

ABA Center on Children and the Law
National Conference on Parent Representation
April 11 - 12, 2019
www.ambar.org/child



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

Vivek Sankaran, JD

Richard Wexler

Bronx Defenders

Child Advocacy Law Clinic, University of Michigan Law School

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

Brett Ballew, JD

Jason Bragg

Heather Cantamessa

Alex Dutton, JD

Community Legal Services, Inc.

Washington State Office of Public Defense

Washington State Office of Public Defense

Washington State Office of Public Defense

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

DRAFT AGENDA

Jeff Blank, JD *Brooklyn Defender Services*
Jessica Nitsche, 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 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. 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

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

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

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

2. Partnering for Lasting Change: How Collaboration Between the Child Welfare System and Prisons Can Improve Outcomes & Leveraging Innovative Resources for Incarcerated Parents

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

3. Bias & the Child Welfare System: A National Training

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

4. Sex Trafficking and Minor Mothers

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

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

<i>Dusti Standridge, JD</i>	<i>Arkansas Parent Counsel Program and Foster Parent</i>
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6. SKILLS: What's Up Doc? Presenting and Challenging Expert Medical Testimony

<i>Richard Cozzola, JD</i>	<i>LAF</i>
<i>Jessica Horan-Block, JD</i>	<i>Bronx Defenders</i>
<i>Melissa L. Staas, JD</i>	<i>LAF</i>

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*

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 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

4. Harm Reduction and Child Welfare: Advocating for Evidence-Based Practices

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

7. DISCUSSION: Building Alliances with Social Justice Movements: The Time Is Now!

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

2:45 – 3:00 *Break*

3:00 – 4:30

Session G

1. How Parents on Probation Can Break Cycles of Child Welfare and Criminal Justice System Involvement*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-Shaf'ron 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 Rутtenberg, JD**The Family Defense Center*

4:35 – 5:15

Closing Plenary