AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Diane Baird (B.S.Ed., Oklahoma University; M.S.W., Tulane University Graduate School of Social Work) is a licensed clinical social worker and an instructor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, at the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. She holds a bachelor’s degree in education and earned her master of social work from Tulane University Graduate School of Social Work. Her clinical work involves parent-child interactional evaluations and treatment, infant mental health, child and family therapy, therapeutic visitation, and postadoptive intervention. She is particularly interested in rehabilitation of parent-child relationships following abuse or neglect. Ms. Baird’s interest in attachment and early childhood development is central to her clinical work; she has served as an expert in this area for the State of Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS) for more than 15 years. Ms. Baird was a child welfare caseworker and supervisor before beginning her employment with the Kempe Center in 1986. Her position is currently in the Training, Education, and Consultation Program at the Kempe Center. There, Ms. Baird codirects the State and Regional Team (START), a multidisciplinary consultation group that has reviewed complex cases of child maltreatment, from a civil and/or criminal perspective, for more than 20 years; cases may be referred from Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, and other states in the region. Ms. Baird writes curricula, provides training for Colorado DHS and the State Judicial Office, and collaborates with other states in the region to develop and offer training to child welfare staff.

Gail Chang Bohr (B.A., Wellesley College; M.S. in social work, Simmons College School of Social Work; J.D., William Mitchell College of Law) is a judge in the Second Judicial District of Minnesota. Before her election as the first Asian American judge in Ramsey County, Second Judicial District,
Judge Bohr was the first executive director of Children’s Law Center of Minnesota (CLC), where she initiated programs to provide representation to children in the foster care system. In addition to representing children in court, managing and consulting with more than 270 CLC pro bono lawyers, and advocating for system reform, she has been co-counsel in 21 federal and state court appeals. Judge Bohr participated in the making of the American Bar Association (ABA) DVD Interviewing the Child Client, and taught trial advocacy for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. She served as faculty for CLC’s training programs for pro bono lawyers who represented children in the foster care system. She has written many articles on due process rights and the representation of children, and she has served on national and statewide committees, including the ABA Section of Litigation’s Children’s Rights Litigation Committee Working Group, the ABA Project for Judicial Excellence in Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings, the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, the Ramsey County Juvenile Court Children’s Justice Initiative, and the Hennepin County Juvenile Court Children’s Justice Initiative. Immediately after law school, Judge Bohr clerked for Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice A. M. “Sandy” Keith and practiced law at Faegre & Benson LLP. Judge Bohr has received awards for her work as a child advocate. In June 2008, she was named one of the top ten legal newsmakers of the decade by Minnesota Lawyer. In 2007, she received the American Bar Association’s Child Advocacy Award, the William Mitchell College of Law Warren E. Burger Distinguished Service Award, and the Minnesota Lawyer Outstanding Service to the Profession Award. Before becoming an attorney, Judge Bohr had a 19-year career in clinical social work with children and families. Judge Bohr was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, of Chinese parents, and she is the ninth of 15 children.

Jenny Chau (B.A., University of California, Los Angeles; J.D., Whittier Law School) is an attorney who specializes in special education law. Ms. Chau began advocating for special education rights while in law school, in the Whittier Special Education Clinic. She continues to advocate for children with disabilities to obtain services and support through school districts, regional centers, and insurance companies. Ms. Chau is a member of the Educational Civil Rights Accountability Project of the Children’s Rights
Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Litigation; as part of that project, she is participating in work to promote the efforts of the federal Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights to monitor discrimination in schools.

Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker (B.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette; J.D., Southern University Law Center) is the managing attorney of the Child in Need of Care (CINC) Unit at Acadiana Legal Service Corporation in Lafayette, Louisiana, where she promotes an assertive and holistic approach to the representation of children in dependency proceedings to ensure that every client has a voice. Mrs. Hamilton-Acker oversees this representation in southwest and central Louisiana, a region encompassing more than 19 juvenile jurisdictions; the role includes overseeing the involvement of pro bono attorneys. Mrs. Hamilton-Acker joined the law firm of Acadiana Legal Service, in 1995 as a college intern. She decided to devote her career to public interest soon thereafter. Mrs. Hamilton-Acker returned to Acadiana Legal Services each summer while in law school as a law clerk. Upon graduation from law school, she returned to Acadiana Legal Services, where she worked in the Litigation Law Unit practicing housing, consumer, elder, and juvenile law. During this time, she represented clients in dependency, education, housing, and child welfare cases. In 2010, Acadiana Legal Service Corporation created the CINC Unit, which focuses primarily on representing children in dependency proceedings. Mrs. Hamilton-Acker has made a career choice of public-interest law, with a commitment to pursuing access to justice for all, especially the voiceless. Mrs. Hamilton-Acker is currently on the Louisiana Child in Need of Care Legislative Task Force, the Advisory Committee to the ABA Center on Children and the Law, and the working group of the Children’s Rights Litigation Committee of the Section of Litigation in the American Bar Association.

Rosa K. Hirji (B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz; J.D., University of California Hastings College of the Law) is an attorney and owner of a firm that focuses on the educational, civil, and disability rights of youth, including court-involved youth. She represents youth and their families at all levels of administrative proceedings and in state and federal court. As a
found member of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court Education Panel, she is regularly appointed to represent young people in foster care, juvenile hall, and other institutionalized settings. Ms. Hirji is a former teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District and a cofounder of the Dignity in Schools Campaign. Her practice has a public-interest orientation that strives to obtain relief that brings a wider impact for youth and communities. Ms. Hirji was appointed in 2012 as cochair of the Children’s Rights Litigation Committee (CRLC) of the Section of Litigation, American Bar Association (ABA). She has been an active member of the ABA since 2003 and serves as the chair of the CRLC’s Education Subcommittee. She is a member of the editorial board of Children’s Rights, CRLC’s quarterly newsletter. In 2004, she was awarded the Outstanding Subcommittee Chair Award by the ABA’s Section of Litigation.

Ira Lustbader (B.S., State University of New York at Albany; J.D., Boston University School of Law) is an attorney and the associate director of Children’s Rights (www.childrensrights.org), a national nonprofit children’s advocacy organization based in New York City, which has led numerous efforts over the past 17 years to reform failing public child-welfare systems. Children’s Rights, with active reform campaigns in more than a dozen states nationally, combines grassroots case-building and legal action infused with policy expertise to achieve court-ordered reforms, negotiated settlements, and, ultimately, improved outcomes for abused and neglected children. Since joining Children’s Rights in 1999, Mr. Lustbader has been deeply involved in many of the organization’s legal reform campaigns. He focuses on overarching strategy, development of national coalitions and partnerships, and organizational management. Before joining Children’s Rights, Mr. Lustbader practiced law at Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz, LLP, in New York City, concentrating on national plaintiffs’ class action litigation in consumer fraud, securities fraud, and antitrust cases. Before that, he handled matters on the defense side involving products liability and malpractice at the firms of Parker Chapin Flattau & Klimpl LLP and Bower & Gardner, both in New York City. From 1998 to 2006, Mr. Lustbader served as a board member of Neighborhood Youth & Family Services, a large nonprofit family preservation agency in the South Bronx. He is a past
chair of the Committee on Public Service and Education at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and he is currently a member of the working group of the Children’s Rights Litigation Committee of the Section of Litigation of the American Bar Association, the National Lawyers Guild, and the National Association of Counsel for Children.

Candace Mitchell (B.A., Columbia College) is currently a dual-degree student at New York University School of Law and Harvard Kennedy School. She is passionate about racial and economic justice and intends to work as a public defender upon graduation.

Brent Pattison (B.A., Wesleyan University; J.D., University of Minnesota) is an associate clinical professor of law and director of the Middleton Children’s Rights Center at Drake University Law School. Mr. Pattison began his career as a Soros Justice Fellow at TeamChild, an award-winning program in Washington State that provides civil legal advocacy for children in the juvenile justice system. He has represented children in a wide variety of contexts, including delinquency, child welfare, housing, public benefits, and education cases. He is also a former special education teacher. Mr. Pattison currently teaches the Children’s Rights Clinic at Drake University Law School, supervising law students who represent children in abuse, neglect, and delinquency proceedings. He also teaches education law. Mr. Pattison is a member of the working group of the Children’s Rights Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Litigation.

Lourdes M. Rosado (B.A., Swarthmore College; M.A., Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs; J.D., New York University School of Law; LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center) is associate director of Juvenile Law Center (www.jlc.org) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she employs a diverse set of strategies to advocate on behalf of children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Ms. Rosado pursues civil litigation on behalf of institutionalized children; writes appellate court and amici briefs on key legal issues affecting children involved in public systems; works on legislative and regulatory
reform; and trains lawyers and other child-serving professionals on the law. Ms. Rosado joined Juvenile Law Center in 1998 after completing the E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship in Juvenile Justice at Georgetown University Law Center. Immediately after law school, Ms. Rosado served as a law clerk to the Honorable John R. Padova, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Before becoming an attorney, Ms. Rosado worked as a business reporter for *Newsweek* and other publications. Ms. Rosado is currently cochair of the Children’s Rights Litigation Committee of the Section of Litigation in the American Bar Association.

**Shari F. Shink** (B.A., University of Pittsburgh; J.D., Rutgers University School of Law) is the founder, executive director for 30 years, and now president emeritus of the Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center. The goal of changing the lives of abused and neglected children has been the guiding mission of Ms. Shink’s personal and professional life. A graduate of Rutgers University School of Law in 1975, Ms. Shink began her legal career at Pittsburgh’s Child Advocacy Legal Aid Clinic. In 1981, she was recruited by the National Association of Counsel for Children to direct a national demonstration project, the Colorado Guardian *ad litem* Project, and four years later, she launched the Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center. During the 33 years of Ms. Shink’s tenure, the Children’s Law Center has been a national leader in legal advocacy, education, and public policy reform. Ms. Shink has represented thousands of children and numerous parents, grandparents, and foster parents. A national and international speaker, Ms. Shink inspires others to action on behalf of abused and neglected children and has worked tirelessly to improve Colorado’s foster care system. Ms. Shink has successfully challenged barriers in the court and social service systems that have denied children timely decisions, the recognition of psychological parent-child relationships, needed mental health and other services, and permanent and loving families. In addition, Ms. Shink served on Governor Bill Ritter’s Child Welfare Action Committee to improve the system in Colorado and, in 2010, spearheaded the development and passage of legislation to create the Child Protection Ombudsman Office, one of the most dramatic and needed reforms in the
last three decades. She serves on the working group of the American Bar Association’s Section of Litigation’s Children’s Rights Litigation Committee and is a member of the National Children’s Law Network. She assists in the development of children’s law centers nationwide and initiated the creation of video training tools on the importance of attorneys for children and methods to interview children that are distributed nationally to judges, attorneys, and law students. Her work has earned her numerous awards, including the American Bar Association’s Child Advocate of the Year Award in 2001, the Lewis Hine Award for Service to Children and Youth in 2004, the Women’s Bar Association’s Raising the Bar Award in 2010, the Denver Rescue Mission’s Women Who Have Changed the Heart of the City award in 2013, and the Girl Scouts of Colorado’s Women of Distinction award in 2013.

Casey Trupin (B.A., Pomona College; J.D., University of Washington School of Law) is the coordinating attorney for the Children and Youth Project at Columbia Legal Services in Seattle, where he advocates for at-risk, homeless, and foster youth. Mr. Trupin has served as counsel to thousands of foster youth and homeless adults in litigation and worked on state and federal legislation designed to improve services to low-income children, youth, and adults in Washington State and nationwide. Mr. Trupin is cochair of the Children’s Rights Litigation Committee of the Section of Litigation of the American Bar Association (ABA) and is a special advisor to the ABA’s Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, which he chaired from 2006 to 2009. Mr. Trupin co-teaches the Legislative Advocacy Clinic at the University of Washington School of Law, where he previously taught street law. Mr. Trupin has authored or edited numerous books and articles on at-risk, homeless, and foster children, including *Educating Children without Housing: A Primer on Legal Requirements and Implementation Strategies for Educators, Advocates and Policymakers* (3d ed.) (ABA, 2009). In 1997, Mr. Trupin cofounded Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington (SYLAW) and went on to direct the program until 2005. From 2005 to 2006, Mr. Trupin worked on federal child welfare policy as Counsel for Special Projects at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) in Washington, D.C. Mr. Trupin has received national
recognition for his work, including the ABA’s Child Advocacy Award—Distinguished Lawyer (2011), the National Network for Youth’s Advocacy Spirit Award (2010), and the Congressional Angel in Adoption Award (2005). From 2006 to 2012, Mr. Trupin served as the inaugural chair of the William H. Gates Public Service Law Program at the University of Washington School of Law.