

STAFF BIOS

[Anne Marie Lancour](#), M.A.T., J.D., Director of State Projects, is a national expert on child abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption, and foster care. She directs the Center's Permanency Barriers Projects and Trial Skill Program, produces teletrainings, drafts legal manuals, and trains on a variety of child welfare topics.

[Heidi Redlich Epstein](#), J.D., M.S.W., Assistant Director of State Projects, develops and helps jurisdictions implement reforms and conducts training on barriers to achieving permanency for children in foster care. She also helps child welfare attorneys improve their trial skills at trainings throughout the country.

[Mimi Laver](#), J.D., Director, Legal Education, focuses her work on helping states improve permanency outcomes for children, and on legal representation of parties in dependency cases, the theme of her book: Foundations for Success: Strengthening Your Agency Attorney Office and of the Standards of Practice for Attorneys Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases that she drafted. Additionally, Mimi directs the Opening Doors Project which provides tools to judges and advocates to improve practice related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care.

[Scott Trowbridge](#), J.D., is a Center attorney working primarily on the Barriers to Permanency Project and the National Child Welfare Resource Center. Prior to law school and joining the Center, Scott was a regional supervisor for the State of Tennessee's adoption program placing abused and neglected children into permanent homes. He was also previously a case worker in foster care, juvenile justice, and adoptions.

[Elizabeth Thornton](#), J.D., is a Center attorney working in the areas of parent representation and child welfare. Her work at the Center focuses on assuring that parents have an effective voice in the child welfare process and helping jurisdictions implement reforms to improve permanency outcomes for children in foster care. Prior to joining the Center she represented parents and children in neglect and abuse proceedings.

[David P. Kelly](#), J.D., M.A., Assistant Staff Director, works on the Center's Barriers to Permanency Project. He joined the Center from the New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate where he investigated state agency responses to allegations of child abuse and neglect and worked to improve conditions and services for kids in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. David also served as an attorney for Covenant House New Jersey in Newark and Atlantic City, representing homeless and at-risk youth in civil and criminal matters and managing the shelter's clinical services.

[Kathleen McNaught](#), J.D., Assistant Director, working in the areas of child welfare, implementation of federal legislation, and educational issues for foster children. She has extensive experience representing both children and parents in child abuse/neglect proceedings as well as advocating for families in educational matters.