



National Association of Counsel for Children

41st National Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice & Family Law Conference

August 23-August 25, 2018 · San Antonio, Texas

Advance Conference Agenda

Wednesday, August 22, 2018 **Pre-Conference**

9:00am – 4:30pm Red Book Training, 3rd Edition

This course covers the major dependency competency areas based upon the 3rd Edition of the [Child Welfare Law & Practice](#) guide (known as the “The Red Book”) and prepares attendees for the NACC Child Welfare Law Specialist certification exam

5:00pm – 6:30pm *Child Welfare Law Specialist Reception*

Thursday, August 23, 2018 **Conference**

8:30am – 10:15am Opening Plenary

Opening Remarks by NACC Board President, Executive Director, San Antonio Official

Opening Keynote by [Dr. Jerry Milner](#), Associate Commissioner at the Children’s Bureau, and Acting Commissioner for the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

10:15am - 10:35am Coffee Break (20 minutes)

10:35am – 12:05pm Breakout Session A (90 minutes)

A1 **Immigration Relief for Undocumented Child Clients**

Priya Konings, JD, Kids in Need of Defense, Washington, DC
Clair Doutre, JD, Kids in Need of Defense, Houston, TX

The focus of this session is understanding the intersection between family law, neglect law, and immigration law. Topics to be addressed include reasons for undocumented status, the implications of having an undocumented child client, and forms of immigration relief available to such children. This session will also explore how a family law attorney can assist an undocumented child client in obtaining legal status, as well as common pitfalls in providing such representation and additional challenges of having an undocumented child client.



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A2 Education Strategies to Improve Education Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care

Eliza Hurst, JD, Office of the Child Advocate, Wilmington, DE
Barbara Crowell, JD, Delaware Family Court, Wilmington, DE

This session will focus on strategies, laws, and tools to improve education outcomes for youth in foster care. We will explore how trauma impacts learning and why youth who have experienced significant trauma tend to fare worse in school. We will then address the important role the judiciary plays in holding all parties accountable to ensure school stability, extra-curricular involvement, and other ways to help students in foster care. Attendees will learn about how the use of data, Memorandums of Understanding, and other policies may support educational stability for youth in foster care. The session will also address robust collaborative practices that have been steadily improving education outcomes and benchmarks for youth in foster care.

A3 Meeting Kids Where They Are: A Look at Innovative CSEC Practices in California

Kate Walker Brown, JD, National Center for Youth Law, Oakland, CA
Tiffani Cortez, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

Since 2012, California has worked diligently to improve its understanding of and response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The panelists, will provide an overview of the landscape in California and examine efforts led by child welfare to implement harm reduction policies, programs, and practices to keep youth safe and healthy. The presentation will deep dive into initiatives in Los Angeles County, including a Victim Witness Protocol, that brings together a team of individuals to support a child who is testifying against their trafficker, and a CSEC dependency representation model bolstered by survivor expertise and specialized attorneys and case managers.

A4 When Adolescents Become Parents

Andrew Ford, JD, Center for Family Representation, Jamaica, NY
Karen Levit, JD, The Legal Aid Society, New York, NY

Adolescent parents in Family Court face unique challenges. This session will address two possible stages in an adolescent parent's life: 1) parenting while being a subject child in an abuse or neglect case themselves, and 2) becoming a respondent while being a subject child. Presentation topics include continuity of representation, and strategies for addressing multiple situations, such as: 1) preventing clients from becoming respondents, 2) keeping the adolescent parent and their child together if the adolescent becomes a respondent, 3) working towards reunification if the adolescent parent is separated from their child, 4) counseling clients if the case reaches the termination of parental rights stage, 5) special considerations for LGBTQ clients (particularly in light of pregnancies being more common among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth), and 6) counseling clients on immigration consequences.



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A5 *Holistic Representation: Better Outcomes for Children*

Ellen Marrus, JD, LLM, Univ. of Houston Law Center, Houston, TX
Malikah Marrus, MSW, Hood College, Fredrick, MD

Children who come into the legal system are typically facing a myriad of problems, and not only the issue that first brings them to the attention of the courts. To meet these needs there should be a team approach that includes professionals from various agencies and support networks; including lawyers that specialize in juvenile law, education law, and immigration law, as well as social workers, educators, therapists, psychologists, and investigators. This model of holistic lawyering requires a lawyer to act as a lawyer, representing their client's expressed interests, while associating with other professionals as a team. This session will explore models for providing a holistic approach, as well as address conflict resolution between team members so that the child's team can work together towards best outcomes

A6 *Guardianship: Ensuring the Protection and Well-Being of Children with Disabilities Aging Out of Foster Care*

Deborah Schroth, Schroth Child Law, Orange Park, FL
Wendy Robbins-McClary, Dade County Legal Aid, Miami, FL

Children in foster care have disabilities at approximately twice the rate of children in the community. For many disabled children who age out of the child welfare/foster care system, a formal support system such as guardianship can sometimes be the difference between life and death. This session will review the situation of Regis Little, a Florida child who died due to lack of guardianship, and detail the legislation designed to ensure disabled children have the supports they require upon aging out. Ethical issues for the child's attorney will also be discussed.

A7 *How the Child Welfare System Contributes to Family Poverty*

Diane Redleaf, JD, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, College Park, MD
Ruth White, MSW, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, College Park, MD

The child protection system is supposed to protect children from abuse and neglect and promote their health and well-being. But that system tends to confuse poverty with genuine neglect, thereby impoverishing the families who are the targets of its intervention and causing deterioration in children's stability and prospects for self-sufficiency. This session will focus on the many respects in which the child protection system contributes to child and family poverty.



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12:05 – 1:45pm Lunch on Your Own or Lunch & Learn (separate registration, pending)

Lunch & Learn: *Family Justice Initiative*

Leslie Star-Heimov, Executive Director, Children’s Law Center of California

Prudence Beidler-Carr, Executive Director, ABA Center on Children and the Law

The Family Justice Initiative is a national collaborative with one unified goal: to ensure every child and every parent has high-quality legal representation when child welfare courts make life-changing decisions about their families. Join us for this interactive session as we talk about how to advocate for greater investments in high quality legal representation for children and parents across the country, explore examples of what is working well, and think strategically about how to challenge myths surrounding parent and child representation.

The Family Justice Initiative is sponsoring this lunch for 100 participants.

2:00pm – 3:30pm Breakout Session B

B1 *In Search of a Silver Bullet: Child Welfare’s Embrace of Predictive Analytics*

Christopher Church, JD, CWLS, Children’s Law Center, USC School of Law, Columbia, SC

Amanda Fairchild, Ph.D., University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Predictive analytics refers to the process of applying statistical algorithms to data to make informed guesses about future events. Although predictive analytics can help professionals make decisions more accurately, objectively, and quickly, there is a concern that some methods may result in discriminatory practices or consequences for vulnerable children and families. This workshop will examine a number of programmatic and ethical considerations for determining the appropriate role of predictive analytics in child welfare.

B2 *The Kitchen Sink: Investigating A Child’s Best Interests Beyond the Scope of Dependency Proceedings*

Brandow Maggie, JD, Children’s Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

Jamie Cartagena, JD, Children’s Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

This session will examine the legal and ethical duties across various jurisdictions, as well as any applicable standards or best practices, that direct attorneys to complete an independent investigation outside the scope of dependency court proceedings. We will discuss case studies in which an attorney’s investigation played a significant role in the outcome of the case. We will also address what an independent investigation can look like in different contexts, including immigration, delinquency, education, child development, mental health, medical, and tort claims.

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B3 ***Permanency-Driven Advocacy: A Model for Getting Children Home***

William Booth, JD, Palm Beach Legal Aid, Palm Beach, Florida

Full description pending.

B4 ***New Research on LGBTQ Parenting and the “Best Interests of the Child”***

Todd Brower, JD, LLM, UCLA Williams Institute, Los Angeles, CA

As the Supreme Court recognized in Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) – the case confirming a Constitutional right to marriage for same-sex couples – the institutions of marriage and family are dynamic and evolving. For lawyers, judges and others interacting with LGBTQ persons and their families, accurate and current research on those families is crucial to making informed decisions about the people and cases in front of them. In this interactive session, you will enhance your understanding of issues facing LGBTQ individuals and their families in the courts by examining the most up-to-date and peer-reviewed data on LGBTQ parenting.

B5 ***Supporting Older Youth: What’s the Brain Got to Do with It?***

Leslie Gross, JD, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD

Alexandra Lorhbach, MSW, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD

Adolescent brain development research provides clear evidence that adolescence is a unique period of time ripe with opportunities for skill building, healing, and growth. This interactive session is designed to translate adolescent brain science concepts into daily practice guidance for legal professionals who work with and support young people. Presenters will share relevant research on the importance of engagement and the interconnection between risk-taking and reward-seeking, as well as opportunities to promote healthy adolescent development for young people who are in or transitioning from foster care.

B6 ***Juvenile Justice Reform: Looking Back and Moving Forward***

Melissa Goemann, JD, National Juvenile Justice Network, Washington, DC

Deborah Fowler, JD, Texas Appleseed, Austin, TX

In 2017, advocates achieved tremendous reforms to our youth justice systems. In this presentation, we will discuss juvenile justice policy trends that we have seen throughout the country in the past year, as well as youth justice advances enacted locally in Texas. Topics include efforts to reduce the number of youth in secure facilities and divert resources to local community-based alternatives, as well as reform the way that Texas handles status offenses and lowest-level misdemeanors for children and youth, and keep more youth out of the juvenile justice system. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of the intersection between direct representation of youth and policy advocacy.



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B7 *Asserting the Constitutional Rights of Children in Dependency Proceedings, including Asserting a Right to Trama-Informed Care*

Barbara Elias-Perciful, JD, Texas Lawyers for Children, Dallas, Texas

Although the United States Supreme Court has long recognized that children are protected by the U.S. Constitution and have Constitutional rights just as adults do, attorneys representing children in child protection cases rarely draw on these rights to serve the needs and best interests of their clients. This presentation explores an attorney's duty to assert the Constitutional rights of children in dependency proceedings and focuses on pertinent Constitutional rights of children and how those rights can be asserted to protect a child and address the child's needs in all stages of the child's involvement in the child welfare system.

3:30pm-4:00pm Break (30 minutes)

4:00pm – 5:30pm Plenary Session I (90 minutes)

Discrimination and Well-Being: The Civil Rights of Youth in Care in 2018

Currey Cook, JD, Lambda Legal, New York, NY

Shear Avory, Biden Foundation Fellow and Former Foster Youth, Washington, DC

Tristan Torres, Former Foster Youth, Las Vegas, NV

In almost every state, children are guaranteed, in law or agency policy, certain rights regarding freedom from illegal discrimination. For many youth in care who are not part of majority populations, their rights are violated on a routine basis and attempts to call out violations are fraught with peril. For this session, youth with lived experience in care will discuss challenges they faced and share ideas for moving forward. A panel of civil rights advocates will respond.

5:30pm – 6:30pm Welcome Reception

Join NACC staff, board, conference attendees, and faculty for appetizers and drinks.



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Friday, August 24, 2018

8:30am – 10:15am

Plenary Session II (90 minutes)

Indian Child Welfare Act: A Gold Standard

Annette Nikki Campbell, JD, National American Indian Judge Judges Association, Boulder, CO
Victoria Sweet, JD, National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges, Las Vegas, NV

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was passed in 1978 after two years of Congressional hearings determined that Native children were being removed from their families and communities at disproportionately high rates. Since passage, courts around the country have struggled to understand the intent of the law and inconsistent implementation has left many individuals and families feeling frustrated and unable to trust the system. This panel will cover some of the reasons why this law was passed and why it remains important 40 years later.

Family First & Beyond: The New Act & Perspectives on Child Welfare Reform

Amy Harfeld, JD, Children's Advocacy Institute, Washington, DC

In February, 2017, a landmark piece of federal legislation was passed- the Family First Prevention and Treatment Act. This legislation reflects an evolving understanding that federal resources should not be prioritized for placing and maintaining foster care placements, but rather in preserving families and preventing the need for placement's in the first place. This session will discuss the federal landscape of child welfare financing, highlighting recent developments in the law, providing differing perspectives on these changes, and highlighting the need and opportunity for continued efforts at reform.

10:15am-10:30am

Coffee Break (15 minutes)

10:30am – 12:00pm

Breakout Session C (90 minutes)

C1 *Detangling the Web: Systems Involvement & Youth Homelessness*

Angela Vigil, JD, Baker McKenzie, Miami, FL
Gabriella McDonald, JD, Texas Appleseed, Austin, TX

As more service providers and advocates have begun to shine a light on the issue of youth homelessness, it has become undeniable that there are deep correlations between systems involvement and the likelihood that a youth will experience homelessness, and vice versa. Moreover, experiencing homelessness or systems involvement each result in their own type of traumatic experiences that can lead to negative long-term outcomes, hurting youth's chances of



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future stability. These issues are deeply intertwined and this session will unravel them and present policy recommendations to help prevent and end youth homelessness.

C2 *Father's Matter: Engaging, Involving and Advocating for Dads and Their Children*

Kelly Beck, JD, National Institute of Permanent Family Connectedness, Oakland, CA
Martin Henderson, Fatherhood Matters, Inc., San Antonio, TX

A highly interactive workshop facilitated by two experts in the field of father representation, father involvement, and training. The workshop includes an overview of the legal requirements for identifying and involving fathers and their relatives in child welfare and delinquency proceedings. We will also discuss the research surrounding obstacles and challenges fathers and practitioners face in these proceedings. A resource tool will be provided to all participants, which will help guide the practitioner to uncover intentional strengths and true commitments from the fathers they represent.

C3 *ICWA Active Efforts: Collaborating with Tribes for Optimal Outcomes*

Melissa Middleton, JD, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, OK
Kayla Whalen, JD, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, OK

This session is a training opportunity geared to the various practitioners involved in juvenile deprived actions involving an Indian child or Indian children. It will include a very brief overview of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 ("ICWA") and focus primarily on the Active Efforts requirements set forth in 25 U.S.C. –§1912(d). ICWA Active Efforts will include discussion of the roles of the different parties/attorneys in provision of active efforts, and provide guidance as to what constitutes effective active efforts and how to join forces with tribal counterparts to ensure best practices are being implemented.

C4 *Pushed to the Edge: What We Can Do in Response to Federal Policy Decisions Undermining Self-Sufficiency of the Poor and Contributing to a Child Welfare System that Asks too much and Struggles to Meet the Needs of Youth and Families*

Angie Schwartz, JD, Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles, CA
Brian Blalock, JD, Tipping Point Community, San Francisco, CA

Federal safety net programs, which have been deteriorating since the 1980s, are under further attack. Additionally, many of our dedicated child welfare funding streams are about to be fundamentally shifted because of the recent passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act. In this session, we will look at the myths and realities of funding in the child welfare system with a focus on how externalized costs of various public systems has contributed to overburdening relative caregivers and pushing youth into dangerous situations and/or homelessness. The conversation will bridge the divide between our child welfare system and public benefits system to help practitioners understand how to leverage funds to support children and families and create true systemic reform within the context of deteriorating federal support.



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C5 *The Overlap of Family Law & Child Welfare*

Anastasia Cowan, JD, Arnold & Smith, PLLC, Charlotte, NC

There is no denying that Family Law and Child Welfare Law are incredibly different worlds. While ultimately the players in these two arenas have the same goal (best interest of the child/children), they have very different roles and very different scopes by which to assess that standard. This session will help family law attorneys understand important concepts such as safety assessments and access to information regarding child welfare matters. In turn, child welfare workers will deepen their understanding of child custody proceedings, including whether they can testify as an expert in a domestic case or recommend a custody modification.

C6 *Housing & Health Care for Transgender Youth in Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Settings*

Currey Cook, JD, Lambda Legal, New York, NY

Shannon Wilbur, JD, National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco, CA

Transgender youth are over-represented in child welfare and juvenile justice settings compared to their cisgender peers. All too often, transgender youth face stigma and prejudice and heightened risk of emotional harm while in care. Access to qualified and affirming medical and mental health care, and appropriate housing and placements are two of the biggest challenges among the many issues that transgender youth face as they navigate through sex-segregated systems and uninformed or openly hostile providers. Presenters will provide interviewing techniques and courtroom advocacy skills that incorporate developing case law, professional standards of care, and recommended practices.

C7 *Minors' Access to Abortion: Mandatory Parental Involvement and Judicial Bypass*

Jessica Goldberg, JD, If/When/How, Oakland, CA

Amanda Bennett, MA, Janes' Due Process, Austin, TX

Currently, 37 states require young people under 18 who are seeking abortion care to either inform their parents or navigate their states' complex judicial bypass processes. This issue disproportionately impacts youth in foster care, who may not have anyone to get consent from or give notice to and are thus at the mercy of the bypass process. This session will provide an overview of parental involvement laws ("PILs") and judicial bypass procedures across the country, helping to familiarize practitioners with the process and best practices so that they can offer guidance to the minors they work with who are facing reproductive decisions.

12:15am – 1:45pm

Annual Luncheon (included with registration)

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Keynote Speaker: [Sixto Cancel](#), Founder & CEO, Think of Us

2:00pm – 3:30pm Breakout Session D

D1 *Re-Imagining Disability, Race, and Incarceration*

Jyoti Nanda, UCLA School of Law Youth Justice Clinic, Los Angeles, CA

This session will build on my research and analysis which suggests that for children of color in under-resourced schools, any learning related disability they may have or be perceived to have is conflated with race. In turn, their disability (if it exists) is treated as criminalized condition, remedied with punishment and in segregated classrooms – eventually leading to overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system. My analysis offers interventions and best practices with a focus on the role children’s advocates can play.

D2 *Representing Parents with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families*

Robyn Powell, MA, JD, National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families, Waltham, MA

As people with intellectual disabilities are increasingly integrated in their communities, increasing numbers are becoming parents. At the same time, these families are grossly underserved by the child welfare system and often face substantial discrimination. This workshop will provide attorneys with strategies and solutions for representing parents with intellectual disabilities involved with the child welfare system.

D3 *Additional Breakout Presentation Pending*

D4 *The World Don’t Move to the Beat of Just One Drum: Cultural Humility and Client Engagement to Improving Best Interest Recommendations*

Sheri Freemont, JD, Casey Family Programs, Denver, CO
Rob Wyman, JD, MSW, Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA

For attorneys and advocates in dependency matters, client engagement often involves navigating cross-cultural relations. Disproportionality among the client population based on race is well documented, especially among Native American children. In response to the history of cultural desecration and ongoing dismantling of tribal communities through child welfare practice, the Indian Child Welfare Act was created and currently is the only mandate practitioners have to consider maintaining cultural connection as presumptively supportive of the child’s best interests. In this session, we will help attorneys use the practice of cultural humility to foster effective client engagement and better inform the advocacy for the best interests of children.

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D5 *Incubating Change: Opportunities & Challenges for Legal Advocacy Groups in Cultivating Foster-Youth Led Organizing*

Matt Rosen, MSW, MUP, Foster Youth in Action, Berkeley, CA

Betsy Fordyce, JD, Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center, Denver, CO

Legal aid and legal advocacy organizations have helped birth and support youth led grassroots movements that have a strong advocacy record and great promise for even larger impact. In this session, we will explore why youth-led organizing for child welfare policy change is essential and how legal aid and advocacy groups are important vehicles to support young people's collective advocacy and organizing at the grassroots. We will consider the steps that legal advocacy organizations might take to evaluate whether and how to incorporate this new approach in their own work. The session will include perspectives and experiences of young organizers as well as staff supporters.

D6 *Foster Care and Religious Freedom*

Melissa Carter, JD, Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic, Emory Law School, Atlanta, GA

Condemned by LGBT advocates as a license to discriminate, religious exemption laws are viewed as specific threats to the civil rights of LGBT people and same-sex couples. Conversely, religious objectors argue the need for such laws to protect the free exercise of their sincerely held faith beliefs. Is a child welfare religious exemption a prudent course of action to meet the needs of children in foster care? Judges and lawyers for children, parents, and the agency are all essential stakeholders in this debate. They need to understand the values-laden rhetoric and be prepared to engage it with research, data, and the lived experiences of their clients.

D7 *Education Civil Rights Legal Advocacy: Don't Represent Your Client Without It!*

Miriam Rolling, JD, Education Civil Rights Alliance/National Center for Youth Law, Washington, DC

Too often, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice system-involved youth experience education challenges that impede their ability to succeed in school and life. Those challenges can be caused or exacerbated by failures of education systems to uphold students' education civil rights. Education civil rights laws (e.g., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) exist to protect students from unlawful discrimination, and no action of the current Congress or Administration has undermined those statutory rights. But those rights are mere words without attorneys and systems agents to ensure their enforcement and reduce children's barriers to educational success.

3:30pm – 3:45pm

Break (15 minutes)

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Breakout Session E (90 minutes)

E1 *Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and Attorneys: Advocating Together for the Best Interests of Children*

Gabrielle Majewski, JD, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC

Katherine Piggott-Tooke, JD, Children's Law Center, Washington, DC

Christina Schleich, JD, Cook county Office of the Public Guardian, Chicago, IL

Children and youth in foster care have mental health needs far in excess of those faced by non-foster care populations of children, with up to 80% of children in care experiencing mental health issues. A purposeful, structured partnership between child and adolescent psychiatrists and attorneys can help bridge some of the critical knowledge and service gaps existing in the child welfare, educational, juvenile justice, and medical systems – thereby helping attorneys better identify and advocate for children's mental health, services, placement, and permanency needs. This presentation will highlight the unique ways in which attorneys can collaborate with child and adolescent psychiatrists to enable attorneys to better advocate across various child-serving systems.

E2 *The Complimentary Roles of CASA/GAL Volunteers & Children's Counsel in Implementing the Requirements of the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act*

Diane Nunn, JD, National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, Seattle, WA

Darlene Byrne, JD, Presiding Judge, 126th Judicial District, Travis County, Austin, TX

This workshop is designed to provide an overview of the complementary roles of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/ guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers and children's counsel in child abuse and neglect proceedings as they relate to implementing the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. It will explore the roles that CASA/GAL volunteers and children's counsel have in the identification and advocacy for children in foster care and youth at risk of sex trafficking. It will also explore their complementary roles in improving opportunities for appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities for children and youth in foster care.

E3 *Strategic Approaches to Ending the Reliance on Solitary and Restraints*

Catherine Frizell, JD, M.Ed., Children's Rights, New York, NY

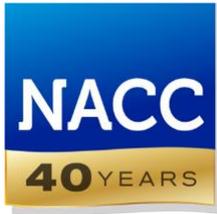
Jessica Feerman, JD, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA

Nathan Kristein, JD, Disability Rights Iowa, Des Moines, IA

The continued use of solitary confinement and restraints on confined youth, and youth in foster care, is an urgent national human rights issue that screams for heightened awareness and

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disruption tools for all NACC members. This plenary of national experts on impact litigation and community-based reform, moderated by a formerly incarcerated youth, will engage attendees with tools to eliminate these barbaric practices and to bring youth back home and into their communities. An interactive discussion with advocates from Children's Rights, Juvenile Law Center, Disability Rights Iowa, and Urban Underground Milwaukee will inform conference attendees on the evolving national landscape and strategies members can take back to their home jurisdictions to create effective change.

E4 *Walk a Mile in Their Shoes: The Children's Counsel Experiential Learning Module*

Angela Vigil, JD, Baker McKenzie, Miami, FL

Brian Blalock, JD, Tipping Point Community, San Francisco, CA

Youth involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice court process frequently travel through myriad public systems. Furthermore, many of these youth have experienced high levels of trauma, violence, instability, and loss. This session uses experiential learning to increase understanding and awareness. Using integrative teaching and simulations, we will explore what it is like to be a young person with court involvement. We will discuss best practices in child advocacy models and examine methods for screening, intake, and representation, with a focus on the experience of youth moving through various services and systems

E5 *Achieving Permanency through Alternative Planning*

Jacquelyn Wilson, JD, Travis County Office of Parental Representation, Austin, TX

Cindy Dyar, JD, Travis County Office of Parental Representation, Austin, TX

This session will discuss how to recognize barriers to family reunification and tips for how proactive litigation and the early creation of alternative plans can overcome those barriers.

E6 *Removing Legal Barriers to Permanency for Older Youth*

Melinda Haggerty, JD, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Columbus, OH

Tova Rose, BS, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Columbus, OH

Federal Law requires that all students, regardless of disability, receive a Free and Appropriate Education. However, underfunded public school districts sometimes fail to identify these students and the burden then falls on the parent or guardian to convince the school that their child requires special education services. This presentation, delivered by attorneys and advocates, will explore the connections between poverty and learning disabilities, as well as poverty and the parent/guardian's limitations in advocating for their children with disabilities. We will also explain how the SPEAK ("Special Education Advocacy for Kids") program functions and address the special challenges that children in foster care face in their schooling.



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E7 Best Practices & Effective Advocacy to Overcome Implicit Biases against Transgender Youth

Jamie Julian, MSW, LCSW, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles Center for Transyouth Health and Development, Los Angeles, CA

Raumak Rahmani, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

Ronnie Cheung, JD, Children's Law Center of California, Monterey Park, CA

This session will challenge participants to assess their implicit biases against transgender youth and examine how such biases cause harm to transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming youth. Participants will consider issues surrounding gender dysphoria and the imminent risks and consequences of not addressing the need for appropriate services in a timely manner. The presentation will also explore best practices for attorneys, social workers, and judges to overcome biases and positively support transgender youth even when resources are limited.

7:30pm – 9:30pm

Movie (Pending)

Saturday, August 25, 2018

9:00am – 12:00pm

Closing Plenary

Working with Immigrant Families: The Impact of Increased Immigration Enforcement on Child Welfare

Cristina Cooper, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

Emily Butera, MA, Women's Refugee Commission, Washington, DC

In the last year, children in the U.S. have faced dramatically increased chances of being separated from their non-citizen parents. Additionally, the resultant fear in immigrant communities of engaging with law enforcement, social service agencies, and courts can lead to increased risks for vulnerable children and families. This presentation will provide updates on relevant immigration enforcement efforts, and identify existing protections and promising practices for working with immigrant families at risk of involvement with the child welfare system.

The Constitutional Right to Counsel: Strategies for Advancing Reform

Angela Vigil, JD, Baker McKenzie, Miami, FL (Moderator)

John Pollock, JD, National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel

Additional speakers pending

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August 23-August 25, 2018 · San Antonio, Texas

Advance Conference Agenda

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Conference Hotel: San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, 101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205

For more information see www.NACCchildlaw.org/Conference