# Draft Agenda

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

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:45</td>
<td>Welcomes &amp; Opening Plenary</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
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### 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
- 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
4. State Central Registers
   Carolyn A. Kubitschek, JD    Lansner & Kubitschek
   David J. Lansner, JD         Lansner & Kubitschek
   Melissa L. Staas, JD        LAF

5. Game of Thrones: Influencing, Challenging, and Toppling Your Judges in Order to Give Your Clients a Fighting Chance
   Andrew Cohen, JD             Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division
   David Meyers, JD             Dependency Legal Services of Northern California

6. SKILLS: Cross Examining Child Witnesses in Sex Abuse Cases
   Sophia Bernhardt, JD         Brooklyn Defender Services
   Juliana Chereji, JD          Brooklyn Defender Services

7. DISCUSSION: Parent Advocates as Leaders and Managers
   Brejea Colthirst             East Bay Family Defenders
   Arielle Reisman, MSW         East Bay Family Defenders
   Rita Rodriguez, JD           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 Mislabeling and the Steps Family Defenders Can Take to End It
   Darice Good, JD              Good Law Firm
   Jeyanthi Rajaraman, JD       Legal Services of New Jersey
   Diane Redleaf, JD            Family Defense Consulting
   Ruth White, MSW              National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

2. Think Different: Persuading trial and appellate judges using the psychology of advertising
   Andrew Cohen, JD             Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division
   Ruchi Kapoor, JD             Office of Respondent Parents Counsel

3. In Search of a Silver Bullet: Child Welfare’s Embrace of Predictive Analytics
   Christopher Church, JD       University of South Carolina School of Law, CHAMPS Clinic
   Amanda Fairchild, PhD        University of South Carolina Dept. of Psychology

4. Special Considerations for Representing Noncitizen Parents in Child Welfare Proceedings
   Danny Alicea, JD             Center for Family Representation, Inc
   Teresa Garcia, JD            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 Blahnik, 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, JD  Community Legal Services, Inc.
Diane L. Redleaf, JD  Family Defense Consulting
Heather Zenone, JD  Washington, DC


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
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

10:00 – 10:15  Break

10:15 – 11:45  Session E

1. ICWA Indian Child Welfare Act
   Addie Smith, JD  Youth, Rights & Justice

   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

3. LGBT Parents in Child Welfare Proceedings
   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
11:45 – 12:00  Lunch

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch Plenary

Perinatal Addiction and Harm Reduction- Preserving the Mother Baby Relationship in the Face of 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 McMillian  JMac4Families
   Lisa Sangoi  National Family Defense Project
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Jermaine Hardy  
Victoria Ruiz  
Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA  
Santa Clara Adult Probation  
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  
Porsha-Shaf’on Venable, JD  
Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem  
Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem |
| 4.        | Lawyering from the Inside Out: Using Reflective Practice to Engage Clients and Promote Communication | Jamie Bahm, MS  
Jennie Cole-Mossman  
Tana Fye, JD  
Center on Children Families and the Law at University of Nebraska Lincoln  
Center on Children Families and the Law at University of Nebraska Lincoln  
Fye Law Office |
| 5.        | Developing Strategic Appeals Aimed at Creating New Case Law | Chris Gottlieb, JD  
Amy Mulzer, JD  
Vivek Sankaran, JD  
NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic  
Brooklyn Defender Services/ NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic  
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  
Ryan Reid, JD  
Elisabeth Stockbridge, JD  
Wisconsin State Public Defender  
Wisconsin State Public Defender  
Wisconsin State Public Defender |
| 7.        | DISCUSSION: Strategies for Improving Child Welfare Response to Families Experiencing Domestic Violence | Sara Block, JD  
Rachel Ruttenberg, JD  
The Family Defense Center  
The Family Defense Center |
| 4:35 – 5:15| Closing Plenary        |                                                                             |