Building the Bridge Between Foster Care and Education

by Sara Bigley and Jan Moore

Overview

Research on the impact of mobility on academic and life outcomes confirms that foster care experiences, especially multiple placements, put youth at a greater risk for academic failure and poorer life outcomes. The educational experiences of youth in foster care are marked by higher rates of absenteeism\(^1\), suspensions/expulsions\(^2\), and identification for special education services\(^3\). Not surprisingly, these negative experiences lead to lower rates of high school and college graduation, lower paying jobs, and higher rates of marginalization, including adult homelessness.\(^4\)

### Students In Foster Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective Criteria</th>
<th>Findings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absent from school</td>
<td>Average 25 days per year(^6). (Chronic absenteeism is often defined as missing 10% or more of the school year — typically 180 — days for any reason(^6)).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive suspension or expulsion</td>
<td>About 3 times that of other students(^7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive special education services</td>
<td>About 33%(^8) vs 13%(^9) of all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete high school by age 18</td>
<td>27%–50%(^10) vs national average of 84.6%(^11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attain a bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>2% vs 24% of the general population(^12).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---


---

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

**Sara Bigley** is the State Coordinator for Foster Care Education at the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has a passion for working with at-risk children and youth. Her work has included pre-K–12 and higher education. Prior to her current position, she was a school principal and assistant director for student support services. Sara holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Labor Relations, a Master of Education in Counseling and a Master of Education in School Administration.

**Jan Moore** is the Assistant Director of the National Center for Homeless Education, based at the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She provides technical assistance to educators, advocates, and others on issues related to educating highly mobile students. Jan also has a 20+ year history of advocating for at-risk children and youth both as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for children in foster care and as a surrogate parent for students with special education needs.
Educational Stability

To ensure that students in foster care have the same opportunities for academic achievement as their peers, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) amendments to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), established new requirements for students in foster care. These provisions complement the requirements of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Fostering Connections Act) and further promote the purpose of Title I of the ESEA by increasing educational stability, removing enrollment barriers, ensuring high-quality educational opportunities, closing achievement gaps, and promoting college- and career-readiness for youth in foster care.

**Key ESSA Provisions to Ensure School Stability**

- Youth in foster care are entitled to remain in the same school, unless it is determined that it is not in their best interest. (Some students will need transportation to remain in the school of origin.)
- If it is not in the student’s best interest to remain in the school of origin, he/she must be immediately enrolled in the local school, even if lacking records normally required for enrollment.
- LEAs should also ensure that children in foster care are regularly attending and fully participating in school and that their educational needs are being met.
- Some students in foster care will need transportation to remain in their school of origin, so LEAs must collaborate with child welfare agencies (CWAs) to develop and implement written procedures for how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of a child’s time in foster care.
- Each state education agency (SEA) must designate a point of contact (POC) for CWAs. LEAs must designate a POC for CWAs if the corresponding CWA designates a POC.

**Collaboration**

The foster care provisions of Title I require SEAs and LEAs to collaborate with CWAs to ensure that students in care have the educational opportunities to achieve at the same high levels as their peers. These provisions stress the importance of keeping children in their schools of origin when they move, either due to entering the foster care system or experiencing a placement change, unless it is determined not to be in their best interest. In that case, students must be enrolled in their new schools as soon as possible in order to prevent educational discontinuity.

Developing strong partnerships between agencies is critical for effective cross-system collaboration in supporting of children and youth in foster care. This should start at the state agency level between the educational and child welfare points of contact. Working together, agencies can make informed decisions about children, develop procedures, and remove barriers that may hinder the implementation of the ESSA school stability provisions. An example of this would be developing joint state guidance as well as MOUs for data sharing.

There may be challenges to effective inter-agency partnerships. For example, the differences between the systems, terminology, communication, as well as data systems that don’t coordinate/integrate. Overcoming these challenges through cooperative efforts will provide youth with increased opportunities for success.

**Good Collaborative Strategies**

- Cultivate relationships and trust among agencies to build capacity that supports change.
- Develop a shared ownership for the success of children and youth in foster care.
- Create strong inter-agency policies, procedures, and communication, so there is clear understanding of the law and collective expectations.
• Develop memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between SEAs and state CWAs, as well as between LEAs and local CWAs to clarify responsibilities and provide a road map for immediate action.
• Provide joint ESSA training, so education and child welfare staff collectively learn and develop solutions to overcome challenges and support students.
• Prioritize understanding each other’s systems by conducting cross-system training to better understand ESSA provisions, needs of children in foster care, and agency laws, policies and procedures.
• Create a state-wide advisory council or inter-agency committee to support implementation. Members could include local school and child welfare POCs, Guardians ad Litem, judges, students, and foster parents as well as other stakeholders.

Points of Contact
To oversee implementation of the law, each SEA must designate a POC, and LEAs must designate a POC if the corresponding CWA designates their own POC. Although neither state nor local CWAs are required to have POCs to coordinate with educational agencies, the Non-regulatory Guidance produced jointly by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services strongly encourages both entities to do so. Many SEAs advise LEAs in their states to designate a POC regardless of whether the local CWA designates one.

Suggested/Potential Responsibilities of Local CW POC
• Serve as primary contact between students, educators, and service providers
• Coordinate with LEA POC to implement Title I provisions
• Establish a process to notify LEA when a child is placed in foster care or when there is a foster care placement change
• Coordinate on best interest determinations
• Facilitate transfer of records
• Work with LEAs to ensure students are immediately enrolled in school and provided transportation
• Manage BID and transportation cost agreements between LEA and CWA
• Coordinate with LEA on data sharing
• Coordinate services so young children can access early educational services
• Inform parents, education decision makers, and community stakeholders of children’s education rights

Suggested/Potential Responsibilities of LEA POC
• Coordinate with CW POC to implement Title I provisions
• Lead the development of a process for making the best interest determination
• Document the best interest determination
• Facilitate transfer of records and immediate enrollment
• Facilitate data sharing with CWAs
• Develop and coordinate transportation procedures

Best Interest Determination Process
In order to determine whether it is in the youth’s best interest to remain in the school of origin or transfer to the local school, a best interest determination (BID) meeting is typically held as soon as possible after the decision to change the child’s residential placement. The CW and LEA POCs should attend as well as any others who can provide insight on the student’s attachment to the current school and how changing schools would impact academic, social, and emotional well-being. Depending on the situation this could include the youth, foster parent(s), biological parent(s), education decisionmaker(s), other relatives, teachers, counselors, coaches, and meaningful people in the youth’s life. If the student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 plan, staff related to those services should also participate.

When determining whether it is in the student’s best interest to remain in the school of origin or transfer to the local school, the Non-regulatory Guidance advises considering the following factors:
• Preferences of the child;
• Preferences of the child’s parent(s) or education decision maker(s);
The guidance specifically states that transportation costs should not be considered when determining a student’s best interest.

**Transportation to School of Origin**

When BID meeting participants determine that it is in the youth’s best interest to remain in the school of origin and the youth needs transportation to school, the CWA and LEA must work together to ensure this transportation is promptly provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child’s time in foster care.

If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the LEA will provide the transportation if (1) the local CWA agrees to reimburse the LEA for the cost; (2) the LEA agrees to pay the cost; or (3) the LEA and local CWA agree to share the cost. Since children may be in placements across district, county, or state lines, coordination among multiple LEAs and CWAs may be necessary.

For students exiting care before the end of a school year, LEAs are encouraged to continue prioritizing educational stability and, when possible, to continue providing transportation when remaining in the school of origin is in the student’s best interest. If remaining in that school is not in the student’s best interest, the LEA and CWA POC should ensure that the child is immediately enrolled in the local school.

**John’s Story**

John, a nearly 14-year-old seventh grader, has been in foster care since fourth grade in kinship, residential, and therapeutic placements. Recently, John was moved to a therapeutic foster home in another school district. It was determined at the BID meeting that he should enroll in the local school in the new district. At that time, John was performing well below grade level and had significant emotional and behavioral challenges at school and home.

After one week, he was moved to another therapeutic foster care placement in a neighboring school district. It was February, and John was experiencing his fifth placement change that school year. School personnel in the current district had been trained on foster care provisions, so when notified that John’s new foster care placement was out of the district, the principal contacted the LEA POC and asked to attend the BID meeting. Although John had experienced many behavioral outbursts and emotional issues, the principal was concerned that another school move would be extremely detrimental to his overall wellbeing.

John remained in the school of origin until the BID meeting occurred. During that meeting, participants discussed the impact of his frequent school moves, the school level academic and behavioral interventions implemented in the short time he had been enrolled, and other services the school could put in place to support John. It was determined to be in John’s best interest to continue in his school of origin, and the two LEAs coordinated transportation.

One year later, John is in eighth grade and making good progress with ongoing supportive interventions at school and collaboration between the therapeutic foster parent, CWA, and LEAs. He had a full evaluation and attended his eligibility determination meeting where he was determined eligible for special education services. During the meeting, John advocated for interventions and support that he felt would help him progress in school.

John has made significant improvements. He is more stable emotionally and behaviorally, and he continues to make profound academic gains. This story shows how the ESSA provisions laid a foundation for agency collaboration that focused on John’s best interest and resulted in a life-changing direction for him.

**Resources**

**SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina — Greensboro**

National Foster Education Summit page

NC Foster Care Education page

**Legal Center for Foster Care and Education**

U.S. Department of Education

Students in Foster Care

---


References


Courtney, Terao & Bost (2004). Midwest evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth: Conditions of youth preparing to leave state care. Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.


The Loyola Children’s Legal Rights Journal is pleased to announce that Volume 39, Issue 1 is officially published and live! CLRJ would like to thank the authors and editors for their wonderful and diligent work.

Please click here to view the issue.

This issue includes: Judge Erik Pitchal’s article reflecting on the last 40 years of child advocacy from the perspective of the bench; Martin Guggenheim’s article critiquing the work of NACC and making suggestions for the future; Sue Burrell and Ji Seon Song’s article about the work taking place in California to end solitary confinement of youth; Marja Plater’s article about achieving educational stability for the African American foster youth in Maryland; and Christina McClurg Riehl and Tara Shuman’s article recommending policy changes to better support kinship caregivers.

Executive Director’s Message

by Kim Dvorchak, JD

Did you see Professor Marty Guggenheim’s article?!!! Yes, we did. In fact, in the spirit of giving voice to critical analysis we agreed to Professor Marty Guggenheim’s proposal to draft a critical assessment of NACC’s organizational history in response to Loyola’s Call for Papers, and provided access to information and publications cited in the article. In the context of celebrating our 40th Anniversary, and in charting NACC’s path forward, we felt it was important to hear all views, positive and negative, regarding NACC’s role and impact in the child welfare system. Professor Guggenheim presented his article at the NACC-Loyola Law School Symposium alongside Professor Don Duquette, Judge Erik Pitchal, and NACC Vice-President Leslie Starr Heimov, and the students enjoyed a lively discussion. I encourage you to read the other articles in this special NACC 40th Anniversary issue as well, including recent NACC Board Member Erik Pitchal’s article, “From Paternalism to Process: Reflections from the Bench on 40 Years of American Child Advocacy.”

For more than 40 years, NACC has strived to serve children and families in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and family law systems, focusing on developing these specialized areas of law and building a community of professionals dedicated to providing high-quality legal representation. Our founders and key leaders achieved substantial gains in the development of high-quality legal representation for children. Today, NACC’s Policy Agenda strongly endorses the right to counsel and access to justice for children and parents alike, champions children’s well-being and rights in the foster care system, and calls for the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities, as well as equitable access to services for all children. NACC respects the advocacy of Professor Marty Guggenheim who, in the end of his article, recognizes “that today’s NACC is genuinely committed to addressing critical issues in child welfare in ways that further the protection of children and families from government overreaching.” Onward!
FamilyFirstAct.org

FamilyFirstAct.org is new website created to provide information, resources and advocacy tools on the Family First Prevention Services Act.

You can access summaries of the law, the text of the legislation, stories from constituents with lived experience on why it matters, webinars from national partners, data and research, strategies for implementation and constituent engagement and updates from Congress, HHS and the Children’s Bureau.

You can sign up to receive updates about what's new in the implementation of the law, utilize communications tools, and download images to share among your networks.

FamilyFirstAct.org is a collaborative project with several national organizations, including NACC!

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Before Family First was enacted NACC partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the ABA Center on Children and the Law to produce the Every Kid Needs a Family Attorney Advocacy Guide. The tool was designed to assist attorneys in understanding and making arguments to ensure that children are placed in family settings. The tool also provides a framework for advocacy in cases where congregate care placement is recommended, or in cases where that placement has been made. Questions to ask in court are provided in detail, as are helpful advocacy tips.

Every Kid Needs a Family Attorney Advocacy Guide

Save the Date!

NACC Member Webinar on Family First
June 11, 2019 • Time TBD
New Research

A new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Future Savings: The Economic Potential of Successful Transitions From Foster Care to Adulthood*, estimates that, over time, not ensuring that these young people have what they need to succeed adds up to approximately $4.1 billion in lost economic potential. *Future Savings* finds that, with the right resources, 5,290 more young people would graduate from high school each year, leading to $2.17 billion in economic gains through increased lifetime income, including lost taxes. Additionally, 2,866 fewer young women would experience early parenthood by the age of 19, leading to $295 million in savings and economic gains to society for the first 15 years of the child’s life. More than 4,000 young people would avoid homelessness, avoiding $9.6 million in costs, and 4,870 would not experience juvenile incarceration, avoiding $1.6 billion. *Future Savings* builds on information shared in the Casey Foundation’s 2018 report, *Fostering Youth Transitions*, a first-of-its-kind brief with national- and state-level data that help illustrate how young people ages 14 and older are faring as they transition from foster care to adulthood. *Future Savings* can be downloaded for free from the Casey Foundation’s website, along with a shareable infographic that captures key takeaways.
Entangled Roots: The Role of Race in Policies that Separate Families

Entangled Roots examines the history of family separation in the immigration, criminal justice system, and child welfare systems and its impact on communities today. As the report documents, these systems have systematically separated families, disregarding children’s need for strong and stable relationships with their caregivers. They have also actively discriminated against children and families of color, consistently separating families of color more often than white families and making it especially difficult for the children of color they impact to lead happy, healthy, and productive lives. As a nation, we are struggling with the legacy of these policy decisions today. Entangled Roots provides the historical context for how current policies came to be and calls for reforms to each of these public systems to limit family separation and mitigate its harm. What follows is an excerpt from the section regarding the child welfare system.

While family separation is often the unconsidered consequence of immigration and criminal justice policy, it is the deliberate result of decisions in the child welfare system... [Almost 270,000 children were removed from their families and placed in foster care in 2017]. Nationally, Black or African American and American Indian/Alaska Native children are significantly more likely to be removed from their families than white, Asian, and Hispanic children, but Hispanic children are over-represented in the foster care system in some states...

The child welfare system... is designed in a way that invites bias and discrimination. Not only are the definitions of maltreatment written primarily by white people, applying their own ideas of what constitutes maltreatment, but as legal scholar and child welfare expert Dorothy Roberts has observed, “Vague definitions of neglect, unbridled discretion, and lack of training form a dangerous combination in the hands of caseworkers charged with deciding the fate of families.” ...[S]tudies have found that race may influence a child welfare caseworkers’ “threshold” for removing a child from their family. When African American children are removed from their homes, they on average are assessed by caseworkers to have lower risk at the time of removal than white children removed from their homes. In-depth studies of state and local child welfare systems have found that African American families do not receive supports that could “prevent or divert their involvement with the child protective system” and that they suffer the consequences of widespread beliefs that “African American children are better off away from their families and communities.” The problem of disproportionality in the child welfare system has proven so intransigent in part because the roots of these disparities are deep...

In order to rectify these past injustices and ensure that they do not continue, we need to re-envision policy from the perspective of families. Re-envisioning policy from the perspective of families requires that we value the role of parents and caregivers in children’s lives, and that we keep children with their families whenever safe and possible...

In the child welfare system [agencies should]:

• Raise the threshold that must be met before children are removed from their parents’ care. Agencies must actively work to keep families together... this may require changing policies on the books... [or] how policies are interpreted and implemented...

• Be transparent about their policies and practices, and... be held accountable to the communities that are most impacted by their actions — whether through citizen review boards, the direct hiring of community members, or some other means.

MARCH/APRIL READER PANEL QUESTION

What’s your best strategy for beginning to form a relationship with clients during your first meeting?

AMANDA PEARSON: Clients can mean adults and children of all ages, with exposure to differing levels of trauma and external factors. Often first meetings are in emergency proceedings where time is at a minimum. To the degree possible, once introductions are done, I try to listen first, to gauge the client’s ability to participate in the proceeding. A client’s trust in me is directly related to whether I am treating them as valuable and an important voice in any strategy or priorities we might establish. I avoid using judgmental statements (e.g., “they are unreasonable,” “they don’t care,” “what horrible people”) that might damage relationships with parents, human services, treatment providers, and the court — even though that may seem to be a way to build initial alliance, because successful relationships with the people in those institutions are important to successful outcomes.

KATHRYN NEWELL: When time allows, it’s good to begin by allowing the client to tell their full story without interrupting them. This can be challenging if you feel pressure to identify deadlines, develop strategy, etc. However, really listening to the client (and paying attention to body language) is the best way to learn what their priorities are and the concerns/desires that are most likely to motivate them. Having this information helps you explain how the steps that you’re proposing will help them reach their goals — which leads to better client cooperation.

CURREY COOK: With practice and the growing comfort that comes with it, I have found that a combo conversation with youth about their rights in care that includes asking about how they identify in terms of any disability, race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity, opens up the opportunity for a better understanding of who they are as a whole person. A client then knows you care and that you’ll be checking in throughout the course of the representation to be sure that they are being treated equitably, are emotionally and physically well, and are receiving the holistic support they need.

JOIN THE READER PANEL! Guardian readers are invited to join our Reader Panel. You’ll receive an email each month asking for your responses to questions about child welfare legal practice. Selected responses will be featured in The Guardian. Please send an email to Comms@NACCchildlaw.org letting us know you are interested in joining the panel.

Practice Tips

The Children’s Rights Litigation Committee of the ABA Section of Litigation has been compiling a set of short, practical practice points to convey essential information quickly to children’s lawyers. These resources were meant to be shared and NACC thanks Cathy Krebs for permitting their inclusion in The Guardian.

Here is the most recent set of practice points:

Five Things about Trauma that Children’s Lawyers Should Know
By Eliza M. Hirst and Cathy Krebs

Five Ways Lawyers Can Build Resilience in Child Clients
By Eliza M. Hirst

These are added to a growing list that include but are not limited to:

Five Facts About Juvenile Sex Offender Registration
By Riya Saha Shah

Five Ways to Address Implicit Bias Within Our Systems
By Cathy Krebs

Five Tips for Successfully Interviewing Your Child Client
By Cathy Krebs
As a child growing up in the foster care system, I didn’t know that I had a right to a lawyer. When I did hear that I had a lawyer assigned to me, I thought she would defend me in a criminal case if I were to get in trouble. That was the basic definition of a lawyer the world had already given me. When I was arrested as a teenager, I found out the hard way my lawyer wasn’t that type of lawyer.

Before my criminal justice system involvement, I did not talk to my lawyer much when I was in family court. When I entered into the foster care system, I was never told why I needed a lawyer in the first place, or that I had one. However, because of my experience with the criminal justice system and the lawyer I had for that case, I was able to build a much better relationship with a new lawyer assigned to me in the child welfare system.

Through my new lawyer I learned about resources and opportunities that my older brothers did not learn about, even though they dealt with the same issues that I had. Having a lawyer while I was in foster care helped me know what options I had going to court, and — most importantly — made me aware of the fact that I had options. Recommending I enter extended foster care was one of the best things my lawyer did for me because I had no idea there were any benefits to staying in care. If I hadn’t learned about those benefits, I would have turned 18, signed myself out, and would have just been excited not to deal with the foster care system anymore.

While I ended up being able to build a relationship with my new lawyer, there were many times when I felt my first lawyer could have helped me understand more about my case, the process, or what to expect at court when I was younger. Most of the time I spent in court involved waiting in silence; looking back I wish I had at least learned about what was happening that day. Most of the positive information I got from my lawyer was the result of my questioning and inquiring a lot. In truth, I think if I had been more reserved, I would have never gotten as much support.

Not having a lawyer would be disastrous to youth in care. It’s a daunting enough task as a youth to continuously have to face a judge. To have youth do so without representation would be cruel. Kids in foster care do not get special training classes to keep up with the language and are not always fully able to grasp the concept of what it takes for us to be cared for in placement. It is incredibly harmful to the well-being of any youth to have a court proceeding without quality representation or any explanations.

It is important that kids in foster care know they have an attorney and how it is best to work with them to help them in placement and in their case. Based on my experiences, I would suggest that lawyers for children:

- Explain to youth that they have a right to a lawyer and what their responsibilities are to ensure due process. (The foster parent or social worker can have conflicts of interest with children because of their professional role in the child’s life.)
- Share information on a continuous basis to ensure that youth know their rights.
- Give examples of different ways lawyers have helped youth in the past and converse about the language and processes in court.
- Share a video or series of games that present the information in youth-friendly ways.
Law Office Corner: Office of the Cook County (Illinois) Public Guardian

"Thank you for saving the life of my grandson."

The grandfather of my young client whispered these words in my ear as he gave me a bear hug at the end of a long hearing in a physical abuse case. That was my first year at the office, some 27 years ago.

The attorneys and interdisciplinary staff at the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian have the privilege of representing some 6,000 children in child protection cases in Juvenile Court, and another 600 children in some of the most acrimonious divorce and parentage disputes in Domestic Relations Court. We are unique in that, in addition to representing children, we serve as the last-resort guardian for 700, mostly older adults with cognitive disabilities and manage more than $100 million of estate assets. Cook County includes Chicago and the surrounding suburbs.

Our work is a privilege of the highest order. We have the ability to impact the lives of children in profound ways.

Advocacy for our child clients has taken on particular importance because the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is facing significant challenges. If a child feels unsafe in her foster home, the child calls us. If a child needs a new pair of glasses or outgrows his wheelchair, the foster parent calls us to cut through the bureaucracy and get it done. This is also the case for special education services, counseling services, obtaining DCFS consents for medical procedures and prescribed medication, immigration issues, and all of a child’s other needs.

Due to the challenges at DCFS, our office has been active in impact litigation to address systemic problems. For example, in December we partnered with Loey & Loey, a prominent civil rights firm in Chicago, to file a federal class action lawsuit against DCFS officials to address the problem of youth in care who languish in locked psychiatric hospitals for months after they are ready for discharge because DCFS has nowhere to place them. One of our consent decrees against DCFS, known as Aristotle P., requires DCFS to place siblings together whenever possible and, when siblings must be placed apart, to provide regular visitation.

We have brought money damages lawsuits against DCFS and private social service agencies when children in care have been harmed due to malfeasance. These cases have been highly successful, recovering more than $12 million over the past five years. We recently obtained a large settlement in a case involving a three-year-old girl who died while in foster care when her mentally ill father, during an unauthorized visit, poured gasoline on her and her six-year-old brother and set them on fire. The brother survived but suffered burns over 40% of his body. In another recent case, we obtained a large settlement on behalf of a girl who was sexually abused in her placement when she was two and three years old.

We are also active in the legislative arena. We are currently fighting against proposed legislation that would change the legal standard in child visitation disputes from the best interest of the child to a one-size-fits-all presumption that all visitation orders should be 50% for


By Charles P. Golbert, Esq.
Each parent. This presumption would be harmful to children, for example, where one parent is a perpetrator of abuse or domestic violence. Recently we were instrumental in passing a bill requiring court review and approval before DCFS can place a youth in an out-of-state residential facility.

Our appellate division handles more than 150 appeals per year, both offensive and defensive, from all areas of the office. Most of our appeals are expedited as they involve children or people with disabilities. The division also files briefs amici curiae in appeals that have the potential to impact our clients. Our appellate work has created important legal precedents that have expanded the rights of children and people with disabilities.

We have an innovative specialist/coordinator program where attorneys become experts in various areas, and then serve as a resource for the other attorneys when issues arise on their cases. The specialists/coordinators have deep, nuanced, and interdisciplinary knowledge of their areas, and serve in this capacity in addition to carrying full caseloads. Areas where we have experts who are designated specialists include services for Spanish-speaking clients and their families, human trafficking, the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and placement and services for Native American clients, challenges facing LGBTQ clients, mental health, immigration, public benefits, domestic violence, juvenile expungements, special education, youth transitioning out of foster care, interstate compacts, the DCFS administrative appeals process, pregnant and parenting clients, and injunctive and special remedies.

Because of the interdisciplinary aspects of our work, we have an amazing team of interdisciplinary professionals including child interviewers, investigators, psychologists, and paralegals. These professionals are integral to our advocacy.

Our motto is *lux legis relictis*, the light of the law for the forsaken. Our lawyers and other professionals strive to live up to this ideal. They are tenacious, smart, idealistic, enthusiastic, work long hours, and fight hard every day for the rights of our clients. They personify the notion of civil servants working in the public interest. It is a pleasure to work with these individuals every day. And it is a privilege of the highest order to represent some of society’s most vulnerable people.

---


5. For an expanded article about the office’s mission and work, see Charles P. Golbert, “Justice for Children, Adults with Disabilities, and the Elderly: Reflections from 15 Years as an Attorney with the Office of the Public Guardian of Cook County, Illinois,” 1 DePaul J. for Soc. Justice 1, p. 51 (Fall 2007). More information about the office is also available on our website at www.publicguardian.org, and you can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CookCountyOPG.
# Membership Matters

**Membership@NACCchildlaw.org**

---

## Go for the **G O L D**!

NACC’s 2019 Spring Membership Special is 25% off Gold Memberships! For only $225, you can upgrade or extend your membership at the Gold level and receive a hardcover copy of the Red Book plus a six-month NACC Membership for a colleague or friend. This discount applies to one-year or three-year Gold Memberships. Take advantage of this offer today by using code 2019GOLD at checkout.

---

## NACC has Added Exciting New Member Benefits!

- NACC recently expanded content in our bi-monthly law journal, *The Guardian*, offering more practice tips, law and policy updates, and articles on resources relevant to your practice.
- NACC is launching free member-only webinars every other month. In February, we hosted our first webinar on Active Efforts and the Indian Child Welfare Act, and this month we hosted a webinar on Title IV-E Funding for Legal Representation — all webinars are available on-demand to members on our Member Webinar Series webpage.
- NACC members receive discounts when applying for NACC’s Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification program.
- NACC members also receive access to NACC’s listserv and community discussions, and a special edition of our monthly newsletter *The Advocate*.

---

### Membership Benefits Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>BRONZE</th>
<th>SILVER</th>
<th>GOLD</th>
<th>PLATINUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Advocate monthly newsletter</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Guardian</em> law journal (bi-monthly)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members-only Webinars (live bi-monthly, web access to recordings)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to NACC Listserv, Membership Directory, and Career Center</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on NACC National Conference Registration</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on Red Book Training Course and Red Book Live Trainings</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discount on Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) application fee</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardcover copy of <em>The Red Book</em></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition in <em>The Advocate</em> and <em>The Guardian</em></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACC membership gift</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition at NACC National Conference</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-month Gift Membership for a colleague or friend</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LAW STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS**: Law students receive a complimentary Bronze-level NACC membership when registering with their school email address.

**GROUP/OFFICE MEMBERSHIPS**: Organizations of 10 or more receive group discounts on membership.
Hearings

As part of The Chronicle of Social Change’s continuing coverage on the role of quality counsel in child welfare, they have begun “Hearings,” a reporting project that uses stories from the courtroom to tell a bigger truth about what happens with families in the system.

If you are a judge, parent, foster youth, attorney, or an advocate for families, The Chronicle wants to hear from you! Share a story from a recent dependency court experience that you believe speaks to a problem or a success story.

Anonymity may be granted depending on the nature of your contribution. The Chronicle’s intent with this — and all Chronicle projects — is to ethically cover the child welfare system, which often means protecting the names and identities of children and families caught up in it.

To contribute to “Hearings,” e-mail info@chronicleofsocialchange.org. Please be sure to include your name, your location, and your role in a child welfare case.

Upcoming Member Webinar

Family First Prevention Services Act on June 11, 2019 — Save the Date!

Meet The Chronicle at Conference!

NACC is pleased to partner with Fostering Media Connections as a sponsor of our 42nd National Child Welfare Law Conference in Anaheim. Conference attendees will have an opportunity to meet with journalists covering child welfare and other matters for The Chronicle of Social Change. Stay tuned for more details about how you can sign up for this opportunity.

The Chronicle of Social Change Discount

NACC and Fostering Media Connections are pleased to extend our partnership. NACC members receive 25% off subscriptions to the Chronicle. See subscription information below.

Profile Update Reminder

If you haven’t done so recently, please check your NACC Membership Profile and update it with your latest information and preferences. We have many NACC members and website visitors searching our directory looking for experts and networking opportunities.

Need Help?

Forgot your username or password? It happens! Contact us at Membership@NACCchildlaw.org for a reset.

Use Coupon Code ‘NACC25’ and SAVE 25%

FOSTERING MEDIA CONNECTIONS

A leading national nonprofit news and resource publisher focused on impacting vulnerable children and youth, families and child welfare professionals.

Support nonprofit journalism by subscribing or donating today! 213.265.7767 • www.fosteringmediaconnections.org
THANK YOU to our Platinum Lifetime, Gold, and Silver Members!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATINUM LIFETIME</th>
<th>GOLD</th>
<th>SILVER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candace Barr</td>
<td>Elizabeth Armstrong</td>
<td>Beth Gillia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Bross</td>
<td>Meredith Baker</td>
<td>Sarah Ginther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irma Carrera</td>
<td>Kathryn Banks</td>
<td>Charles Golbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Donnelly</td>
<td>James Cargill</td>
<td>Darice Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard Edwards</td>
<td>John Ciccotella</td>
<td>Nicole Goodson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Furth</td>
<td>Robert Clark</td>
<td>Carolyn Grieseimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerard Glynn</td>
<td>Lily Colby</td>
<td>Chelcie Griffith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Masner</td>
<td>Jonathan Conant</td>
<td>Frederick Gruber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen McCaffrey</td>
<td>Jami Crews</td>
<td>Jessica Guobadia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Plum</td>
<td>Robert Fellmeth</td>
<td>Carey Haley Wong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Sherwood</td>
<td>Alicia Fortson</td>
<td>Meredith Hamsher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yve Solbrekken</td>
<td>Marlee Galvez</td>
<td>Dana Hanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Spencer</td>
<td>Joseph Gunn</td>
<td>Jana Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Stuemky</td>
<td>Josh Gupta-Kagan</td>
<td>Megan Hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Williams</td>
<td>H. D. Kirkpatrick</td>
<td>Jessica Heldman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greta Locklear</td>
<td>Cecilia Hellrung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angela Orkin</td>
<td>Holie Hinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erik Pitchal</td>
<td>Lorne Hobbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Ptacek</td>
<td>Patricia Hogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Rutland</td>
<td>Nicole Homer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Toulet</td>
<td>Kimberly Dutcher</td>
<td>Pamela Hopkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Waksberg</td>
<td>Susan Ebersbach</td>
<td>Karen Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Wu</td>
<td>John Elliott</td>
<td>Kelly Irwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Atinuke Fawole</td>
<td>Richard Joyce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Freedman</td>
<td>Paula Kaldis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sherrie S. Friedman</td>
<td>Jean Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Frost</td>
<td>Faye Kimura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debra Fuller</td>
<td>David Lansner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Garon</td>
<td>Clayton Latimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steven George</td>
<td>Catherine Lerow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Locke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chong-He Marquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kimber Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Amber Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Miskel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nichelle Mitchem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gloria Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Musman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jamie Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Neal-Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Curtis Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kathryn Newell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kafahini Nkrumah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ana Novoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ann O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Megan O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Okrasinski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carol Orleck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hope Pereira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dale Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Debra Phelan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jason Pockrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DeVonna Ponthieu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tori Porell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Renfro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Denise Rioux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jenny Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sherrill Rosen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Debra Rothstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bonnie Saltzman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Robin Sax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Sherwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Carolyn Signorelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cheryl Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tiffany Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Olivia Sohmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sasha Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patrick Stocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alisyon Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Nichole Tucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Valverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Van Zandt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Charles Vaughn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oma Velasco-Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Vruno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Waterfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Judy Webber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mandy White-Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vicki Wiley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jacqueline Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher Wirth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification

by Daniel Trujillo, Director of Certification, Sales, and Technology
and Ginger Burton, Certification Administrator & Technical Writer

CWLS Certification is Now Available in Illinois and Maryland!

NACC is now able to offer the CWLS credential to attorneys in these additional states! Take a look at our CWLS Certification page to learn more about the program, review the standards, and request an application. Contact Certification@NACCchildlaw.com with your questions.

2019 CWLS Exam Season is Now Open!

All current CWLS applicants should have received an email on Monday, 3/11/19, containing instructions for how to schedule and download the 2019 CWLS exam.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please don’t hesitate to contact us at Certification@NACCchildlaw.org and check out our Exam Details webpage and FAQs.

2019 CWLS Application Pricing

NACC Members - $375
Non-Members - $500

The application fee includes the exam and a copy of Child Welfare Law and Practice, 3rd Edition (the Red Book).

Current CWLS:

Keep an eye out for information on your 2019 CWLS compliance requirements.

Recertification and annual report notices were emailed out recently.

Congratulations to these new CWLS!

Elizabeth Brady, JD, CWLS
Brady Patrick Family and Juvenile Law, PLLC
Sevierville, TN

Karen Jennings, JD, CWLS
Ada County Office of the Public Defender
Boise, ID

Cara Nord, JD, CWLS
Colorado Office of the Child’s Representative
Denver, CO

Megan Valentine, JD, CWLS
Valentine Law Office, PS
Montesano, WA
NACC Training Program

Child welfare law is perhaps one of the most challenging specialties in the American legal system. In order to be effective advocates, attorneys must develop extensive knowledge and skill in federal and state law, local practice and procedure, as well as countless collateral issues that affect families involved with the child welfare system. But high-quality legal representation requires more than just knowledge and skill — it also requires practice. NACC is dedicated to assisting attorneys in developing their knowledge and skills and putting them into practice through its training program. NACC utilizes an array of training techniques and modalities to attend to different learning styles. Below is a list of our current offerings.

The Red Book Training:
Child Welfare Law and Practice

The Red Book Training is NACC’s signature training. It follows NACC’s publication, Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents, and State Agencies in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases. It provides a general overview of the federal legal framework, the child welfare legal process, roles and duties of legal counsel as well as courtroom advocacy in child welfare court proceedings. The training has been delivered to attorneys and judges across the country and is consistently praised for providing valuable information on a broad array of pertinent topics in child welfare law, in addition to preparing attorneys and judges to take the Child Welfare Law Specialist certification examination. The Red Book Training is available as a one-day, live, in-person training, or online through a series of webinars — see below for more information.

Customized Training

NACC works with states and local jurisdictions to customize trainings that cover the intersection of federal and state law and practice. Most importantly, we want to work with you — to meet your specific needs in your jurisdiction. Let us know what trainings and topics would help elevate legal practice in your state and NACC will work with you to custom-design live and/or online trainings to support high-quality legal representation in your community.

Statewide Training Partnerships

Got a statewide conference? NACC is interested in talking to you about adding or complementing your conference with a one-day live Red Book Training.

Contact Training@NACCchildlaw.org for more information.

Red Book Training (Live)

NACC will again be offering its annual pre-conference Red Book Training in Anaheim on August 25, 2019. Start your conference a day early by spending a day with attorneys from around the country studying the 3rd edition Red Book and learning important competencies in child welfare law and practice. Register now (seats are limited to 100 participants)!

Fall Red Book Training Course

September 18, 2019 through December 4, 2019

Registration is now closed for NACC’s spring online Red Book Training Course, but NACC will be delivering the Fall Red Book Training Course online starting in September. Save the date and register now for our fall course!
NACC Policy News

Title IV-E Funding for Legal Representation

As you know, the Children’s Bureau now allows Title IV-E agencies to be reimbursed for up to 50% of the administrative costs of legal representation for IV-E eligible children and their parents in child welfare legal proceedings. This is a landmark opportunity to develop, expand, and enhance delivery systems for legal representation — and NACC members are key stakeholders and advocates in ensuring these systems are effectively developed. NACC is committed to supporting your efforts to think big and bold about how legal services for children and parents should be provided in your state and to assist you in advocating for a better system by leveraging the opportunity for federal funding.

In order to draw down these funds, states must submit a plan by June 30, 2019. The Children’s Bureau is providing information and assistance to Court Improvement Program (CIP) directors, and NACC is working with the Children’s Bureau, Casey Family Programs, and partner organizations, such as the ABA Center on Children and the Law, the ABA National Alliance on Parent Representation, and the Family Justice Initiative to help distribute information and guidance.

Missed the webinar on Title IV-E Funding for Legal Representation? You can watch the recording on the Members Webinar Series subpage under Member Resources on NACC’s website. Additionally, NACC is compiling resources and news related to Title IV-E funding for legal representation on the Policy News and Information page of our website.

The ABA Center on Children and the Law has also created an information guide: Claiming Title IV-E Funds to Pay for Parents’ and Children’s Attorneys: A Brief Technical Overview

CAPTA Reauthorization

The Child Abuse Treatment and Prevention Act (CAPTA) is currently up for reauthorization. As a policy priority, NACC advocates for children’s right to legal counsel in child welfare court proceedings. The NACC policy department is working on many fronts to secure this universal right for children regardless of the jurisdiction in which they live. We continue to advocate for the right to legal counsel through CAPTA reauthorization, as the original legislation in 1974 contemplated, as well as by advocating for stand-alone legislation.

The House Committee on Education and Labor held a briefing on CAPTA Monday, March 25, and NACC anticipates additional hearings, events, and votes on the hill related to CAPTA and the right to counsel this spring and summer. Stay tuned for the upcoming release of the Children’s Advocacy Institute’s 4th Edition National Report Card on a Child’s Right to Counsel.

Policy Request:

If you are working on Title IV-E or another child law advocacy project, and you believe NACC can assist you in achieving your goals, please submit a request using our online form.

Amicus Request:

The NACC Amicus Curiae Program promotes the legal interests of children through the filing of amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs in state and federal appellate courts. We submit our own briefs and participate as co-amici in cases of particular importance to the development of law for children. To submit a request for the NACC to participate as amicus curiae in a case you are working on, please download and complete NACC Amicus Curiae Request Form.
Please join us as we support a national community of attorneys, judges, social workers, CASAs, health professionals, and other children's advocates at our 42nd National Child Welfare Law Conference. For three days, this special community gathers to continue their education, improve their skills, and find inspiration and renewed commitment to their work. Over 700 professionals from across the country attend NACC's conference and our goal is to provide attendees a high-quality experience that motivates effective advocacy for children and families.

The E-Brochure is now available — click here for this year's incredible agenda!

The Hotel
The conference will be held August 26–28, 2019 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel, just down the street from Disneyland. NACC’s hotel rate of $169.00 single or double begins Friday, August 23, 2019.

Early Registration
Early registration is now open! Save $100 when you register by April 30, 2019!

Pre-Conference Sessions
We are offering two pre-conference sessions on Sunday, August 25th.

Red Book Training, 3rd Edition
This course covers the major dependency competency areas based upon the 3rd Edition of Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents, and State Agencies in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases (known as the “The Red Book”) and prepares attendees for the NACC Child Welfare Law Specialist certification exam.

Children's Law Office Convening
As part of NACC's 2019–2023 Strategic Plan, NACC is launching the Children’s Law Office Project 2.0 to provide an opportunity to convene and support the leaders and managers of nonprofit children’s law offices, state attorney ad litem or attorney guardian ad litem agencies, and law firms who contract with counties and states to represent children, to offer specialized leadership training, discuss current challenges in law practice management, strategize policy reforms, and support the development of the next generation of children’s law office leaders and managers. Child law leaders and senior staff, click here to register for this session. Space is limited, so registrations are capped at three people per office. For more information and details contact Kim.Dvorchak@NACCchildlaw.org.

Group Discounts
Discounts for groups of 3 or more are available. Registering your team is quick and simple when you fill out this group registration form and email it back to Conference@NACCchildlaw.org.

Sponsor / Exhibit / Advertise
We are accepting SEA applications for the conference! We are anticipating attendance to reach over 700 attorneys, judges, social workers, and other child welfare advocates as our conference continues to grow each year. Read more about this year’s conference and find the SEA application here.

Conference Raffle
We are gearing up for our time in Anaheim and we’re helping our conference attendees get ready as well. We will randomly select one of our registrants at the beginning of the month to receive a small Welcome to Anaheim gift package!

Keynote Speaker
David Ambroz, Co-Founder of FosterMore, will discuss the power of media to change public perception and outcomes for youth and families. FosterMore is a coalition of businesses and philanthropic organizations across an array of industries that has come together to build a better future for youth in foster care.

Join us in Anaheim for the 42nd NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE LAW CONFERENCE AUG 26–28, 2019 #NACC2019