

NACC envisions a justice system wherein every child has his/her voice heard with the assistance of well-trained, well-resourced independent lawyers resulting in the child's rights being protected and needs being met.

Is there something you need to tell us?

The NACC's annual conference is more than the country's largest, longest-running yearly training for child and family law professionals. It's also your best chance to advance the policy reforms and practice improvements that mean the most to you. We're now planning the 37th National Child Welfare, Juvenile and Family Law Conference (in Denver this coming August 17-20) and as always, NACC's conference is wide open to abstract submissions from the field. Your audience will include the most prominent and active child advocates in the country; what do they need to know, and what do they need to do? The strength of NACC is in our members, and our members must answer those questions.

We will receive many proposals, but yours may be the one we most need. Last year, we had 30 available slots in the conference schedule, and received and carefully reviewed 130 proposals from attorneys, social workers, judges and researchers across the country. You may have a hot legal issue that the rest of us have ignored, or you may have finally cracked the code on engaging teenage clients. Whatever the topic, your fellow members

want and need to hear from you. The NACC conference is the place where your contributions to the field are valued and freely shared.

You are the professionals doing this work out there in the real world, and you have the power to focus advocates and policymakers on what really matters.

Take this opportunity to shape the field you work in. While our presenters inevitably include eminent scholars in child welfare, juvenile justice and family law, presentations are not chosen by the length of the presenter's resume. You are the professionals doing this work out there in the real world, and you have the power to focus advocates and policymakers on what really matters. Set us straight, and help us get it right for kids and their families. To submit an abstract for consideration, visit the [conference section on our website](#), and feel encouraged to call us at 303-864-5324 if you have any questions at all. **The deadline for submission is February 1, 2014**, and we're eager to hear from you!

Kendall Marlowe, Executive Director

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NACC Executive Committee 2014–2015

President	Gerry Glynn
Vice President	H.D. Kirkpatrick
Treasurer	Leslie Heimov
Secretary	Linda Weinerman
Past Chair	Jan Sherwood

New Faces for the New Year on the NACC Board of Directors

As a nonprofit organization, NACC is governed by an elected Board of Directors. This national “board of experts” includes prominent legal, social work and medical professionals. Collectively, they identify the goals and set the direction of this organization.

Janet G. Sherwood has completed her term as board President, and now continues serving NACC as Immediate Past President. Jan deserves our unending gratitude for her intensive, hands-on leadership during a time of management transition for the organization. An experienced child and family attorney, Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS,) founder of the Northern California Association of Counsel for Children and founder of the advocacy organization Advokids, Jan is a shining example of how each of us can be a zealous, creative advocate for our individual client while also serving as a force for systemic change.

Gerard Glynn is the new President of the NACC Board of Directors. Gerry is currently the Chief Legal Officer of Community Based Care of Central Florida in Orlando, following many years of work as an educator and advocate. He was Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Programs at Barry University School of Law, as well as Director of Clinical Programs at University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Clinical Instructor at Florida State University School of Law Children’s Advocacy Center. Gerry serves on numerous bar committees including the ABA Juvenile Justice Committee and Florida Bar Standing Committee on the Legal Needs of Children, and has published several articles and book chapters. Gerry is committed to NACC’s advocacy for the rights and needs of all children, regardless of whether they have come in contact with child welfare, juvenile justice or family law systems, and with his leadership we’ll honor that broader purpose.

Candi M. Mayes joins the NACC Board of Directors. Candi is the CEO and Executive Director of Dependency Legal Group of San Diego, where she is experienced in representation of both children and parents. She previously served as a Public Defender in the San Diego County Juvenile Court, and is affiliated with multiple professional organizations, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, California Women Lawyers and San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association. Candi also has an extensive background as a trainer and presenter for organizations including NACC, the ABA Center on Children and the Law and the Children’s Justice Conference.

Judith Waksberg joins the NACC Board of Directors. Judith is the Director of the Appeals Unit in the Juvenile Rights Practice of the Legal Aid Society in New York, where she has advocated on behalf of vulnerable children and families for over three decades. She is the 2013 recipient of the New York City Bar Association’s Kathryn A. McDonald Award for Excellence in Service to Family Court. Judith’s voluminous work as an author and presenter has focused on preserving the record, stays and writs, and appellate procedures in the context of child and family law.



Policy & News

Great news from Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that life sentences without the possibility of parole... are unconstitutional when imposed upon children.

The court made this ruling in connection with two cases involving 17-year-olds who received automatic life without parole sentences.

The cases are *Commonwealth v. Marquise Brown* and *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the District*.

A United States District Court judge in Michigan has ordered the state to immediately comply with the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. Alabama*.

This would allow everyone serving life sentences for crimes that occurred when they were under 18 immediately parole eligible if they have served at least 10 years in prison.

JJIE presents a fascinating series titled "Speaking for the Children: A Hard Look at the State of Juvenile Defense Across the U.S."

> [Read the first article: "For Juveniles, the Elusive Right to Legal Counsel"](#)

Iowa is working to improve Parental Representation

> [Read report](#)

SPARC offers this new brief: "Reunification of Foster Children with their Families: The First Permanency Outcome" by John Sciamanna.

> [View PDF](#)

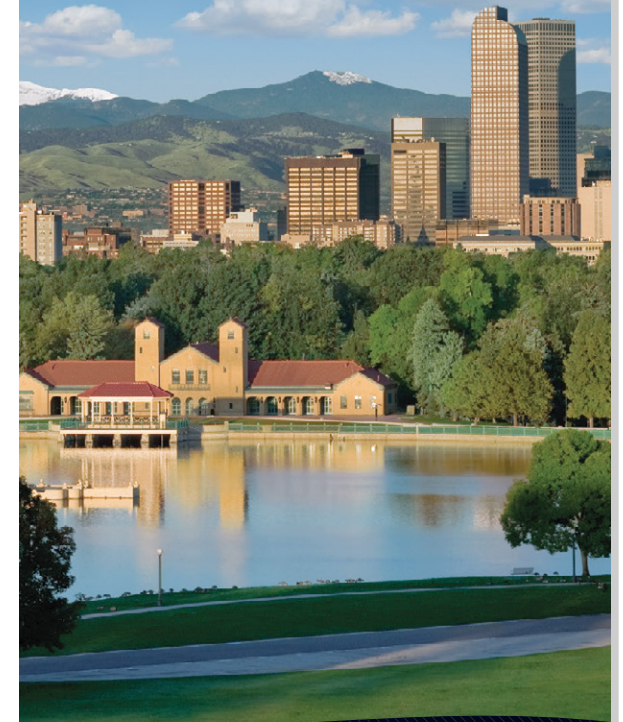
The New York Times weighs in on Zero Tolerance.

> [Read article](#)

JOIN US IN THE MILE HIGH CITY

37TH NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE, JUVENILE & FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE AUG 17-20, 2014

ABSTRACTS OPEN THROUGH FEBRUARY 1, 2014



Find additional News, Policy and Training Updates on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Child Welfare Law Certification



If you represent children, parents, or the state child welfare agency you may be eligible to become certified in child welfare law. The NACC certification program is accredited by the ABA and has been endorsed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Conference of Chief Justices, and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

Certification gives you the recognition as an expert and will help you negotiate better pay for your services.

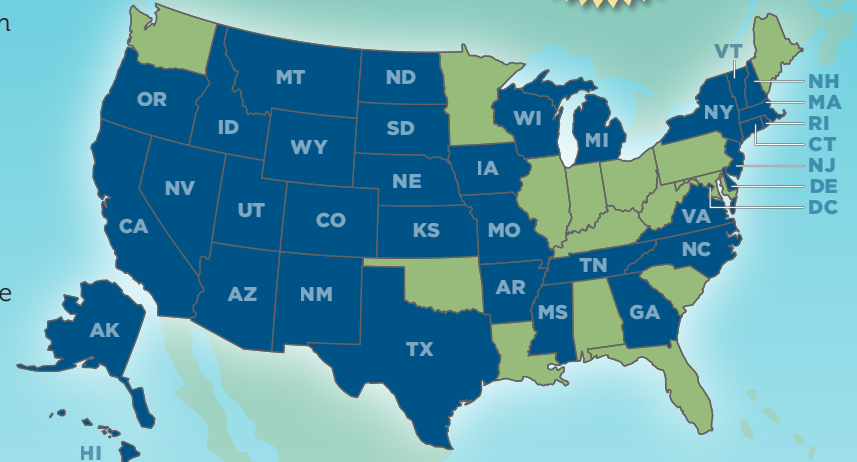
NACC Child Welfare Law Certification is available to attorneys who serve in the role of Child's Attorney (including Guardian ad Litem, Law Guardian, Attorney ad Litem), Parent's Attorney, and Agency / Department / Government Attorney. The specialization area as approved by the ABA is defined as "the practice of law representing children, parents or the government in all custody, adjudication, disposition, foster care, permanency planning, termination, guardianship, and adoption. Child Welfare Law does not include representation in private child custody and adoption disputes where the state is not a party."

Certification Preparation

Your legal education, practice experience, and continuing legal education in child welfare, delinquency, family law, and related areas all help prepare you for the certification exam. Upon submitting a Certification Application, you will also receive a copy of the *Child Welfare Law and Practice* (Red Book).

Apply to be certified for free!

NACC has received funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to pay the application fee for up to 200 applicants for certification. This funding comes through HHS' Children's Bureau. We are now open in 35 jurisdictions and have more than 500 Child Welfare Law Specialists (CWLS). The waivers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so don't delay! Applying takes about 20 minutes and applicants then have two years to complete all components including the exam.



Eligibility at a Glance

- 3+ years practicing law
- 30% or more of the last 3 years involved in child welfare law
- 36 hours CLE/3 years (45 hours/3 years CA only) in courses relevant to child welfare law
- A writing sample demonstrating legal analysis in the field of child welfare law drafted in the last 3 years (court memo, motion, brief, article, etc.)
- Substantial Involvement Waivers are available for judicial officers, professors, and policy/supervising attorneys

If you meet these basic requirements, we would love to have you apply while we have funding from Children's Bureau to pay for your \$300 application fee!

To apply or for more information, please visit our Certification page at

www.naccchildlaw.org

or contact Daniel Trujillo, 303-864-5359, or Daniel.Trujillo@childrenscolorado.org