how child welfare law defines, recognizes, protects, and sometimes disrupts family relationships, with particular attention to family preservation, reunification, identity, belonging, and permanency.

Potential article topics:

- Family preservation as a legal advocacy priority
- The role of kinship and fictive kin in achieving permanency
- Reunification barriers and effective advocacy strategies
- LGBTQ+ youth, chosen family, and affirming relationships
- The relationship between family separation, trauma, and mental health
- Youth perspectives on what family and belonging mean to them

Fall Edition: The People and The Practice

Editorial Focus: Examining how child welfare legal advocacy has evolved, the individuals and perspectives influencing its practice, and the preparation and support necessary to sustain effective representation for children and families.

Potential article topics:

- The evolution of children's legal representation over the past 50 years
- The role of professional standards and certification in improving representation
- From lived experience to leadership: Whose expertise shapes child welfare practice?
- The value of interdisciplinary representation
- Mentorship and preparing the next generation of child welfare attorneys
- Professional sustainability, secondary trauma, and attorney well-being
- The influence of kinship caregivers and families on child welfare policy and practice

Winter Edition: The Rights at Stake

Editorial focus: Examining the fundamental rights of children and families involved in the child welfare system, the legal obligations of those entrusted to protect those rights, and emerging challenges to meaningful legal representation and due process.

Potential article topics:

- The constitutional right to family integrity
- Client-directed representation and the child's right to be heard - and changes over the last 50 years
- ICWA and the protection of tribal sovereignty and family connections
- Due process in termination of parental rights proceedings
- The rights of LGBTQ+ youth in foster care
- Disability rights and meaningful access to services
- Emerging threats to children's and parents' legal protections