Promoting Excellence, Building Community, Advancing Justice

Founded in 1977, the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) is a nonprofit professional membership and legal advocacy organization dedicated to advancing the rights, well-being, and opportunities of children impacted by the child welfare system through access to high-quality legal representation.

NACC Promotes Excellence by providing programs and resources that improve the quality of legal representation for children, parents and agencies.

NACC Builds Community by supporting a national community of hard-working and dedicated child welfare professionals, and by helping attract and retain diverse talent in the children's legal advocacy profession.

NACC Advances Justice by advocating for policies that advance children's rights, opportunities, and well-being, including the right to counsel.

Every year millions of children are involved in the child welfare system, including children who have been separated from their parent or guardian, children at risk of separation, and children and youth who are also involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Many children involved in these systems face barriers to justice in the courts and are deeply impacted by poor outcomes in the foster care system. Children involved in these proceedings need lawyers who are well-trained to ensure their voices are heard, their rights are protected, and that outcomes are achieved that keep them safely with their families, and on a path toward success. The child welfare system works best when all parties—children, parents, and social services agencies—are represented by high-quality, well-trained lawyers. NACC helps lawyers do this important work.

Discover the Benefits of Membership

In addition to helping us improve the quality of legal representation for children, NACC members gain access to a number of tools and services. Members receive discounts, a subscription to our law journal, access to the NACC Listserv, and the ability to submit a resource request. Members also gain exclusive access to members-only areas of our Career Center and Membership Directory.

Attend the Premier Conference on Child Welfare Law

Each year, NACC invites top leaders in child welfare, juvenile justice, and family law to gather together for our National Child Welfare Law Conference. Over the course of several days, leading experts will expand your understanding of child law and provide you with practical tools to help protect the rights of children and families.

Take your Career to the Next Level with CWLS Certification

The NACC Certification Program is the only program approved by the American Bar Association to certify attorneys and judges as Child Welfare Law Specialists. NACC Certification is available to attorneys serving in the role of Child's Attorney, Parent's Attorney, Agency Attorney, or Judge. There are more than 580 NACC-Certified Child Welfare Law Specialists located in 42 states and the District of Columbia. NACC temporarily reduced the cost of Certification in 2018 in honor of our 40th Anniversary, making this year an excellent time to join the CWLS community.

Expand Your Toolbox with Child Welfare Legal Training

NACC’s signature “Red Book Training” is a one-day live seminar that can be added to any state conference agenda or as a stand-alone training. Based upon NACC’s 3rd Edition Child Welfare Law and Practice guide, the Red Book training provides a comprehensive overview of child welfare practice and prepares applicants for the Child Welfare Law Specialist Exam. NACC also offers a 14-week online Red Book Training Course webinar series, typically twice a year. If you are interested in other trainings, NACC has worked in collaboration with states to customize trainings on a number of child welfare topics and would be happy to discuss any training needs you may have.

Leverage Policy to Impact the Lives of Children

NACC actively engages in state and national policy efforts. We also maintain a number of useful resources to help child welfare advocates advance and protect the rights of children. These include our NACC Policy Agenda, NACC Policy Advocacy Guide, and a selection of Standards of Practice documents from NACC and ABA. You can also request NACC participation as amicus curiae (friend of the court) or request our assistance with important advocacy efforts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: visit www.NACCchildlaw.org or email Membership@NACCchildlaw.org