National Conference on Parent Representation
April 11-12, 2018
Ritz Carlton Tysons Corner, VA

Thursday, April 11, 2018

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
   - 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” 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  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 Leveling Up to 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 Mislabling 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. Appellate MacGyvering: Using Methods of Persuasion + Other Law in New Ways

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

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**Thursday, 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

#### 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

**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  
   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  
   Ruchi Kapoor, JD  
   Carrie Ann Lucas, JD  
   Melissa Michaelis Thompson, JD  
   Office of Respondent Parents Counsel

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

   Kaela Economos, SW  
   Hannah Roman, JD  
   Brooklyn Defender Services  
   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  
   Fallon Speaker, JD  
   Bronx Defenders

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

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

2:45 – 3:00   Break
## Draft Agenda

### 3:00 – 4:30 Session G

   - AnnaLisa Chung, JD  
   - Jermaine Hardy  
   - 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  
   - 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  
   - Jennie Cole-Mossman  
   - Tana Fye, JD  
   - **Center on Children Families and the Law at University of Nebraska Lincoln**

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**

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**

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

### 4:35 – 5:15 Closing Plenary