National Conference on Parent Representation
April 11-12, 2019
Ritz Carlton Tysons Corner, VA

Thursday, April 11, 2019

9:00 – 10:45  Welcomes & Opening Plenary

Professor Martin Guggenheim, New York University School of Law

Making the Case for Optimism: Poor Families, State Regulation, and Cultural Transformation
Khiara Bridges, Boston University School of Law

Dinah Ortiz-Adames, Bronx Defenders

10:45 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:30  Session A

1. Changing the Narrative: Telling the Real Story of Families Caught Up in the Child Welfare System

   Dinah Ortiz-Adames   Bronx Defenders
   Vivek Sankaran, JD   Child Advocacy Law Clinic, University of Michigan Law School
   Richard Wexler       National Coalition for Child Protection Reform

2. Engaging Parents When You Do Not Have Supports AND Trauma-Informed Strategies for Family Defenders

   Ron Ayler, MSW       Community Legal Services, Inc.
   Brett Ballew, JD     Washington State Office of Public Defense
   Jason Bragg          Washington State Office of Public Defense
   Heather Cantamessa   Washington State Office of Public Defense
   Alex Dutton, JD      Community Legal Services, Inc.

3. Successful Outcomes for Clients with Concurrent Family Court and Criminal Court Proceedings: The Unified Team Approach

   Piyali Basak, JD     Brooklyn Defender Services
Jeff Blank, JD  
Jessica Nitsche, JD  

Brooklyn Defender Services

4. State Central Registers

Carolyn A. Kubitschek, JD  
David J. Lansner, JD  
Melissa L. Staas, JD  

Lansner & Kubitschek  
Lansner & Kubitschek  
LAF

5. Game of Thrones: “Influencing” your judge to give your parent client a fighting chance/The Endgame – Motions to recuse and other death-defying tests of will

Andrew Cohen, JD  
David Meyers, JD  

Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division  
Dependency Legal Services of Northern California

6. SKILLS: Cross Examining Child Witnesses in Sex Abuse Cases

Sophia Bernhardt, JD  
Juliana Chereji, JD  

Brooklyn Defender Services  
Brooklyn Defender Services

7. DISCUSSION: Parent Advocates Leveling Up to Leaders and Managers

Brejea Colthirst  
Arielle Reisman, MSW  
Rita Rodriguez, JD  

East Bay Family Defenders  
East Bay Family Defenders  
East Bay Family Defenders

12:30 – 1:45 Lunch on your own

1:45– 3:15 Session B

1. Family Poverty Is Not Neglect: Exploring the Persistent Mislabling and the Steps Family Defenders Can Take to End It

Darice Good, JD  
Jeyanthi Rajaraman, JD  
Diane Redleaf, JD  
Ruth White, MSW  

Good Law Firm  
Legal Services of New Jersey  
Family Defense Consulting  
National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

2. Appellate MacGyvering: Using Methods of Persuasion + Other Law in New Ways

Andrew Cohen, JD  
Ruchi Kapoor, JD  

Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division  
Office of Respondent Parents Counsel

3. In Search of a Silver Bullet: Child Welfare's Embrace of Predictive Analytics

Christopher Church, JD  
Amanda Fairchild, PhD  

University of South Carolina School of Law, CHAMPS Clinic  
University of South Carolina Dept. of Psychology

4. Special Considerations for Representing Noncitizen Parents in Child Welfare Proceedings

Danny Alicea, JD  
Teresa Garcia, JD  

Center for Family Representation, Inc  
Center for Family Representation, Inc
5. Ensuring Reasonable Efforts for Parents with Substance Use Disorders
   Honorable Len Edwards (Ret.)  Center for Families, Children & The Courts
   Sid Gardner, MPA, MA  Center for Children and Family Futures

6. SKILLS: Effective Advocacy and Trial Preparation in Cases Requiring Expert Testimony
   Rachel Brewer, JD  Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.
   Elyzabeth Melendez, SW  Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.

7. DISCUSSION: #SAY HER NAME: The intersection of law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and dependency courts, and how parent attorneys can help flip the script
   Marci Comeau, JD  King County Department of Public Defense

3:15 – 3:30  Break

3:30 – 5:00  Session C

1. Supporting Those on the Front Line: Strategies for Trauma-Informed Supervision and Management in a Family Defense Practice
   Kathleen Creamer, JD  Community Legal Services, Inc.
   Maggie Potter, MSW, MSSP  Community Legal Services, Inc.

2. Barriers and Facilitators to the Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) within the Child Welfare System: A Qualitative Study
   Robyn Powell, MA, JD  National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities

3. Family First Prevention Services Act: The Vision, the Pitfalls and the Way Forward
   Mimi Laver, JD  ABA Center on Children and the Law
   Richard M. Pittman, JD  Louisiana Public Defender Board
   Stefanie Sprow (invited)  Children’s Defense Fund
   Ruth Anne White, MSW  National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

4. Creating Individualized Visitation Plans for Children in Foster Care
   Jacob D’Annunzio, JD  Washington State Office of Public Defense
   Natalie Netzel, JD, MSE  Mitchell Hamline School of Law
   Mallory Stoll, JD  Blandy, Prchal & Stoll, PLLC

5. When Parent Counsel Sees the Legislative Narrative
   Senator Alan Clark  Arkansas State Senator
   Glen Hoggard, JD  Arkansas Parent Counsel Program Attorney
   Mischa Martin  Arkansas Department of Human Services for the Children and Family Services Division

6. SKILLS: Objections and Offers of Proof in Child Protection Cases: Best Practices for Best Results
   Richard Cozzola, JD  LAF
7. DISCUSSION: Advising and Empowering Parents to Be Their Own Best Advocates Prior to Court Involvement

Sara E. Gilloon, JD  Family Defense Center
Elizabeth Larin, JD  Community Legal Services, Inc.
Bryan Liberona, JD (?) Family Defense Center

5:15  Reception/Happy Hour

Friday, April 12

7:45 – 8:30  Networking Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00  Session D

1. To the Halls of Congress and The Statehouses: Bringing the Family Defense Movement into the Legislative and Rulemaking Arenas

Kathleen Creamer  Community Legal Services, Inc.
Diane L. Redleaf  Family Defense Consulting
Heather Zenone  Foster Care and Adoption Congressional Caucus


Katrina Carter, MS  Iowa Department of Corrections
David Flower, JD  Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA
Jami J. Hagemeier, JD  Drake Legal Clinic-Incarcerated Parent Representation Project
Tracy Ortega, JD  East Bay Family Defenders
Kristin Walker  Iowa Department of Human Services


Krista Ellis  ABA Center on Children and the Law Intern
Shrounda Selivanoff  Washington State Office of Public Defense
Amelia Watson, JD  Washington State Office of Public Defense

4. Sex Trafficking and Minor Mothers

Tiffani Cortez, JD  Children's Law Center of California
Rosezetta Upshaw, JD  Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.

5. Foster Parents and Reunification: Resource, Roadblock or Both?

Dusti Standridge, JD  Arkansas Parent Counsel Program and Foster Parent


Richard Cozzola, JD  LAF
Jessica Horan-Block, JD  Bronx Defenders
Melissa L. Staas, JD  LAF
# Draft Agenda

7. **DISCUSSION: Partnering with Appellate: How Trial and Appellate Partnerships Elevate the Practice**

- Daniel Derasmo, JD  
  NJ Office of the Public Defender
- Robyn A. Veasey, JD  
  NJ Office of the Public Defender

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1. **ICWA Indian Child Welfare Act**

   - Addie Smith, JD  
     Youth, Rights & Justice

2. **Using Child Welfare Research in Your Everyday Advocacy & Permanency as a Sword and a Shield in Parent Representation**

   - Cristina F. Freitas, JD  
     Freitas & Freitas, LLP
   - Debbie F. Freitas, JD  
     Freitas & Freitas, LLP
   - Michael Heard, MSW  
     Washington State Office of Public Defense
   - Alexandra G. Roark, JD  
     Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division


   - Dori Brail, LMSW  
     Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
   - Nancy Polikoff, JD  
     American University Washington College of Law
   - Cathy Sakimura, JD  
     National Center for Lesbian Rights

4. **Pregnancy, Substance Use & The Child Welfare System**

   - David Cohen, JD  
     Drexel University School of Law
   - Amber Khan, JD  
     National Advocates for Pregnant Women
   - Mishka Terplan, MD, MPH  
     Virginia Commonwealth University

5. **Planning for Successful Reunification/Re-Entry Prevention**

   - Malena Arnaud, MSW  
     Center for Family Representation, Inc
   - Virginia Christ, LMSW  
     Center for Family Representation, Inc
   - Michele Cortese, JD  
     Center for Family Representation, Inc

6. **SKILLS: Why TPR? How Family Defense Lawyers Can Get Courts To Address This Fundamental Question**

   - Emma Brown-Bernstein, JD  
     Public Defender Atlanta Judicial Circuit
   - Christopher Church, JD  
     University of South Carolina School of Law, CHAMPS Clinic
   - Vivek Sankaran, JD  
     Child Advocacy Law Clinic, University of Michigan Law School

7. **DISCUSSION: Family Justice Initiative: A National Approach to High Quality Representation for Parents and Children**

   - Leslie Heimov, JD  
     Children’s Law Center of California
   - Sue Jacobs, JD  
     Center for Family Representation
   - Mimi Laver, JD  
     ABA Center on Children and the Law
DRAFT AGENDA

11:45 – 12:00 Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch Plenary

Harm Reduction & the Opioid Crisis
Dr. Ron Abrahams, founding Medical Director of the FIR (Families In Recovery) Rooming in program at British Columbia Women’s Hospital

1:00 – 1:15 Break

1:15 – 2:45 Session F

1. A Trauma-Informed Group for Fathers with Dual Criminal Court and Family Court Involvement
   Albery Abreu, MSW Children's Aid Society - Family Wellness Program
   Tricia Stephens, LCSW-R, Ph.D. Hunter College - Silberman School of Social Work

2. Toto, We're Not in Kansas Anymore: Storming, Forming, and Creating Change for Parents in Colorado
   Ashlee Arcilla, JD Office of Respondent Parents Counsel
   Ruchi Kapoor, JD Office of Respondent Parents Counsel
   Carrie Ann Lucas, JD Office of Respondent Parents Counsel
   Melissa Michaelis Thompson, JD Office of Respondent Parents Counsel

3. Mandated Reporting from Hospital Staff: A Family Defense Perspective
   Clara Presler, JD Bronx Defenders
   Jey Rajaraman, JD Legal Services of New Jersey

   Kaela Economos, SW Brooklyn Defender Services
   Hannah Roman, JD King County Dept. of Public Defense

5. Mama’s of Color and Mental Health: The Harm of State Intervention via the Child Protection System
   Caitlin Becker, MSW Bronx Defenders
   Fallon Speaker, JD Bronx Defenders

6. SKILLS: Motivational Interviewing: Tools for Client Counseling in Challenging Contexts
   Payal Dalal, LMSW Center for Family Representation, Inc
   Elizabeth Fassler, JD Center for Family Representation, Inc

   Erin Miles Cloud, JD National Family Defense Project
   Joyce McMillan JMac4Families
   Lisa Sangoi National Family Defense Project

2:45 – 3:00 Break
### Session G


- AnnaLisa Chung, JD  
  Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA
- Jermaine Hardy  
  Santa Clara Adult Probation
- Victoria Ruiz  
  Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA

#### 2. Beyond Due Process: Parent Rights After A Child's Removal

- Emily Peeler, JD, MSW  
  ABA Center on Children and the Law

#### 3. The New Jane Crow vs. The New Jim Crow

- Michelle L Burrell, JD  
  Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
- Porsha-Shafon Venable, JD  
  Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem

#### 4. Lawyering from the Inside Out: Using Reflective Practice to Engage Clients and Promote Communication

- Jamie Bahm, MS  
  Center on Children Families and the Law at University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Jennie Cole-Mossman  
  Center on Children Families and the Law at University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Tana Fye, JD  
  Fye Law Office

#### 5. Developing Strategic Appeals Aimed at Creating New Case Law

- Chris Gottlieb, JD  
  NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic
- Amy Mulzer, JD  
  Brooklyn Defender Services/ NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic
- Vivek Sankaran, JD  
  University of Michigan Law School Child Advocacy Law Clinic & Child Welfare Appellate Clinic

#### 6. SKILLS: You Can Call Me Mom: Special Issues in Privately-filed TPRs and Step-Parent Adoptions

- Trisha Fritz, JD  
  Wisconsin State Public Defender
- Ryan Reid, JD  
  Wisconsin State Public Defender
- Elisabeth Stockbridge, JD  
  Wisconsin State Public Defender

#### 7. DISCUSSION: Strategies for Improving Child Welfare Response to Families Experiencing Domestic Violence

- Sara Block, JD  
  The Family Defense Center
- Rachel Ruttenberg, JD  
  The Family Defense Center

#### Closing Plenary

**4:35 – 5:15**