



AspireMN

An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

www.aspiremn.org

Annual Membership Meeting

Radisson North, 2540 Cleveland Ave N, 55113, St. Paul, MN

Pre-Meetings, Wednesday November 7

- Quality Parenting Initiative Consultation with Youth Law Center Experts, 2-4 pm at Family Alternatives or zoom
- PRTF Capacity Enhancement, discussion with DHS, 3:00-4:30, AspireMN offices or phone/zoom

Membership Meeting November 8-9

Thursday November 8

- 9:00-10:30** **Quality Parenting Initiative – Transformation for the Field,**
Carole Shauffer, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives and Jennifer Rodriguez,
Executive Director – Youth Law Center
- 10:30-10:45** **Break**
- 10:45-11:00** **Leadership Retreat Update: impact story –** Heather Kelm, PORT Group
Homes & Britta Svihel, VOA MN
- 11:00-11:45** **AspireMN Business Meeting**
- 11:45-12:15** **Children’s Intensive Mental Health Study – presentation and opportunity for
feedback,** Melanie Ferris, Wilder Research
- 12:15-1:30** **AspireMN Annual Awards Luncheon –** Foster Provider of the Year - Weiner
and Weichman Families, Sister Helen Louise Roth Award – Reggie Hannah,
Distinguished Service Award – Mary Regan
- 1:30-3:30** **Family First Prevention Services Act – Implications for Minnesota,** DHS
panel with representation from Child Safety and Permanency, Behavioral Health,
and Licensing

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3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-4:30 2019 Legislative Priorities & Action Teams

4:30-6:00 Social Hour

Friday November 9

9:00-10:30 Elections 2018 – Analysis & Lively Discussion with Prof David Schultz

10:30-12:00 AspireMN Board of Directors Meeting – all are welcome

Speaker Bios

Jennifer Rodriguez, J.D., is Executive Director of the Youth Law Center (YLC), advocating to transform foster care and juvenile justice systems across the country so youth can thrive. Jennifer spent many years of her childhood in foster care and juvenile justice facilities, and has spent most of her life advocating to ensure justice, compassion and opportunity for system involved youth. Jennifer's advocacy has resulted in significant national policy, practice and culture changes around the fundamental needs of youth and formally including system involved youth as part of all policy processes. Jennifer's leadership at YLC has a special focus on ensuring youth in both child welfare and juvenile justice receive the parenting necessary to heal and thrive and live in conditions that meet their developmental and emotional needs. Before coming to the Youth Law Center in 2010, Jennifer served for eight years at the California Youth Connection, a nationally-recognized foster youth advocacy organization, leading efforts resulting in major legislative and policy accomplishments for California probation and foster youth, including stronger educational rights, higher education funding, increased funding for transition services, and promotion of normalcy and permanence for teenagers. Jennifer received her G.E.D. from San Jose Job Corps, her B.A. from UC Davis, and her J.D. from UC Davis law school and is mother to two beautiful children

David Schultz is a Hamline University Professor of Political Science who teaches across a wide range of American politics classes including public policy and administration, campaigns and elections, and government ethics. David is also a professor in the Hamline and University of Minnesota Schools of Law where he teaches election law. David is the author of 30 books and 100+ articles on various aspects of American politics, election law, and the media and politics, and he is regularly interviewed and quoted in the local, national, and international media on these subjects by agencies including the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Economist, and National Public Radio. His most recent books are *Presidential Swing States: Why Only Ten Matter* (2015), *Election Law and Democratic Theory* (2014), and *American Politics in the Age of Ignorance: Why Lawmakers Choose Belief Over Research* (2013). A three-time Fulbright scholar who has taught extensively in Europe, Professor Schultz is the 2013 Leslie A. Whittington national award winner for excellence in public affairs teaching.

Carole Shauffer, J.D. is the Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Youth Law Center, a national public interest law firm based in San Francisco California, where she was formerly Executive Director. Her work and that of the Youth Law Center centers on transformation of the nation's juvenile justice and child welfare systems, through litigation, legislation and policy change. With support from her colleagues, she has developed and implemented the Quality Parenting Initiative, a child centered, developmentally appropriate approach to out-of-home care.

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