Identity theft is a widespread crime that does not discriminate. It even impacts children. In fact, children in general are estimated to be 35 times more likely to be victims of identity theft than adults. Foster youth are even more vulnerable to identity theft because of their involvement in the juvenile dependency system. This article will address the statutory basis for the foster youth credit check requirement and outline the steps that the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley has taken to design a system that enables advocates to effectively navigate the process for obtaining and remediating credit reports for foster youth.

The nature of the foster care system requires that many people have access to sensitive and personal information. Unfortunately, identity theft among foster youth usually isn't discovered until after they have 'aged out' of the foster care system and have lost the resources and support needed to fix the problems. For these youth, adulthood will begin with credit histories that are tarnished through no fault of their own.

Although there is no national data on the number of foster youth victimized by identity theft, recent estimates posit that 8%-10% of foster youth have been impacted. This percentage is a likely gross underestimate as the sample included only 16- and 17-year-old foster youth.

As court-appointed legal representatives for foster youth in Santa Clara County, California, the Law Foundation is committed to assisting our clients who are victims of identity theft. We consider foster youth identity theft remediation a natural and important extension of our dependency representation.

Numerous systemic barriers prevent foster youth and their advocates from obtaining and remediating foster client credit reports. There is no one-size-fits-all solution; resolution methods vary depending on the individual circumstances and who is assisting the youth. In response to the lack of current reference guides and the need to dissect the complexities of identity theft remediation, the Law Foundation has created a system that enables advocates to effectively navigate the process for obtaining and remediating credit reports for foster youth.

This article will address the statutory basis for the foster youth credit check requirement and outline the steps that the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley has taken to design a system that enables advocates to effectively navigate the process for obtaining and remediating credit reports for foster youth.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Protecting Foster Youth’s Financial Future – An Advocate’s Guide ................................................................. 1
Youth Perspective ......................................................................................................................... 4
Hear Our Voices: Siblings Matter .............................................................................................. 5
Child Welfare Law and Practice (Order Red Book Now!) ......................................................... 6
42nd National Child Welfare Law Conference: NACC Executive Director’s Opening Remarks ...... 7
Resource Spotlight ..................................................................................................................... 9
Support for Youth-Adult Partnership ........................................................................................ 10
A Song for Families .................................................................................................................... 11
September/October Reader Panel Question ............................................................................. 12
NACC Congratulates its 2019 Award Winners! ..................................................................... 13
NACC Policy News .................................................................................................................... 14
Membership Matters ............................................................................................................... 15
Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification ............................................................................ 17
NACC Board of Directors Openings ....................................................................................... 18
Presenting our Inaugural Class of NACC State Coordinators ................................................ 18
NACC Training Program ........................................................................................................... 19
NACC Training Program ........................................................................................................... 19
Special Thanks to Conference Sponsors .............................................................................. 20
Save the Date for 2020 NACC Conference ........................................................................ 20
National Association of Counsel for Children .................................................................... 21

See Financial Future on page 2 →
developed a webinar for attorneys and child welfare agencies to reference. A link to our webinar can be found at the end of this article.

**Legislative History**

On September 30, 2011, P.L. 112-34, the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act was signed by President Obama. In part, it requires that foster youth who have reached age sixteen receive a free copy of any credit report each year until discharged from care. It also requires child welfare agencies to ensure foster youth receive assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the credit report.

On May 28, 2012, the Administration for Children and Families issued Program Instruction No. ACYF-CB-PI-12-07 which, along with providing implementation guidance, clarified that foster youth must receive credit reports from all three nationwide Credit Reporting Agencies (CRAs) (i.e., TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian).

In 2014, P.L. 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, was enacted. The Act, in part, lowers the threshold age from 16 to 14 for the foster youth credit report requirement. California enacted laws to mirror the federal legislation.

**How Can I Help My Client Access Their Credit Report?**

There are three main ways to obtain a credit report from all three credit reporting agencies. Information can vary for each CRA report, so it’s important to obtain credit reports from all three CRAs.

1. **Submit a request online through www.annual-creditreport.com.** This is a federally sanctioned site to obtain one free credit report annually. This method doesn’t work well for adult foster youth clients as they are required to answer various security questions, such as previous addresses, which they may not know or remember.

2. **Submit a mail-in request with an Annual Credit Report Request Form.** One challenge with this option is that CRAs will only mail the reports directly to the adult foster youth. For a variety of reasons, mailed reports may not actually be received by the intended adult foster youth.

3. **Receive electronic batch reports by accessing the CRA online portal.** Child welfare agencies can obtain access to foster youth credit reports if they subscribe for this service with each CRA. Legal advocacy organizations working with adult foster youth to address identity theft may not have direct access to the electronic batch reports and thus need to establish a relationship with the individual CRAs or the local child welfare agency to gain access.

4. **Become a third-party agent to the agreement between the CRA and the local child welfare agency.** Such third-party agreements allow a legal advocate to communicate directly with the CRA regarding clients over 18 years old.

5. **Apply for your own CRA membership agreement.** One CRA has indicated that an advocate may obtain their own subscriber code that would allow access to the Business Division Report through the batch method.

The Law Foundation opted to become a third-party agent with the Santa Clara County Department of Family & Children’s Services (DFCS) to assist our adult foster care clients.

**Challenges Assisting Minor Foster Youth**

DFCS sends our team quarterly Business Division Reports (batch reports) for youth who have a birthday during that quarter. We review those reports for errors and red flags of potential identity theft. We often find errors in the spelling of a client’s name, social security number, address, or date of birth. We have also found credit files, such as credit card accounts, which shouldn’t exist for minors since they can’t enter into legally binding contracts.

We also receive Business Division Reports that often contain error messages or encrypted codes that we initially did not understand. In those cases, we had to have the reports interpreted by the CRAs on a case by case basis. After extensive collaboration, we are now proficient in the various error messages that may appear on batch reports.

Once we have corrected a credit report for a minor, their file continues to appear on subsequent batch reports because their credit file has been previously...

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS:**

**Elizabeth Wells** joined Law Foundation of Silicon Valley in February 2016 as a contract attorney the Legal Advocates for Children & Youth Program. She assists clients with education matters, guardianships, financial/consumer issues, staffs the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic in Gilroy and is the lead attorney on the Foster Youth Identity Theft Project.

**Felisa Ihly** has worked as a Pro Bono Specialist for the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley for five years. She coordinates placement of cases, including Identity theft, with pro bono counsel assisting the Law Foundation.
“touched,” even though no new fraud has occurred. This is something that we hope to address with the CRAs going forward.

Challenges Assisting Adult Foster Youth

Both federal and California State laws require local child welfare agencies to also assist non-minor dependents (NMDs) and adult foster youth with accessing and interpreting their credit reports on an annual basis. In California, transition-age foster youth can remain in the foster care system until they are 21 years old, provided certain conditions are satisfied.

We embarked on an educational campaign to make adult clients aware of the need to check their credit reports and inform them that they can receive free assistance from the Law Foundation. Our outreach included providing information by mail, and having attorneys conduct presentations and/or distribute flyers at the Independent Living Program (ILP) meetings. These efforts were essential since transition-age foster youth often experience complex life situations — such as fluctuating living arrangements — that prevent them from focusing on checking and/or repairing their credit.

Challenges Assisting Former Foster Youth

Existing federal laws do not apply to foster youth once they have aged out or otherwise exited the foster care system. CRAs treat former foster youth like any other adult consumer, with no special regard for their former foster care status. This is the case even though in many instances, the identity theft occurred while the youth was still in the system. Working with former foster youth requires maneuvering through additional hurdles to obtain their credit reports.

While the Law Foundation obtains Business Division Reports for its minor clients through the batch method, we had to obtain Consumer Disclosure Reports for adult foster youth and former foster youth either through annualcreditreport.com or by submitting mail-in requests. We initially attempted to obtain reports using annualcreditreport.com with our clients. However, we were rarely successful. The results were usually that insufficient information was provided and that we needed to submit a request by mail. We were not the only agency that encountered this problem. Consumer Disclosure Reports “may be difficult to access if an individual doesn’t have all of the required information to get through security questions such as ‘last known address,’ which might be challenging for young people who have moved frequently while in care.”5 We resorted to submitting mail-in requests, along with the necessary documentation: **Proof of identity** — social security card, a W-2 or current pay stub with a social security number; **Proof of address** — state identification card (ID) or driver’s license, utility bills or lease/rental contract, and a **Credit Report Request Form**.

The required documentation is slightly different for each CRA which makes it more of a challenge. Some of this documentation is difficult to obtain; youth cannot use the same document to fulfill the different “proof” requirements. We found that many young people who have experienced foster care do not have ID cards, driver’s licenses, utility bills or lease/rental contracts under their own name. As a way to fulfill the “Proof of Address” requirement, we collaborated with our local child welfare agency to produce address verification letters for our adult foster care clients. The address verification is on Santa Clara County letterhead and confirms the placement addresses for the foster youth for the past two years or longer.

After submitting a few mail-in requests with the letter requesting reports be sent to the Law Foundation, we received reports through the batch method. CRAs are able to do this because of the “credit bureau privilege” that allows them to verify information about you without your consent. This is also where CRAs are able to obtain your personal information from other credit bureaus and combine it into one report. However, if you report that the information on your report is inaccurate, they are required to remove the information.

5. Credit Check Requirement for Youth in Foster Care, Q&A on Implementation. Child Focus & Credit Builders Alliance. February 2015.
Foundation, we received responses from the CRAs that despite our representation letter and the signed authorization from client, they wouldn’t communicate with us directly about any foster youth. The CRAs, except for one, would not discuss any identity theft matter for a foster youth with us unless we were part of the existing contract between the CRA and the DFCS.

Shift in Focus

In light of these challenges, we redirected our attention to developing a collaboration with DFCS to provide our team with credit reports upon request and with signed consents from adult foster youth. We are currently obtaining credit reports for adult foster youth and former foster youth clients through the batch method. Legal advocates would need to either become a third-party agent of their local child welfare agency (as described above) or determine another appropriate method to obtain direct communication with the CRAs.

Interested in Learning More?

We have developed a webinar that provides information about successful methods to assist foster youth in obtaining their credit reports and remediating any identity theft. We are happy to answer questions and provide training to ensure that foster youth across the nation have the support needed to help them move into adult life with unencumbered credit. Please contact Elizabeth Wells, Attorney at Law Foundation Silicon Valley at elizabeth.wells@lawfoundation.org or Felisa Ihly, Esq., Pro Bono Specialist at felisa.ihly@lawfoundation.org. You can view the webinar through the following link: https://clehero.com/courses/foster-youth-identity-theft.

FINANCIAL FUTURE

When I first entered care, I had no idea that I had the right to a lawyer — I did not even know I had one. In the beginning, I thought the person next to me at my court dates was just staff who speaks for anyone in the courtroom. I felt that way because prior to going into the courtroom we never spoke about anything that was going on with me; he never asked me anything. He would just whisper little questions to me while court was already in session.

My relationship with my first lawyer was not that great. There was no communication, and I didn’t even speak to him until we were already in court. He would not tell me any of my court dates if I tried to ask him. For example, I planned to sign a board extension when I was about to turn eighteen — I actually thought I did sign a board extension. My lawyer didn’t tell me that my court date was scheduled a couple days after my 18th birthday, so I didn’t attend that court hearing.

Despite me signing a board extension, he got me discharged out of care. This was because of the failure to communicate with me, and because he felt as though I didn’t need to be in care anymore. My relationship with my current lawyer — who I was connected with after re-entering care — is much better. Any problem I have, she always tries to fix it or find a way to help, whether it is with me or my family. She also lets me know ahead of time about my court dates, makes sure I don’t have any problems or needs, and also makes sure I am always on track doing what is expected of me.

My lawyer helped me with small stuff as well, like clothing vouchers, getting re-enrolled in school, medical records, getting my needs met in court, and with bigger stuff like getting me into Supervised Independent Living. She also helped with my family.

Not having a lawyer could be harmful while in care because without a lawyer, basically anything could happen, especially if you don’t know how to really speak up for yourself. Also, many of your needs would never really get met, because there are so many things an attorney can help with and youth don’t even know they can get help for those things. Basically, you’ll just be in care not even knowing there is help, which could be easily obtainable just by asking the right person. Without a lawyer, you really would feel like you have no voice, and you just have to do what everyone else tells you and go where everyone else tells you to go with no input. Without a lawyer you do not benefit or get real help.

Shanice Holmes is a 21-year-old alumna of Philadelphia’s Juvenile Law Center. She participated in Youth Fostering Change for two years and currently works for a marketing company as a sales consultant. Shanice has continued her work with the Juvenile Law Center because “there are so many things wrong and going on in the system that some people are scared to bring up, or feel as though they can’t say anything about. Some youth just need someone to be their voice.”

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

by Shanice Holmes
Hear Our Voices: Siblings Matter

by: Dominique Mallard & Sasha Bailey, project Foster Power Core Organizers and Betsy Fordyce, JD, CWLS

In the Fall of 2018, Colorado’s project Foster Power went into the community to hear directly from youth in foster care about the areas they felt needed the most improvement. At each Listening Tour stop, young people were given several sticky-notes and markers and told to write one problem they had experienced per sticky-note, using as many notes as they needed. As youth shared their concerns on paper, these notes became an enormous “burning wall of problems,” those most urgent and pressing on the minds of those with lived experience. Time and again, participants wrote about their brothers and sisters — about not getting to live with them, not getting to visit with them, not being able to call them when they had a bad day. By the end of the Listening Tour, after talking with almost 100 youth, project Foster Power leaders and members looked at the themes that emerged and ultimately, selected “Sibling Connections” as the issue for action in 2019.

The Youth Behind the Action

Launched in the summer of 2017 as an initiative of the Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center, project Foster Power is a group of current and former foster youth, ages 15 to 25+, seeking to improve Colorado’s child welfare system through youth-led organizing. The group aims to move away from individual advocacy and instead, harness power in numbers to create change. As leaders of project Foster Power, we recognize that we are the experts in our own experiences. We look for opportunities to combat the stark statistics around foster care through our advocacy work, and we build community through our interactions with one another. This work is about making change AND healing.

Siblings: The Youth Perspective

Since project Foster Power’s inception, young people have consistently raised up the importance of their siblings. Youth share that the damage caused through sibling separation cannot be repaired through other relationships. Siblings are unique and should be valued; these connections are supposed to be amongst the longest relationships we will have in our lifetimes. By the time young people enter foster care, they are already being removed from their parents; the lack of joint placement with siblings means the loss of those relationships as well. As one of our youth leaders likes to describe, siblings are our first friends in life. Our brothers and our sisters know and understand our parents, our history, and our family better than anyone else could. When that bond is broken, it often causes heartache, and sometimes, even disruptive behaviors.

The child welfare system focuses on keeping youth safe from harm, but young people do not just want to be safe. We want to have families; we want to know the tie of who we are; we want a sense of belonging. That connection comes through siblings. With these perspectives in mind, project Foster Power worked tirelessly to pass a
bill so that no sibling was “disconnected or left behind”. Youth wanted to elevate the sibling relationship in the child welfare field and ensure that all professionals work to preserve these bonds.

Taking Action and Making Change

project Foster Power took action on sibling connections by working to pass a Sibling Bill of Rights. Youth brainstormed ideas of how sibling relationships could be encouraged in foster care. They connected with their peers through the national Foster Youth in Action network, learning from the sibling work that had already been done with Oregon Foster Youth Connection and Minnesota Youth Leadership Councils. Youth shared ideas with a bill drafter, compellingly testified multiple times during legislative hearings, hosted a rally at the Colorado State Capitol Building, and met with legislators to share their stories. Due to all of this advocacy, the Colorado General Assembly unanimously passed the Sibling Bill of Rights to recognize the importance of siblings in foster care.

Colorado House Bill 19-1288 provides not only that siblings should be placed together when in their best interests, but also established a series of rights for siblings who are separated. These include, among others:

- the right to frequent contact, including face-to-face visitation, social media, phone calls, and video chats;
- the right to participate in each other’s case planning;
- the right to receive updated photos of one another;
- the right to celebrate birthdays, graduations, holidays, and other milestones together;
- the right to be placed with foster parents who have been trained on the importance of the sibling relationship.

At its core, this bill essentially says that siblings matter and that our system has an obligation to do its part to encourage those relationships. This is a prime example of the power of young people stepping up, speaking out, and creating change. So many of our youth and now young adults have dreamed of this bill for a long time. They worked hard to see their ideas come to life so that those who come after them will see the benefits of lifelong connections with their brothers and sisters.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sasha Bailey has been a Core Organizer with project Foster Power for the last year-and-a-half. She currently attends the University of Colorado – Boulder. Her passion for advocacy stems from her own personal experience in foster care. She is determined to create positive change in the world.

Dominique Mallard has been a Core Organizer with project Foster Power for the last two years. Based on her personal experience in foster care, she has been nothing but determined to help change the Colorado child welfare system for the better. She’s particularly passionate about maintaining sibling connections and ensuring that foster homes are safe, caring places that meet the needs of youth.

Betsy Fordyce is the Interim Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center. She serves as the adult ally for project Foster Power, supporting the advocacy and organizing work of Colorado foster youth.

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Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents, and State Agencies in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases, 3rd Edition, more commonly known as the Red Book, is the flagship legal treatise in this field. This fundamental, comprehensive publication is an essential day-to-day resource for attorneys in the practice of child welfare law. In addition to being a crucial practice reference and training manual, it also serves as the foundational source and study guide for the Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) certification exam.
The National Association of Counsel for Children is honored to host this 42nd National Child Welfare Law Conference, and to create this communal space for learning and exchange among your 700 closest friends and colleagues. Anaheim means Home by the Santa Ana River. And whether this is your first NACC Conference or your 42nd — welcome home!

In this room we hail from Hawaii to Maine, from British Columbia to the Virgin Islands, from the Choctaw Nation to the Penobscot Indian Nation. We are Child Welfare Law Specialists; lawyers for children, parents, agencies, and tribes. We are policy advocates, professors, pediatricians, CASAs, judges, and more.

We do not agree on every policy, practice, or approach, but we do gather here with a singular goal: to do better. To do better for the young people, families, and communities we serve, so that they may experience a better future than the time of crisis we meet them in.

That’s why we’re here, and that’s why we look to each other for guidance, knowledge, and support. It’s not only a matter of the heart, and our deep concern for the well-being of children and families. It’s a matter of our professional and ethical responsibility.

Before becoming a doctor, medical students take the Hippocratic oath, an ethical vow, to “first, do no harm.” The oath recognizes doctors have incredible power, to save a life and to take a life — and that this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humility and an awareness of one’s own shortcomings.

We in the child welfare legal community also have incredible power: To strengthen a family, and to separate a family; To connect a child to loving, nurturing adults and to disconnect a child through a chain of disruption and transience — and this tremendous responsibility must likewise be faced with great humility and an awareness of our own shortcomings.

We have a professional and ethical responsibility to not just know better, but to do better:

• To apply our best legal knowledge, skills, and strategies to keep children safe in strengthened families and supported communities;
• To empower children, youth, and parents to be heard and to use their input in making critical decisions about their lives; and
• To ensure that all proceedings are fair and equitable.

We may not be able to achieve every result children and families need, but we can safeguard procedural justice and ensure that we treat every person with respect.

It begins with the principle that all families are valued.

This month marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans to Jamestown, VA. If you haven’t yet seen the commemorations, I recommend the websites 400 Years of Inequality and the New York Times 1619 Project. We must know this history, also a history of family separation, to better understand how the roots of racism and discrimination are entangled in our laws and culture today. We most also know the history of Indigenous Americans whose families and communities were also forcibly separated in the name of policy. Today, African American and Native American children are placed in foster care at twice the rate of their percentage in the general population.

And we continue to see large-scale family separation at our southern border. We can and must do better. NACC recently released a statement and a call to action to end the traumatic and unnecessary separation of children and families at the border. NACC made this statement because we believe as members of the legal profession, we have a special responsibility to speak out against state-sponsored injustice.

NACC also makes a statement by elevating the voices of young people formally involved in foster care, as we recommit ourselves to authentic youth engagement.
Valuing all families means we need to confront and challenge systemic racism, fight the active discrimination against LBGTQ families and young people, AND respect and restore the civil rights of children and parents while working to improve safety and well-being. It’s a tall order — and an awesome responsibility.

This work is hard.

And sometimes our systems fail us too — when we are asked to do so much with too little resources and not enough support; when simply taking care of ourselves is a challenge; when every day, or sometimes every hour, presents a new crisis to be addressed.

That’s why we come here to sunny Southern California. To reboot, to update our operating systems, and to find support in the smile of a friend. To expand our world and take a break from our daily routine.

We need this time together, as we forge forward into a moment of unprecedented opportunity for our field. The Family First Prevention Services Act can fundamentally transform the child welfare system, redirecting resources from wide-scale foster care placement, to the family-based services and kinship supports we have advocated for all along. The Children’s Bureau has made it abundantly clear — the child welfare system must evolve to focus on prevention, and it must do so with youth and family voice as an integral component.

And with the change of one answer to the Child Welfare Policy Manual, the Children’s Bureau made available federal funding for legal representation present landmark opportunities for us to fundamentally transform the child welfare system. Whether the children and families we serve experience this transformation is up to us.

The pull of business as usual is strong, but the power of advocacy is stronger. And the power of an advocacy community working collectively can literally change the way business is done. And if there are systemic barriers preventing children and parents from receiving the benefits of Family First or high-quality legal representation back home, then take this time to strategize with your peers, and make a plan to transform your system through practice and policy.

NACC is launching a new State coordinator initiative to select a key point of contact in all 50 states by the end of 2023. We are thrilled to convene our first cohort of state coordinators here in Anaheim, and believe that this initiative, as well as the relaunch of NACC’s Children’s Law Office Project will deepen our member engagement and better support your efforts.

Together We are Promoting Excellence in Legal Representation.

Together We are Building Community Among Child Law Practitioners.

Together We are Advancing Justice for Children and Families.

Over the next few days, we will discuss key topics in child welfare law and how we can do better in our practice. We are grateful for the gift of time and knowledge from an incredible array of conference faculty — thank you for traveling to Anaheim to share your expertise and help us to better.

Thank you to AdvoKids, Fostering Media Connections, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Pritzker Foster Care Initiative, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, PSCDataTech, and more. Thank you to our many organizational partners and allies for participating in this event.

I stand here on the wings of a dedicated staff and board, who have put in countless hours planning this event and planning NACC’s future. Would NACC’s Board of Directors please stand — folks, if you don’t know NACC’s Board and/or have an interesting serving on our board, feel free to introduce yourself and learn more — they are an incredibly committed group with vast expertise and skill. And if serving on NACC’s Board was not enough, we have found a way to keep you serving with our new Emeritus Board — Emeritus Board members, would you please stand and accept our thanks for your many years of service and ongoing support.

Next, I invite Team NACC to please stand for our thanks: Daniel Trujillo, Sara Willis, and Ginger Burton keep operations running across programs from our Denver office; and our two newest team members work remotely as I do - Ranni Gonzalez from Sandy Valley, Nevada, NACC’s Membership Outreach Assistant, and Allison Green from Washington, DC, NACC’s new Legal Director.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Brooke Silverthorn, who departed NACC for a law school faculty position, but who is returning to teach the Red Book Training Course this fall. Brooke’s contributions to NACC are substantial and we are glad she is still working with the NACC family.

The NACC Community is here to provide support and connect you with each other.

Thank you for joining us and welcome home.
A new e-learning resource, *Putting the Science of Early Childhood to Work in the Courtroom: A Series for Judges and Attorneys*, is available at no cost on the Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative’s CapLEARN virtual learning site. The series was developed by ZERO TO THREE’s Quality Improvement Center for Research-Based Infant-Toddler Court Teams — in collaboration with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and RTI International. Designed to support enhanced practice with very young children and their families in child abuse and neglect cases, the series of eight, 45-minute modules concentrates on key issues in child welfare law including: Strengthening Relationships, Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Parents, Equity and Equality for Children and Families, A Healing Perspective on Substance Use Disorders, and Achieving Timely Permanency Begins on Day One. The engaging curriculum presents reflections, insights, and practice tips from experienced peers along with information about best practices from experts in the field. Instructions for accessing this resource can be found here.

Since 1977, ZERO TO THREE has advanced the proven power of nurturing relationships by transforming the science of early childhood into helpful resources, practical tools and responsive policies for millions of parents, professionals and policymakers. With current funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau, ZERO TO THREE is partnering with the American Bar Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and RTI International to provide training and technical assistance to communities across the country to implement Safe Babies Court Teams — a systems- and capacity-building approach that creates an infrastructure of cross-system collaboration to support the health, mental health, and developmental needs of infants and toddlers under the court’s jurisdiction; address the health and well-being of their families; and reduce barriers to reunification. For more information about the Safe Babies Court Team™ approach, click here.
Support for Youth-Adult Partnership

by Laura Furr

Has your organization set a goal to go beyond engaging client voices in their own cases toward youth-adult partnership in your organizational decisions? Youth partners help organizations better achieve their goals, avoid unintended consequences, and build trust between youth and staff.

Authentic youth engagement doesn’t have to be complicated. This simple Inclusion Decision Tree can serve as a self-assessment of your organization’s level of shared decision-making.

To illustrate how this decision tree works, take the example of a hypothetical legal services organization — “Our Town Legal Services” — deciding where to locate a new office. In addition to making sure the new office eases staff commuting and access to court, Our Town may want to smooth youth and family visits by locating close to residences or public transportation.

If the organization is not engaging youth in choosing the location, why not? One possibility is that Our Town might worry about sharing the addresses of clients due to confidentiality protections. An organization dedicated to youth-adult partnership might take an extra step to group addresses by neighborhood and share only where clusters of clients live.

How can Our Town involve youth in the decision? It might start out by planning to survey clients. This level of engagement is a step in the right direction but misses opportunities. Surveys do not necessarily help learn why youth make certain choices. They also risk hearing only from those most likely to complete surveys and open the door to Our Town damaging trust by asking for and then ignoring youth opinions.

Can Our Town do more to fully engage youth as partners in deciding where to locate the office? Deeper engagement might include youth serving as voting members on an office relocation committee or filling permanent seats on an advisory body with authority over the move decision. Both forms of engagement create opportunities for youth to share power and hold the organization accountable for listening. Youth in either structure should receive stipends if adults on the same body are compensated for their participation, including if their participation is part of their job.

The simplicity of authentic youth engagement doesn’t mean sharing power comes easily. Bureaucratic barriers can be challenging, such as processing stipends quickly. Additionally, even when the desire for youth engagement is present, adults in positions of authority may hesitate to truly share power. Then why should Our Town go to the trouble? The benefits of youth-adult partnership are real. Having made their move decision with youth as partners, Our Town could expect to see youth more easily accessing the office and appearing more frequently for meetings with attorneys, youth able to avoid dangerous areas and conflicts with peers on the way to appointments, and youth interest in remaining engaged in decision-making in the future.

Laura Furr is an independent advisor for youth-serving organizations seeking to build youth and adult partnerships. Since getting her JD in 2005 from the University of Maryland School of Law, Laura has built and supported youth engagement in justice system reforms and local civic engagement in cities around the nation.
A Song for Families

by David Kelly

Originally published on the Rethinking Foster Care Blog, NACC is proud to share “A Song for Families” by David Kelly in this issue of The Guardian.

An episode of NPR’s All Songs Considered has been stuck in my head for the past week or so. I listened to it on the drive back to DC from the holiday weekend. The theme was anthems. It was fascinating. The hosts discussed the contexts in which the songs were written, how each came to be known, what they represented and why they warranted anthem status. They explored how anthems can celebrate, commemorate, or question if America is living up to its ideals — and how each type was inherently patriotic. The Star Spangled Banner headlined, but the hosts soon turned to “This Land is Our Land,” “Blowing in the Wind”, “Born in the USA”, “Fight the Power” (both versions) and a couple others. They unpacked the songs. Some were controversial. Some were misunderstood. All are emblematic.

Guthrie sang to the dangers of economic disparity. Springsteen called us to do better by veterans. Dylan questioned the prudence of war. Public Enemy spoke for racial justice. A favorite artist of mine, Josh Ritter, has a song “All Some Kind of Dream” that was not mentioned — released in 2019 — calling us to recognize our common humanity, that could easily be an anthem for today.

I could not help but draw parallels to our work in child welfare.

I was lump-in-the-throat struck by the parallels. At the Children’s Bureau we’ve spent the last two years promoting a new vision for child welfare in the United States. This vision is rooted in the moral and ethical need to proactively work to strengthen families and communities to address the risk factors that we know make families more vulnerable to child maltreatment. We believe that doing this will help prevent maltreatment from ever happening.

The vision recognizes that children exist within families and need families — specifically their own families.

Our current system is designed and funded — almost exclusively — to separate children from their families. It does little to support families to prevent crisis from arising and far too often unintentionally harms the very children we are trying to help.

We’ve been working to promote a unified vision of what child welfare can and should be in the United States. We’ve called for a fundamentally different orientation. The vision is beginning to resonate.

The vision is for a system that creates the conditions for all families and communities to thrive and children to be free from harm.

The vision is far bigger than any one law.

Realizing the vision requires us to engage in serious reflection and to contemplate our values.

We have a chance to write an anthem together with families and communities, one that honors and values family unity and family well-being and the communities we live in.

We have a moment.

It is fleeting.

The trauma that children and parents are experiencing is real and will have long lasting effects.

It will impact all of us.

If we care we must be bold.

We can stop it, but must feel a fierce urgency to act, an urgency fueled by conscience, faith, justice, fiscal responsibility or any combination thereof.

The time to write an anthem for families is now.

We need only listen to families and youth with lived experience to learn the lyrics.
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER READER PANEL QUESTION

What Training or CLE has had the Greatest Impact on Your Practice?

It’s back-to-school season — not just for young people, but for child welfare attorneys too! This is the time of year when many agencies, courts, and organizations are planning their training calendars for the year ahead. NACC asked our Reader Panel: What Training or CLE has had the greatest impact on your practice and why?

**AMANDA PEARSON**: Law is based on statute, precedent, regulations and constitution. What did the appeals court rule, what does due process require? More than 15 years ago, Colorado began holding joint conferences with judges, agency attorneys, child protection workers. At those conferences I was introduced to sessions that were not law, but instead focused on brain development, the impact of drugs on the brain, ACES. Now I learn as much as I can about brain science. Although the law and legal training had not (and still has not in many areas) developed practices or processes incorporating what we know about trauma and brain development, I was able to change my practice, communication style, advice, and discernment because of this information.

**REBECCA STAHL**: The CLE/trainings that have had the most impact on my practice are the ones that are not about the law. I specifically seek out trainings that are specific to the issues we face as children’s lawyers (DV, substance use, mental health, trauma, medical issues, etc.) and are not specific to what the statutes say. The best lawyering advice I ever got was from a securities lawyer who said, “I have to know my client’s business better than my client does.” The “business” of children in dependency are all the issues they face. We need to know those issues better than anyone.

**BUFFY JO OKUMA**: Rather than identify a specific CLE or training conference, I think it is best to indicate the type of training that has had the greatest impact — those trainings that provide a scheduled opportunity for colleagues to interact with those who do similar work in other jurisdictions, both in-state and from other states. Collaborating with colleagues from within the same state can be very helpful because while we operate under the same statutes and regulations, the practices still vary widely. It is helpful to hear how others might interpret a statute differently or how they allocate resources differently. Collaborating with colleagues from other states is helpful to learn about different laws or practices that might be brought back to my state. Most importantly, it is reassuring that others are experiencing similar challenges. That said, the most relevant and thorough training I have attended has been the NACC Conference!

**KATHRYN NEWELL**: I primarily handle special education cases and I recommend the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA).

**BUFFY JO OKUMA**: Rather than identify a specific CLE or training conference, I think it is best to indicate the type of training that has had the greatest impact — those trainings that provide a scheduled opportunity for colleagues to interact with those who do similar work in other jurisdictions, both in-state and from other states. Collaborating with colleagues from within the same state can be very helpful because while we operate under the same statutes and regulations, the practices still vary widely. It is helpful to hear how others might interpret a statute differently or how they allocate resources differently. Collaborating with colleagues from other states is helpful to learn about different laws or practices that might be brought back to my state. Most importantly, it is reassuring that others are experiencing similar challenges. That said, the most relevant and thorough training I have attended has been the NACC Conference!

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.
NACC Congratulates its 2019 Award Winners!

OUTSTANDING CHILDREN’S LAW OFFICE AWARD

Children’s Attorneys Project (CAP), The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

The Children’s Attorneys Project was established in 1999 from a task force including a Nevada State Senator, Clark County Commissioners, judges, and child advocates who wanted to create a method for children in foster care to have a voice in court. Until that time, Las Vegas was one of the last metropolitan areas in the country with no independent legal representation for youth in the child welfare system. Today, CAP consists of 26 staff attorneys and an extensive pro bono network which is necessary since there are more than 3,000 children in the Clark County foster system. The CAP team provides supports to volunteer attorneys through mentorship, trainings and CLEs to ensure a successful experience. In 2018, the #CAP100 campaign was launched with the goal of providing legal representation to 100% of the youth in foster care. This campaign was hugely successful and has helped CAP achieve its goal. The CAP team champions systemic changes to support all children in Nevada’s foster care system through the legislative process. CAP helped enact several bills — a Foster Child Bill of Rights, a Foster Youth Sibling Bill of Rights, Voluntary Jurisdiction (AB 350), Right to Counsel (SB 305), and most recently, Right to an Educational Decision Maker (AB 156). CAP has also created books for children of all ages in foster care, an education advocacy program, and partners with HELP of Southern Nevada every year to bring brand new bicycles to child clients during the holiday season.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizing the highest levels of achievement and impact in the field of child welfare law and legal representation. This year’s recipient has demonstrated exceptional public service and dedication to improving the lives of children and families, and has inspired and activated true child welfare transformation across states and sectors:

David P. Kelly, JD, MA, U.S. Children’s Bureau

David P. Kelly, JD, MA, serves as Special Assistant to Associate Commissioner Jerry Milner at the U.S. Children’s Bureau and oversees the Bureau’s work with courts and the legal community, including the State and Tribal Court Improvement Programs. During David’s tenure, the Children’s Bureau has issued landmark policy statements elevating the importance of high-quality legal representation, reshaping child welfare to focus on strengthening families through primary prevention, urging child welfare professionals to engage youth and family voice, and much, much more. Most notably the Children’s Bureau changed the Child Welfare Policy Manual to permit states to seek federal reimbursement for up to 50% of the administrative costs of legal representation for children and parents. Thank you for your exceptional public service and dedication to improving the lives of children and families, inspiring and activating true child welfare transformation across the country.

Click here to read David Kelly’s moving remarks and call to action for all of us to “get on the right side of history.”

EXCERPT:

There has never been a better time to get on the right side of justice in child welfare.

I have a direct message for those who are equivocal or agnostic on the importance of high-quality legal representation for children and parents.

I have a direct message for those who believe that it is acceptable for a child to have either an attorney or a lay volunteer to guide them through the most consequential legal decisions of their lives.

The message is also for those who believe that parents’ rights are somehow in competition with the best interest of children as opposed to an assurance of it.

It’s time to get on the right side of justice.

It’s time to get on the right side of history.
NACC Urges Senate HELP Committee to Provide Legal Representation for Children in CAPTA

On September 6, 2019, the National Association of Counsel for Children sent a letter to the chairs of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), as well as individual committee members, regarding the pending reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). CAPTA currently permits states to provide children an attorney OR a lay advocate in abuse and neglect cases, which wrongly conflates the critical differences between these two complementary, yet distinct roles. NACC advocates for an amendment to require legal representation for all children.

See NACC’s CAPTA Policy Alert webpage for more information including how you can add your voice to this effort!

NACC Releases Policy Statement Regarding Family Separation at the Southern U.S. Border

The National Association of Counsel for Children issued a statement regarding the ongoing, traumatic, and unnecessary separation of children and families at the border based on purported criminal activity and HIV status. This practice breaches fundamental legal principles and undermines the current direction of family-centered child welfare policy. NACC calls for the proper care and treatment of children and youth in the least restrictive setting. Click to read the Policy Statement.

Amicus Updates

NACC is pleased to announce exciting updates to our Amicus Curiae program and webpage. NACC added summaries for our three most recent briefs and decisions:

- **In re Emmanuel B.**: On July 16, 2019 The New York State Appellate Court issued a decision finding that the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, or ICPC, does not apply when an out-of-state, non-respondent parent seeks custody. NACC joined with Lawyers for Children in filing an amicus brief that was cited in the Appellate Division First Department decision, urging that the ICPC should not be applied to out-of-state non-respondent parents.

- **Brackeen v. Berhardt**: On August 9, 2019 the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA, overturning a 2018 decision issued by the Northern District Court of Texas in Bracken v. Bernhardt. NACC was pleased to join with Casey Family Programs and others in filing an amicus brief in support of ICWA.

- **Flores v. Barr**: On September 4, 2019, NACC joined Children’s Rights, and several other children’s advocacy organizations, in filing an amicus brief supporting the plaintiff in Flores v. Barr. This case seeks the continued enforcement of the Flores Settlement Agreement which set standards for the treatment of children detained along the southern border. Currently, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) seek to implement rule changes that would run contrary to the Flores Agreement.

Our team is working to update NACC’s website with all prior amicus briefs filed in our 42-year history—thank you for your patience!

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.

NACC Office Hours: NACC is available to assist members hoping to leverage new federal Title IV-E funding opportunities to support child and parent representation in their states and counties. Contact Allison.Green@NACCchildlaw.org to reserve time to ask questions, request resources, and brainstorm next steps to get things moving in your jurisdiction.
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 has launched free member-only webinars every other month. You can watch/listen any time to recordings of webinars held to date on our Member Webinar Page:
  - Family First Preservation Services Act
  - Title IV-E Funding for Legal Representation
  - Reasonable Efforts
  - Child Welfare and Poverty
  - Family Separations at the Southern Border

• NACC members receive discounts on 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*.

Upcoming Member Webinars

What do Foster Youth and Other Stakeholders Want from their Lawyer? Research Findings on Youth Perspectives

Presenters:

J. Jay Miller, PhD, MSW, CSW
Dean, College of Social Work, University of Kentucky

Jessica Donohue-Dioh, PhD, MSW-LISW (OH)
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

Tuesday, October 8, 1:00pm-2:30pm ET

Nationwide, high-quality legal representation for children is in the spotlight. Yet most policy conversations focus on how professionals envision the legal advocate’s work. How do foster youth define effective representation? How does current empirical research of their perspectives shape our work? This interactive webinar will synthesize several new studies examining stakeholder perspectives about the quality of legal representation for youth in care. After a brief overview of extant research and policies, the presenters will share findings from recently published research and discuss emerging conceptual models for effective legal representation, from the perspective of foster youth.

Click here to register!

Coming Soon: 2019 Child Welfare Law Year-In-Review

Later this year, NACC will present “Child Welfare Law Year-in-Review” — an overview of the most important news, policy updates, and case decisions from 2019. Did something important happen in your state that should be highlighted? An important legislative change or appellate decision? Please email Policy@NACCchildlaw.org to let us know.

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.

Would you like to share something with the NACC Membership? Send it to us!

Forgot your username or password? It happens! Contact Membership@NACCchildlaw.org for a reset.
Build NACC’s Platform with a Platinum Membership

When you renew your membership at the Platinum level, you receive all NACC member benefits for life! No notices, no renewals, just continued uninterrupted benefits. Lifetime Platinum Memberships cost $2,500 and may qualify in whole or in part as a business deduction or charitable contribution (please see your tax advisor for more information).

Help build NACC’s platform with a Platinum Membership. 2019 is an important year to become a Platinum Member to support the launch of NACC’s 2019–2023 Strategic Plan and accelerate our impact across the country.

THANK YOU to our Platinum Lifetime Members!

THANK YOU to our Gold and Silver Members!

GOLD

Elizabeth Armstrong
Nadine Bailey
Meredith Baker
Kathryn Banks
Petra Benavides
Schwartz
Bruce Boyer
John Ciccolella
Robert Clark
Lily Colby
Jonathan Conant
Jami Crews
Jessica Elam
Robert Fellmeth
Alicia Fortson
Marlee Galvez
Joseph Gunn
Josh Gupta-Kagan
H.D. Kirpatrick
Angela Kohel
Jamie Myers
Brian Okamoto
Angela Orkin
Lindsey Parlin
Melissa Paul-Franklyn
Michelle Placzek
Sarah Chase Rosario
Lisa Rutland
Lisa Schneider
Bob Schwartz
Julia TenEyck
Tsinena Thompson
Kimberly Toulet
Judy Waksberg
Jacqueline Williams
Christopher Wu

SILVER

Jill Abrahamson
Robert Ackley
W Charlton Allen
Sylvia Andrew
Nina Besselman
Chris Calvert
Angela Cobb
Katie Conner
Terra Costa Howard
Tea de la Garza
Kathleen Duminrescu
Jennifer Durden
John Elliott
MaryBeth Forwood
Karen Freedman
Sherrie Friedman
Elizabeth Garon
Charles Golbert
Darice Good
Nicole Goodson
Chelcie Griffith
Emma Haddix
Carey Haley Wong
Meredith Hamshier
Dana Hanna
Jana Harris
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Gerald Glynn
Charles Masner
Kathleen McCaffrey
Henry Plum
Janet Sherwood
Yve Solbrekken
Cynthia Spencer
John Stuenk
Smith Williams

Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification

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

NCJFCJ Formally Endorses Child Welfare Law Specialist Certification Program

In July, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Board of Directors formally endorsed NACC's CWLS certification program. This formal affirmation of the CWLS credential is a recognition that judges see a great benefit when CWLS attorneys practice in their courtrooms. The endorsement will hopefully also encourage more child welfare judges to seek CWLS certification themselves. Is your local judge a CWLS already? If not, consider directing them to the our website for more information.

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 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).

Schedule Your CWLS Exam

Don't procrastinate on scheduling your exam! All current applicants have been sent instructions for scheduling your exam and downloading the software. 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.

Congratulations to these new CWLS!

Dean Conklin, JD, CWLS
Children's Law Center of California
Monterey Park, CA

Kathleen Davis, JD, CWLS
KJD Legal
Tybee Island, GA

Diana Moreno, JD, CWLS
Children's Law Center of California
Monterey Park, CA

Yarenia Valladares, JD, CWLS
Children's Law Center of California
Monterey Park, CA
Presenting our Inaugural Class of NACC State Coordinators

AK: Courtney Lewis, JD, CWLS
CA: Jill McInerney, JD, CWLS
CO: Ashley Chase, JD, CWLS
IA: Ellen Ramsey-Kacena, JD, CWLS
LA: Rebecca May-Ricks, JD, CWLS
MO: Claire Terrebonne, JD, CWLS
MT: Sarah Chase Rosario, JD
OK: Tsinena Thompson, JD
NY: Melissa Paul-Franklyn, JD
WA: Jill Malat, JD, CWLS

The next solicitation for State Coordinator applications will be released in March 2020.

States in the News

OKLAHOMA
Tsinena Thompson, CEO of Oklahoma Lawyer’s for Children, appointed to new task force created by the Oklahoma Supreme Court to improve legal representation.

CALIFORNIA
Jill McInerney, Managing Attorney, San Francisco Dependency Representation Program, published a Perspective piece in the Los Angeles & San Francisco Daily Journal, championing Governor Gavin Newsom’s investment in legal representation for children and families — with a quote from NACC!

NACC Board of Directors Openings

The Nominating Committee of the National Association of Counsel for Children is accepting applications for open positions on NACC’s Board of Directors.

Applications accepted through October 5, 2019.

Board Recruitment

NACC is seeking nominations from candidates interested in advancing NACC’s strategic plan and organizational growth. While all interested persons may apply, NACC’s Board is seeking individuals with the following characteristics:

- Child Welfare Law Specialists
- Persons with lived experience as a former foster youth or respondent parent
- Corporate Counsel & Law Firm Partners (including Pro Bono Counsel)
- Judges
- Psychologists/Psychiatrists/Social Workers working with children and families
- Child Welfare Law Office Directors/Training Directors
- Persons with financial expertise (budgeting, accounting, investing)
- Persons who bring racial, ethnic, and age diversity
- Academic Researchers

Nomination Process

Applicants must submit the online letter of interest and current resume or curriculum vitae.

Per NACC’s by-laws the nominating committee reviews applications, conducts interviews, and then submits Board candidates to the full NACC Board for review. Final candidates are presented to NACC membership for a vote in December. Board terms commence in January.

You may nominate another person or self-nominate. If you have questions about service or the process, please contact NACCED@NACCchildlaw.org for more information.

Click here for more information and to apply!
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.

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.

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.

NACC Presents at NCJFCJ Annual Conference

NACC was pleased to participate in two sessions at the 82nd Annual Conference of the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges in Orlando, Florida, this July.

- NACC’s Legal Director Allison Green, JD, CWLS, joined David Kelly, JD, MA, of the U.S. Children’s Bureau, Vivek Sankaran, JD, CWLS, of the University of Michigan and Casey Family Programs, and Judge John Hudson from Mississippi to discuss Title IV-E Reimbursement for Parent and Children’s Attorneys: a Prevention Tool to Support Families Through Legal Representation.

- NACC’s Executive Director, Kim Dvorchak, JD, presented with Marcy Mistrett, CEO of the Campaign for Youth Justice, on The Impact of Family First on the Juvenile Justice System.

NACC Presents at Colorado Office of the Child’s Representative Annual Conference

NACC’s Legal Director Allison Green, JD, CWLS, presented with Ashley Chase, JD, CWLS, OCR Staff Attorney and Legislative Liaison, on A Courtroom Advocate’s Guide to the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Fall Red Book Training Course

September 18, 2019 through December 4, 2019

NACC will be delivering the Fall Red Book Training Course online starting in September. Course registration is open through October 9th so register today and catch up with the recordings of any sessions you may have missed.
NACC extends a Special Thanks to our 42nd Conference:

GOLD SPONSORS:

- advokids
- THE ANNE E. CASEY FOUNDATION
- FOSTERING MEDIA CONNECTIONS
- Pritzker Foster Care Initiative

SILVER SPONSOR:

- Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
- FMC
- P Data Tech

2020 NACC Conference
August 24–26, 2020
PRE-CONFERENCE AUG 23
Baltimore Marriott Waterfront

Visit the Conference page at NACCchildlaw.org for details as they become available.