



ABA National Conference on Access to Justice for Children and Families

April 9-10, 2019
Ritz Carlton | Tysons Corner, VA





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Dear Conference Attendees,

Welcome!

We are thrilled you have joined us this week during the ABA Center on Children and the Law's national conferences. A record number of attendees are registered for the conferences this year. We look forward to these events to celebrate the work each of you does in the field every day: as an attorney, a judge, an advocate, a court improvement program director, a social worker, a peer mentor, and countless other roles.

So much is happening in the children's law field and we are excited to offer a variety of workshops and discussion groups at each conference that cover a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from religious exemption laws to immigration to the challenges of managing a child or parent representation practice.

As in past years, the conferences provide an opportunity to teach, learn and exchange information from one practice to another. As you look through the agendas and identify your goals for the conferences, please seek out opportunities to learn from people you have never met or to engage in discussion groups on topics where you may not have expertise (yet). That is the goal - for these convenings to generate new ideas and new understanding of the work we all do.

In keeping with that goal of building new ideas, please reach out to me or other staff at the ABA Center on Children and the Law to share how we and the larger ABA can support your work in this complex legal field beyond just your conference participation. We are here to help make this legal system a better one for children and families and we do that by partnering with you in the process.

It is a privilege to work with and learn from each of you. I look forward to hearing your feedback on this week's events.

Sincerely,

Prudence Beidler Carr
Director, ABA Center on Children and the Law

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Conference hashtag: **#abaccl19**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Susan Abrams

Children's Law Center of California
Monterey Park, CA

Danny Alicea

Center for Family Representation
New York, NY

Tina Amberboy

Supreme Court of Texas
Children's Commission
Austin, TX

Carl Ayers

Virginia Department of Social Services
Richmond, VA

Stephanie Barclay

Brigham Young University Law School
JProvo, UT

Prudence Beidler Carr

ABA Center on Children and the Law
Washington, DC

Darneshia Bell

ZERO TO THREE
Washington, DC

Ana Beltran

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W. Warren Binford

Willamette University College of Law
Salem, OR

Morgen Black-Smith

Support Center for Child Advocates
Philadelphia, PA

Julie Breslow

Superior Court for the District of Columbia
Washington, DC

Carol Casey

Cook County Public Guardian
Chicago, IL

Ashley Chase

Colorado Office of the
Child's Representative
Denver, CO

Ronnie Cheung

Children's Law Center of California
Buena Park, CA

Lily Colby

California CASA
Oakland, CA

Cristina Cooper

ABA Center on Children and the Law
Washington, DC

Virginia Corrigan

Youth Law Center
San Francisco, CA

Kathleen Creamer

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Alicia Davis

National Center for
State Courts
Denver, CO

Tim Decker

Social Innovation Partners
Bowie, MD

Bill Delisio

Colorado State Court Administrator's Office
Denver, CO

Marguerite Downing

Los Angeles Superior Court
Monterey Park, CA

Mike Dsida

Children and Family Law Division,
Committee for Public Counsel Services
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Betsy Fordyce

Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
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Sheri Freemont

Casey Family Programs ICWA
Denver, CO

Cristina F. Freitas

Freitas & Freitas, LLP
Lowell, MA

Debbie F. Freitas

Freitas & Freitas, LLP
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Lee Gelernt

ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project
New York NY

Jenifer Goldman Fraser

Zero to Three
Washington, DC

Ernestine S. Gray

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
New Orleans, LA

Allison Green

Missouri Children's Division
Jefferson City, MO

Jami Hagemeyer

Williams & Hagemeyer, PLC
Des Moines, IA

Mark Hardin

Portland, OR

Leslie Heimov

Children's Law Center of California
Monterey Park, CA

Connie Hickman Tanner

National Council of Juvenile
and Family Court Judges
Reno, NV

Carlyn Hicks

Mission First Legal Aid Office
Jackson, MS

Eliza Hirst

Delaware Office of the Child Advocate
Wilmington, DE

Cathy Hollenberg Serrette

Circuit Court for Prince George's
County, Maryland
Upper Marlboro, MD

Karen Howze

National Council of Juvenile
and Family Court Judges
Reno, NV

Susan Hurtado

Still She Rises
Tulsa, OK

Nyeelah Inniss

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
Baltimore, MD

Nicole Johnson

ABA Center on Children and the Law
Washington, DC

Aisha Jones

Cook County Public Guardian
Chicago, IL

Rebecca Jones Gaston

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Jamie Julian

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Michelle Jungers

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ZERO TO THREE
Washington, DC

Faculty

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ABA Center on Children and the Law
Washington, DC

Eva Klain

ABA Center on Children and the Law
Washington, DC

Jennie Kneeder

ABA Commission on Immigration
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Beth Kurtz

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Sherry Lachman

Foster America
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Anne Marie Lancour

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Mimi Laver

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Alexandra Lohrbach

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, MD

Ira Lustbader

Children's Rights, Inc.
New York, NY

Randi Mandelbaum

Rutgers Law School Child Advocacy Clinic
Newark, NJ

Christina McClurg Riehl

California Department of Justice
San Diego, CA

Gabriella McDonald

Texas Appleseed
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Maura McInerney

Education Law Center
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Kathleen McNaught

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Aisha McWeay

Still She Rises
Tulsa, OK

Jerry Milner

*Associate Commissioner at
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Felicity Northcott

International Social Services
Baltimore, MD

Crys O'Grady

Museum of Tolerance
Los Angeles, CA

Kristen Ornato

KidsVoice
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Afrieda Robinson-Dawkins

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Anthony Simpson

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Thaddius Smith-Boyd

Baltimore, MD

Christina K. Sorenson

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Marlies Spanjaard

The EdLaw Project
Boston, MA

Dylan Spencer Moench

*Supreme Court of Texas
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Sheldon Spotted Elk

Casey Family Programs ICWA
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Ariella Stafanson

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Elizabeth Thornton

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Columbia Legal Services
Seattle, WA

Nandilay Walker

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Chicago, IL

Ewen Nancy Wang

Stanford University
Palo Alto, CA

Tom Welshonice

KidsVoice
Pittsburgh, PA

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Welcome** *Salon I and II*

Prudence Beidler Carr, JD, Director of the ABA Center on Children and the Law

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Jerry Milner, DSW, Associate Commissions at the Children's Bureau and Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Opening Plenary** *Salon I and II*

Transforming Child Welfare by Bridging Systems and Sectors

Sherry Lachman, JD, Founder and Executive Director Foster America

Innovation often arises at the intersection of systems and sectors. This session will focus on how we can leverage this recipe for innovation to transform public systems for children and families. During this session, we will reflect on existing examples of game-changing child welfare innovations that follow this recipe. We will also discuss strategies for strengthening the capacity of public systems to create new innovations and scale existing ones.

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Workshop Session A**

1. Religious and Sexual Orientation Exclusions in Foster Care *Salon III*

Micah Schwartzman, JD, University of Virginia School of Law
Stephanie Barclay, JD, Brigham Young University Law School

In 2018, several high-profile lawsuits and pieces of state and federal legislation addressed religious and sexual orientation exclusions in the child welfare system that affect public and private agencies, foster parents, children, and families. This session will provide an opportunity to hear from two different viewpoints about the arguments and implications underlying this national debate.

2. Changing the System: Strategies for Front-Line Lawyers *Colonnade*

Ira Lustbader, JD, Children's Rights, Inc.
Gabriella McDonald, JD, Texas Appleseed
Tom Welshonce, JD, KidsVoice

Changing the systems that affect our clients can feel daunting to individual practitioners. This session will explore how practitioners can effectuate system-change through individual cases, local partnerships, and larger strategies.

3. Building a Legal Education Advocacy Community *Consulate*

Kristin Kelly, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Kathleen McNaught, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Emily Peeler, JD, MSW, ABA Center on Children and the Law

This session is designed for attorneys with extensive experience advocating for the educational needs of students in foster care and those who are just starting to think about how to incorporate better educational advocacy into your day-to-day representation of children and families. This interactive session will be an opportunity for participants to share legal strategies, identify ongoing challenges and trends, and outline a framework for formalizing a national network to support ongoing collaboration.

4. Family First Track: A Courtroom Advocate's Guide to the Family First Galaxy

Plaza

Allison Green, JD, Missouri Children's Division
Stefanie Sprow, Children's Defense Fund

Through this session attendees will understand Family First as a robust opportunity for courtroom advocacy, legal innovation, and healthy system transformation. Participants will return to their home jurisdiction with increased confidence and urgency to leverage the language and the spirit of the law in their daily case practice.

5. Discussion Group: Expertise and Wellness: Cultivating and Sustaining the Experienced Children's Law Office

Ambassador

Carol Casey, JD, Cook County Public Guardian
Alpa Jayanti Patel, JD, Cook County Public Guardian

Sustaining a cohort of dedicated and professional attorneys in today's children's law office requires a dual commitment. It means not only cultivating subject matter expertise in a variety of fields that intersect with child welfare, but also creating a space for staff to manage the impact of secondary trauma. This session will provide children's law office leaders with an opportunity to exchange ideas about how to develop and maintain a strong and committed team of staff attorneys.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own or Participation in Ticketed Event: Short Screening of Movie "Foster"

Salon I

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshop Session B

1. Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children

Consulate

Honorable Cathy Hollenberg Serrette, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland
Alfrieda Robinson-Dawkins, Bon Secours Community Works/ National Women's Prison Project
Thaddius Smith-Boyd

Consideration of the well-being of the child is largely absent in criminal law and policies. More than five million children have had a parent who lived with them go to jail. Panelists will discuss from both a professional and personal perspective the psychological trauma children face and suggest what can be done to help, including the use of child impact statements at sentencing.

2. A New Day: How to Make the Most of Federal Title IV-E Funding for Child and Parent Counsel in Your Jurisdiction

Salon III

Mark Hardin, JD, formerly ABA Center on Children and the Law
Michelle Jungers, JD, Iowa Legal Aid
Mimi Laver, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law

For the first time, the federal Child Welfare Policy Manual now allows states to claim federal matching funds through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to help pay the costs of attorneys representing children and their parents in child welfare proceedings. This session will provide guidance for attorneys, courts and legal organizations interested in working with their child welfare agencies to leverage this significant new resource to improve outcomes for children and families.

3. Client Engagement Skills and the Larger Legal Context in ICWA Cases and Beyond

Colonnade

Sheri Freemont, Casey Family Programs ICWA
Christina McClurg Riehl, JD, California Department of Justice
Sheldon Spotted Elk, Casey Family Programs ICWA

Practitioners will learn how to use cultural humility and patience to develop rapport and mutual respect with clients. This workshop will offer discussion and exercises to fulfill a practitioner's ethical duties, while also discussing current challenges to ICWA in federal court across the country. Presenters will highlight the opportunities ICWA provides to ensure that a child's interests are best served by the child welfare system through advocacy that involves mutual respect.

4. Family First Track: Is "Least Restrictive" the Best We Can Do? Securing the "Most Connected" Placement for Children

Plaza

Virginia Corrigan, JD, Youth Law Center
Brent Pattison, JD, Children's Rights Clinic, Drake University School of Law
Jennifer Pokempner, JD, Juvenile Law Center

Though the law requires children separated from their families to be placed in the least restrictive setting, this does not happen for far too many children and youth. Attendees will discuss practical resources and current research to reframe our message to advocate for the "most connected" placement for child clients.

5. Discussion Group: Why Robust Kinship Care Policy is Needed to Address Race Equity in Foster Care

Ambassador

Ana Beltran, JD, Generations United
Mary Van Cleve, JD, Columbia Legal Services

Family law has traditionally provided a "private foster care" system inaccessible to those in poverty, whose children end up in foster care. As more children are placed with relatives -- as a prevention strategy or a permanent plan -- new legal strategies and programs to support relative caregivers are needed. Come discuss kinship care reform efforts.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Networking Break**

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Workshop Session C**

1. Ethical Issues in Child Welfare Cases

Salon III

Ethics Credit!

Jennifer Renne, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law

This session will explore the challenging ethical issues that play out in unique ways for attorneys representing children, parents, and child welfare agencies. We will cover topics such as confidentiality, representing clients with diminished capacity, interactions with represented and unrepresented parties, conflicts of interest, and who makes decisions when your client is a government agency. Through a series of hypothetical case scenarios, we will examine how the Model Rules of Professional Conduct apply, as we engage in active debate on handling the difficult issues that arise day-to-day. The session will help attorneys develop an increased awareness of how ethical issues can shape representation, resulting in better decision-making and advocacy in the face of ethical dilemmas.

2. Cultural Identity in Foster Care

Consulate

Lily Colby, JD, California CASA
Crys O'Grady, JD, Museum of Tolerance
Ariella Stafanson, California CASA

The workshop will highlight the preliminary findings of the first foster youth cultural identity and access survey and its impact on social wellbeing. The audience will walk away with knowledge about research, laws, and best practices regarding the importance of cultural identity for children in foster care.

3. Special Education Advocacy in Juvenile Correctional Facilities

Colonnade

Honorable Marguerite Downing, Los Angeles Superior Court
Diane Smith Howard, JD, National Disability Rights Network
Kathleen McNaught, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Marlies Spanjaard, JD, The EdLaw Project
Robert M. Tudisco, JD, Barger & Gaines

Using the Blueprint for Change framework as a guide, this session will discuss broad goals for how to achieve education stability and success for youth in the juvenile justice system, with a particular focus on youth with disabilities who are entitled to receive special education and related services. Our expert panel will provide an overview of the IDEA requirements for these students and discuss state and education agency responsibilities. The session will also address common educational barriers encountered, and recent case law in this area, as well as direct advocacy tips. Topics addressed include FAPE, IEPs, LRE, Child Find and Evaluations, Discipline, Due Process, and Reentry to School and Community.

4. Family First Track: Prevention Services – What This Could Mean for the Field in the Longer Term & the Lawyer’s Role

Plaza

Honorable Ernestine S. Gray, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
Carlyn Hicks, JD, MBA, CWLS, Mission First Legal Aid Office, Mississippi College School of Law
Jerald A. Sharum, JD, Arkansas Department of Human Services and American Association of Health and Human Services Attorneys

The prevention services component of the Family First Act introduces complex questions for attorneys regarding safety decision-making, due process, reasonable efforts, and judicial review. This session will examine those questions more closely and look at the role of counsel for children, parents, and agencies in ensuring that prevention services are implemented in a way that is compatible with the child welfare legal system.

5. Discussion Group: High-Quality Legal Representation for Children and Parents: Achieving Justice for Families

Ambassador

Kathleen Creamer, JD, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Leslie Heimov, JD, CWLS, Children’s Law Center of California
Elizabeth Thornton, JD, FJI Attorney Consultant

The goal of the Family Justice Initiative (FJI) is to ensure every parent and every child has high-quality legal representation when child welfare courts make life-changing decisions about their families. This discussion will focus on what constitutes high-quality representation and strategies for working with an interdisciplinary team to improve outcomes for clients. Participants will discuss how data can be used to support investment and tools for collecting data. Discussion additionally will address accessing federal dollars to support high-quality representation.

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Conference Reception**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Workshop Session D**

1. Supporting Permanency for Older Youth: What's the Brain Got to Do With it?

Colonnade

Nyeelah Inniss, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
Kristin Kelly, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Alexandra Lohrbach, MSW, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Anthony Simpson, Youth Advocate, Youth Fostering Change, Juvenile Law Center
Christina K. Sorenson, JD, Juvenile Law Center

This session will share strategies for achieving and maintaining permanency for older youth that are informed by adolescent brain development and the experiences and wisdom of current and former youth in care. This interactive session is designed to translate adolescent brain science concepts into daily practice guidance for legal professionals who work with and support young people.

2. Education Advocacy in The courtroom

Salon III

Morgen Black-Smith, JD, Support Center for Child Advocates
Eliza Hirst, JD, Delaware Office of the Child Advocate
Maura McInerney, JD, Education Law Center
Miriam Rollin, JD, Education Civil Rights Alliance, National Center for Youth Law

This workshop will focus on specific ways to address the educational needs of children in foster care through courtroom advocacy, informed decision making, and detailed court orders. The session will also address ways to reduce reliance on congregate care placements by improving educational services for children in community schools.

3. Legislative Advocacy for Attorney Services

Consulate

Susan Abrams, JD, Children's Law Center of California
Ashley Chase, JD, Colorado Office of the Child's Representative
Mike Dsida, JD, Children and Family Law Division, Committee for Public Counsel Services

We will discuss successful strategies to advocate at the legislature for attorney services, including attorney reimbursement rates and agency budgets, as well as advocacy regarding bills impacting the best interests of children and child welfare attorney representation.

4. Family First Track: Implementation Challenges and Successful Approaches from a State Perspective

Plaza

Carl Ayers, MSW, Virginia Department of Social Services
Prudence Beidler Carr, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law (moderator)
Bill Delisio, MSLA, Colorado State Court Administrator's Office Oregon Office of Legislative Policy and Research
Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW, Maryland Department of Human Services

Presenters at this workshop will discuss Family First implementation from a state perspective based on their work integrating the legal community in the planning process in Colorado, Maryland, and Virginia.

5. Discussion Group: Talkin' 'Bout a [Child Welfare] Revolution

Ambassador

Tim Decker, Social Innovation Partners
Allison Green, JD, Missouri Children's Division

A revolution of new thinking, common purpose, and collaboration bridged the gap between agency and attorney disciplines in Missouri. A powerful truth was discovered: if social workers and attorneys are courageous enough to lead a movement together, lives will change for the better and the promise of these honorable professions will be realized.

10:00 a.m. –10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 p.m. – 11:45 p.m. **Workshop Session E**

1. The Collective Power of Youth: Changing Systems through Foster-Youth Led Organizing

Attaché

Betsy Fordyce, JD, Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center

This session will focus on the importance of youth organizing as an effective model for system change. An initiative of the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center and partner of Foster Youth in Action, project Foster Power is a group of current and former foster youth, ages 15 to 25+, working together to improve the Colorado child welfare system. Using this group as an example, this session will examine how legal advocacy organizations can support young people's collective advocacy at the grassroots level. This session will also explore opportunities and challenges for legal advocates in supporting similar work, as well as highlight initial strategies for building youth voice and empowering youth to take action.

2. Best Practices and Effective Advocacy to Overcome Implicit Biases Against Transgender Youth

Colonnade

Ronnie Cheung, JD, Children's Law Center of California
Jamie Julian, MSW, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
Raumak Rahmani, JD, Children's Law Center of California

This session will consider how implicit biases negatively affect transgender youth and assess the significance of timely access to appropriate medical and mental health services. We will also address common terms that transgender youth may use, basic medical management practices for transgender youth, and best practices to support these youth.

3. Improving Permanency Outcomes for Children and Families Impacted by Trauma and Serious Adversity: Lessons Learned from Infant-Toddler Court Teams

Consulate

Darneshia Bell, ZERO TO THREE
Jenifer Goldman Fraser, PhD, MPH, ZERO TO THREE
Jami Hagemeyer, JD, Williams & Hagemeyer, PLC
Tiffany Kell, JD, ZERO TO THREE

This workshop addresses effective advocacy for families in the child welfare system in the context of significant parent trauma histories and risk and children's urgent developmental need for stable, nurturing care. Presenters will share research findings from infant-toddler court team sites and strategies for engaging parents and advancing child well-being. The workshop will increase participants' understanding of how to work effectively with parents affected by trauma and struggling with difficulties associated with serious adversity, including substance use disorders. Participants will learn about practices for engaging parents that help build family protective factors and capacities and permanency planning that is both developmentally-informed and family-centered.

4. Conducting Trauma-Informed Interviews of Children

Salon III

W. Warren Binford, JD, Willamette University College of Law
Ewen Nancy Wang, MD, Stanford University
Alan Shapiro, MD, FAAP, Terra Firma

Children involved in child welfare or immigration proceedings are not only likely to be in the midst of an ongoing traumatic experience but also to have been previously exposed to traumatic events and adverse experiences. As clients, these children are experiencing intense psychological distress that may manifest during interviews or discussions focused specifically on their separation, removal, or immigration experiences. This session is intended to prepare lawyers to conduct interviews that maximize the utility of the information obtained and minimize the risk of unintended negative consequences. It will provide participants with resources and training on best practices for interviewing trauma-exposed children.

5. Family First Track: A Tool for the Legal Community In and Out of the Courtroom

Plaza

Cristina Cooper, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Alicia Davis, JD, National Center for State Courts
Beth Kurtz, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law

The legal community has a critical role to play ensuring key provisions of the Family First Act are implemented successfully, ranging from residential treatment placements with parents, to extended reunification services, and Chafee older youth service expansions. This session will provide attorneys and members of the legal community, including judges, court administrators, and CASAs with specific guidance for using the new legislation as a tool to advance children and families' interests and their states' larger child welfare system goals.

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Conference Lunch and Award Presentation**

Salon I and II

Presentation of the Mark Hardin Award for Child Welfare Legal Scholarship and Systems Change

William "Bill" Grimm, Attorney and Senior Director of Strategic Advocacy and Child Welfare at the National Center for Youth Law

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Lunch Plenary**

Salon I and II

Still She Rises

Aisha McWeay, JD, Chief Executive Officer, Still She Rises (recently featured in the New Yorker Magazine article titled "America's Other Family Separation Crisis")
Susan Hurtado, Social Work Advocacy Practice Supervisor, Still She Rises

Still She Rises is a public defender project in Oklahoma focused on addressing staggering rates of female incarceration and the carry-over effects on children and families. Ms. McWeay and Ms. Hurtado will share the details of what they and their team have learned in their effort to both address the root causes of female incarceration (including fines and fees policies) and combat its many consequences, such as growing strains on the child welfare system, substance use, and supports for kin caregivers.

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Workshop Session F**

1. Spotlight on Immigration: Family Separation at the Border and the U.S. Child Welfare System — Completely Distinct or Inextricably Intertwined?

Salon III

Prudence Beidler Carr, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Lee Gelernt, JD, ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project
Randi Mandelbaum, JD, Rutgers Law School Child Advocacy Clinic
Jennie Kneeder, JD, ABA Commission on Immigration and ProBAR

In 2018, an Executive Branch policy of separating children and parents from each other at the Border introduced new language and questions into the national child welfare dialogue. This session will examine connections between family separation at the Border and child welfare law. Attendees will come away with information about clear lines of distinction but also details about how the two areas of law connect and why current federal challenges are helping to establish important precedent on such topics as children and parents' right to family, procedural and substantive due process protections in child welfare, and harm incurred from the trauma of separation.

2. Social Media Ethics and You: What Child Welfare Professionals Need to Know

Plaza
Ethics Credit!

Anne Marie Lancour, JD, MAT, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Nicole Johnson, JD, MSW, ABA Center on Children and the Law

This interactive session will discuss the impact of social media on clients in child welfare cases. Topics will include: applicable Rules of Professional Conduct, using social media platforms as an attorney, reviewing court and administrative rulings, and evidentiary implications of social media. Bring your smartphones as we discuss privacy settings!

3. Crossover Youth: Marshalling the Data Into Practice

Colonnade

Cristina F. Freitas, JD, Freitas & Freitas, LLP
Debbie F. Freitas, JD, Freitas & Freitas, LLP
Alexandra G. Roark, JD, Committee for Public Counsel Services, Children and Family Law Division

Youth crossing over from the child welfare system into the juvenile justice system, and vice versa, is a paramount issue confronting our clients. Fueling this crisis is youth placement in congregate care. Learn to challenge reliance on these group home placements by collecting and marshalling data.

4. Family First Track: Family First Act: New Opportunities for Kinship Families

Consulate

Ana Beltran, JD, Generations United
Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW, ABA Center on Children and the Law

This session will explore the kinship provisions of the Family First Act: kinship navigator programs, foster home licensing, prevention services, and engagement of family for children in congregate care. As kinship advocates or legal stakeholders who want to ensure the best possible outcomes for children, we will collectively explore the benefits of this new law for the kinship triad (parents, kinship caregiver, and children) as well as potential challenges with implementation.

5. Discussion Group: Moving Towards a System of Quality Representation: Lessons from 2018 Legal Representation Studies in Texas and California

Ambassador

Tina Amberboy, JD, Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission
Eva Klain, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Dylan Spencer Moench, JD, Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission

This Discussion Group will provide information about two recent legal representation studies in Texas and California. The 2018 Texas Legal Representation Study captured perspectives from parents, youth in care, foster parents, attorneys, mediators, and judges about the strengths, barriers, and efficacy of the state's court-appointment system. The California study is assessing the impact of changes in funding allocations on the quality of legal representation for children and parents in child welfare cases. The discussion will focus on lessons learned from the design and implementation of the studies to the data and system reform recommendations facing large, diverse, and under-resourced systems.

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Break**

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Workshop Session G**

1. Spotlight on Immigration: Resources and Strategies for Quality Representation of Immigrant Clients Involved in Child Welfare

Salon III

Danny Alicea, JD, Center for Family Representation
Honorable Julie Breslow, Superior Court for the District of Columbia
Cristina Ritchie Cooper, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
Felicity Northcott, PhD, International Social Services

Of the 70 million children under age 18 in the United States, 26% (18.2 million) live with at least one immigrant parent. Given these numbers, it is not surprising that child welfare agencies and juvenile courts are becoming increasingly involved with immigrant families – particularly as recent enforcement efforts have created growing pressures for families and communities. This session will explore how cases involving immigrant children, parents, or kin may proceed through the child welfare system. Speakers will highlight particular challenges and resources available to support effective attorney, caseworker, and judicial engagement to ensure timely progress to permanency for children.

2. Immune to Your Consultations: Guiding Older Clients as They Transition Out of Care

Colonnade

Aisha Jones, JD, Cook County Public Guardian
Jeffrey Sterbenc, JD, Cook County Public Guardian
Nandilay Walker, Cook County Public Guardian

This workshop will teach attorneys how to empower and advocate for youth in care as they transition to adulthood. Participants will learn concrete strategies to advocate effectively for older clients, particularly those who have spent time in congregate care or previously diagnosed with a mental or emotional disorder.

3. Family First Track: From the Greenbook to Family First: Building Bridges at the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare

Plaza

Honorable Karen Howze (ret.), National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Connie Hickman Tanner, JD, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Achieving safety and well-being for families experiencing domestic violence continues to be a challenge, and professionals have called for elements of child welfare practice that the Greenbook (NCJFCJ 1999) did not fully explore, including the implicit bias and systemic racism impacting families of color, the need for total family engagement (including fathers), and the need for fuller understanding of protective factors in these cases. The Family First Act presents courts and communities an opportunity to do community-based prevention work to take up these important issues.

4. Discussion Group: Creative Advocacy – Removing Barriers to Housing and Employment

Ambassador

Gregory Engle, JD, KidsVoice
Kristen Ornato, JD, KidsVoice
Rebecca Shafer, JD, KidsVoice

A session to address removing barriers to employment and housing led by the KidsVoice staff who specialize in expungement, credit issues, ID theft, driver's license issues, and helping clients with the magistrate level infractions mentioned above that can result in fines and criminal records. This would include providing take away materials such as practical steps attorneys can take to address these issues along with outlines of how to discuss these issues with clients, caseworkers, and service providers about why the process of expunging a record or conducting a credit check and addressing red flag issues can make such a difference in a child's eligibility for housing, employment, and student loans for post-secondary job training and education.

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