Spotlight on Immigration
April 10, 2019 from 12pm-5pm
Ritz Carlton Tysons Corner, VA

The ABA Center on Children and the Law “Spotlight on Immigration” will offer diverse perspectives on the intersecting fields of child welfare and immigration. Participation in the Spotlight also includes lunch from 12-1:30pm, where keynote speaker Aisha McWeay will discuss parental incarceration and children based on the work featured in the New Yorker article “America’s Other Family Separation Crisis.”

Spotlight Panel 1:30-3:00pm: Family Separation at the Border and the U.S. Child Welfare System – Completely Distinct or Inextricably Intertwined?
- Prudence Beidler Carr, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law
- Lee Gelernt, JD, ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project
- Jennie Kneedler, JD, ABA Commission on Immigration
- Randi Mandelbaum, JD, Rutgers Law School Child Advocacy Clinic

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

Networking Break and Snack
3:00-3:30

Spotlight Panel 3:30-5:00pm: Resources and Strategies for Quality Representation of Immigrant Clients Involved in Child Welfare
- Danny Alicea, JD, Center for Family Representation
- Honorable Julie Breslow, District of Columbia Superior Court
- 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% 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 challenges and resources available to support effective attorney, caseworker and judicial engagement to ensure timely progress to permanency for children.

Important Note: This Spotlight is included as part of registration for the April 9-10 Conference on Access to Justice for Children and Families. Participants in the April 11-12 Parent Representation Conference may register for the Spotlight as an add-on. Spotlight registration is also available to individuals who are not able to attend either full conference.
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