NACC Board of Directors
Mickey Aberman, JD, MBA
Akin Abioye, Ed.D
LaShanda Taylor Adams, JD
Kathryn Banks, JD
Janet Bledsoe, JD, LLM, CWLS
Hon. Karen Braxton, CWLS
Currey Cook, JD
Sheri Freemont, JD
Gerard Glynn, JD, MS, LLM
Joseph D. Gunn III, MD
Amy Harfeld, JD
Leslie Starr Heimou, JD, CWLS
Yali Lincroft, MBA
Candi M. Mayes, JD, MJM, CWLS
Daune Mitchell, JD
David Smith, JD
John H. Stuemky, MD
Sonia C. Velagque
Stephanie Villafuerte, JD
Dan Wilde, JD

Strategic process guided by
Community Wealth Partners
A Shared Our Strength Organization

2019–2023 Strategic Plan
Reaffirming our founding commitment to advancing justice for children and families in the child welfare system, with a bold vision to engage members and accelerate practice and policy reform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
NACC’s Strategic Planning Process

For more than 45 years, the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) has strived to serve children and families by supporting a diverse community of legal advocates dedicated to providing high-quality legal representation. NACC has trained tens of thousands of professionals, established an ABA-accredited national certification for Child Welfare Law Specialists, produced pioneering publications — including Child Welfare Law and Practice — and steadfastly asserted the rights of children and parents in hundreds of policy statements and amicus briefs in child welfare, juvenile justice, and family law systems.

With our 2019–2023 Strategic Plan, NACC reaffirmed our founding commitment to advance justice, opportunity, and well-being for children and families experiencing the child welfare system. This includes the intersection of the child welfare system with the juvenile and criminal legal systems and family law. The driving focus of NACC’s strategic plan is to accelerate the growth, experience, diversity, and leadership of a national community of child welfare legal professionals to promote excellence in legal representation, build community among practitioners, and advance justice for children, parents, and families.

After achieving many of our 5-year goals in the first 2½ years of the plan, NACC utilized Community Wealth Partners to help update its Mission, Vision, and goals. This update explicitly reflects NACC’s commitment to race equity, parents’ rights, and solutions co-designed with people with lived experience expertise.

The refreshed plan clarifies who and what NACC stands for today and the means by which NACC will effect change as a national nonprofit children’s legal advocacy organization. NACC’s board and staff profoundly thank every contributor.

We are NACC. Together we are Promoting Excellence, Building Community, and Advancing Justice.
NACC's Vision, Mission, and Impact

NACC’s updated mission and vision statements are as follows:

**NACC’s Vision:** Every child, parent, and family is well-supported in their community and has equitable access to justice through culturally-responsive, client-centered legal representation.

**NACC’s Mission:** NACC advances children’s and parents’ rights by supporting a diverse, inclusive community of child welfare lawyers to provide zealous legal representation and by advocating for equitable, anti-racist solutions co-designed by people with lived experience.

Our Program Areas and Priorities

By 2023, NACC will achieve results in three main program areas:

**NACC will Promote Excellence by:**

- Increasing and diversifying the national community of Child Welfare Law Specialists, ensuring an equitable CWLS process, and elevating the importance of specialization and competence in child welfare practice.
- Delivering timely, frequent, responsive, and updated trainings informed by constituent voice, including presenters with lived experience, and with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Publishing the 4th edition of *Child Welfare Law and Practice*, utilizing the opportunity to develop the most current and practical resource for practitioners.

**NACC will Build Community by:**

- Increasing support to a growing membership, with a specific focus on increasing diversity and inclusion, and modernizing networking tools and resources for the field.
- Utilizing law school, State Coordinator, and Board partnerships to build community, expand member diversity, and promote the pipeline to and tenure in child welfare law profession.
- Expanding NACC’s national conference to diversify attendance, build scholarship fund, and provide high-quality legal education, inspiration, and networking opportunities.
- Leading convenings to advance NACC’s policy initiatives.

**NACC will Advance Justice by:**

- Partnering with NACC members and lived experience experts to publish policy papers, assessments of children’s right to counsel, amicus briefs, and policy statements consistent with NACC’s policy agenda.
- Partnering with NACC members and lived experience experts to refresh NACC’s Policy Agenda with a focus on race equity and constituent engagement.
- Engaging NACC members in policy work on local, state, and national levels and mobilizing NACC’s expanded membership, with a focus on race equity and constituent engagement.
- Increasing communications to emphasize equity and justice and elevate NACC’s mission, policy positions, and expertise.