



**18<sup>th</sup> ABA National Conference on Children & the Law:**  
*Access to Justice for Children and Families*  
**April 9-10, 2019**  
**Ritz Carlton Tysons Corner, VA**

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## Draft Agenda

*Tuesday, April 9*

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration**

**9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

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

**PRESENTATION OF THE MARK HARDIN AWARD FOR CHILD WELFARE LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP AND SYSTEMS CHANGE**

**9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Opening Plenary**

**TRANSFORMING CHILD WELFARE BY BRIDGING SYSTEMS AND SECTORS**

- *Sherry Lachman, JD, Founder and Executive Director Foster America*

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

**RELIGIOUS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION EXCLUSIONS IN FOSTER CARE**

**CHANGING THE SYSTEM: STRATEGIES FOR FRONT-LINE LAWYERS**

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

**BUILDING A LEGAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY COMMUNITY**

- *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*

**FFPSA: A COURTROOM ADVOCATE’S GUIDE TO THE FAMILY FIRST GALAXY**

- *Allison Green, JD, Missouri Children’s Division*
- *Stefanie Sprow, Children’s Defense Fund*

**DISCUSSION GROUP: EXPERTISE AND WELLNESS: CULTIVATING AND SUSTAINING THE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN’S LAW OFFICE**

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

**12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own**

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

**IMPACT OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION ON CHILDREN**

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

**THE APPLICATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM: HOW THE ADA IMPACTS COURT-INVOLVED PARENTS AND CHILDREN**

- *Maura McInerney, JD, Education Law Center*
- *Robyn Powell, MA, JD, National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities*

**CLIENT ENGAGEMENT SKILLS AND THE LARGER LEGAL CONTEXT IN ICWA CASES AND BEYOND**

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

**FFPSA: IS “LEAST RESTRICTIVE” THE BEST WE CAN DO? SECURING THE “MOST CONNECTED” PLACEMENT FOR CHILDREN**

- *Brent Pattison, JD, Children’s Rights Clinic, Drake University School of Law*
- *Jennifer Pokempner, JD, Juvenile Law Center*
- *Jennifer Rodriguez, JD, Youth Law Center*

**DISCUSSION GROUP: WHY ROBUST KINSHIP CARE POLICY IS NEEDED TO ADDRESS RACE EQUITY IN FOSTER CARE**

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

**3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Networking Break**

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

**ETHICAL ISSUES IN CHILD WELFARE CASES**

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

**CULTURAL IDENTITY IN FOSTER CARE**

- *Lily Colby, JD, California CASA*
- *Crys O’Grady, JD, Museum of Tolerance*
- *Ariella Stafanson, California CASA*

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY IN JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

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

**FFPSA: PREVENTION SERVICES – WHAT THIS COULD MEAN FOR THE FIELD IN THE LONGER TERM & THE LAWYER’S ROLE**

**DISCUSSION GROUP: HIGH-QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS: ACHIEVING JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES**

- *Kathleen Creamer, JD, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia*
- *Leslie Heimov, JD, CWLS, Children’s Law Center of California*
- *Mimi Laver, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law*

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

***Wednesday, April 10***

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Workshop Session D**

**FROM THE GREENBOOK TO FAMILY FIRST: BUILDING BRIDGES TO EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AT THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD WELFARE**

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

**SUPPORTING PERMANENCY FOR OLDER YOUTH: WHAT’S THE BRAIN GOT TO DO WITH IT?**

- *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*

**EDUCATION ADVOCACY IN THE COURTROOM**

- *Morgen Black-Smith, 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*

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR ATTORNEY SERVICES**

- *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*

**DISCUSSION GROUP: TALKIN' 'BOUT A [CHILD WELFARE] REVOLUTION**

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

**10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break**

**10:45 – 12:15 p.m. Workshop Session E**

**THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF YOUTH: CHANGING SYSTEMS THROUGH FOSTER-YOUTH LED ORGANIZING**

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

**BEST PRACTICES AND EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY TO OVERCOME IMPLICIT BIASES AGAINST TRANSGENDER YOUTH**

- *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*

**IMPROVING PERMANENCY OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY TRAUMA AND SERIOUS ADVERSITY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM INFANT-TODDLER COURT TEAMS**

- *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*

**CONDUCTING TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEWS OF CHILDREN**

- *W. Warren Binford, JD, Willamette University College of Law*
- *Ewen Nancy Wang, MD, Stanford University*
- *Paul Wise, MD, MPH, Stanford University*

**FFPSA: TOOLS FOR LEGAL ADVOCACY AND DECISION-MAKING**

**12:15 – 12:30 p.m. Conference Luncheon**

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch Speaker**

**STILL SHE RISES**

- *Robin Steinberg, JD, Chief Executive Officer, The Bail Project*
- *Parent Advocate*

**1:45 – 3:15 p.m. Workshop Session F**

**SPOTLIGHT ON IMMIGRATION: PART 1**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ETHICS AND YOU: WHAT CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS NEED TO KNOW**

- *Anne Marie Lancour, JD, MAT, ABA Center on Children and the Law*

**CROSSOVER YOUTH: MARSHALLING THE DATA INTO PRACTICE**

- *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*

**FFPSA: FAMILY FIRST ACT: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES**

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

**DISCUSSION GROUP: MOVING TOWARDS A SYSTEM OF QUALITY REPRESENTATION: LESSONS FROM 2018 LEGAL REPRESENTATION STUDIES IN TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA**

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

**3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break**

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

**SPOTLIGHT ON IMMIGRATION: PART 2**

**IMMUNE TO YOUR CONSULTATIONS: GUIDING OLDER CLIENTS AS THEY TRANSITION OUT OF CARE**

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

**FFPSA: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSFUL APPROACHES FROM A STATE PERSPECTIVE**

**DISCUSSION GROUP: CREATIVE ADVOCACY -- REMOVING BARRIERS TO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT**

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

The ABA will apply for CLE credit in the state of Virginia. We expect that attorneys will be eligible to receive CLE credits through reciprocity or attorney self-submission in other states. For more information about CLE accreditation in your state, visit [http://www.americanbar.org/cle/mandatory\\_cle/mcle\\_states.html](http://www.americanbar.org/cle/mandatory_cle/mcle_states.html).