



# ABA National Conference on Parent Representation

April 11-12, 2019  
Ritz Carlton | Tysons Corner, VA





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Dear Conference Attendees,

## Welcome!

We are thrilled you have joined us this week during the ABA Center on Children and the Law's national conferences. A record number of attendees are registered for the conferences this year. We look forward to these events to celebrate the work each of you does in the field every day: as an attorney, a judge, an advocate, a court improvement program director, a social worker, a peer mentor, and countless other roles.

So much is happening in the children's law field and we are excited to offer a variety of workshops and discussion groups at each conference that cover a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from religious exemption laws to immigration to the challenges of managing a child or parent representation practice.

As in past years, the conferences provide an opportunity to teach, learn and exchange information from one practice to another. As you look through the agendas and identify your goals for the conferences, please seek out opportunities to learn from people you have never met or to engage in discussion groups on topics where you may not have expertise (yet). That is the goal – for these convenings to generate new ideas and new understanding of the work we all do.

In keeping with that goal of building new ideas, please reach out to me or other staff at the ABA Center on Children and the Law to share how we and the larger ABA can support your work in this complex legal field beyond just your conference participation. We are here to help make this legal system a better one for children and families and we do that by partnering with you in the process.

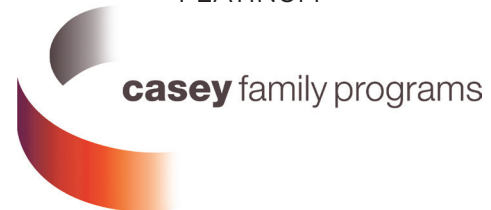
It is a privilege to work with and learn from each of you. I look forward to hearing your feedback on this week's events.

Sincerely,

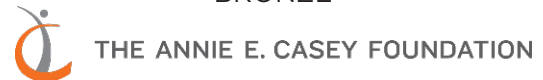
Prudence Beidler Carr  
Director, ABA Center on Children and the Law

**The ABA Center on Children and  
the Law is thankful for our generous  
conference supporters.**

### PLATINUM



### BRONZE



**Baker  
McKenzie.**

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### EXHIBITORS

**Child Welfare Gateway  
CASA of Seattle  
National Association of  
Counsel for Children**

The ABA Center on Children and the Law continues to be thankful for the many financial supporters who make our ongoing work in the children's law field possible.



Conference hashtag: **#abaccl19**

## PARENT REPRESENTATION

### Ron Abrahams

*British Columbia Women's Hospital*  
Vancouver, BC

### Albery Abreu

*Children's Aid Society - Family  
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New York, NY

### Danny Alicea

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Boston, MA

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Atlanta, GA

### Michelle Burrell

*Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem*  
New York, NY

### Heather Cantamessa

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Little Rock, AR

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*Movement for Family Power*  
Bronx, NY

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# Faculty

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## Richard Wexler

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Alexandria, VA

## Ruth Anne White

National Center for Housing  
and Child Welfare  
College Park, MD

## Heather Zenone

Washington, DC

## Thursday, April 11, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b>	
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b>	<i>Salon I &amp; II</i>
9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Jessica Bryar Memorial Plenary Address</b> <b>Something Odd Happened Last Year: It was a Great One for Family Defenders</b> Professor Martin Guggenheim, JD, New York University School of Law Professor Guggenheim will open the conference with good news about our parent representation movement and provide insight on the road ahead. <b>Making the Case for Optimism: Poor Families, State Regulation, and Cultural Transformation</b> Khiara Bridges, JD, Boston University School of Law Professor Bridges will focus her comments on race, class, reproductive rights, and the intersection of the three. She will tie these themes to the child welfare system. <b>The Rise and Resistance of Parents</b> Dinah Ortiz-Adames, Bronx Defenders As a Parent Advocate, Ms. Ortiz-Adames works to empower clients and help them navigate the child welfare system successfully. She will share about her own experience with the child welfare system and how she became a leader in the parent representation movement.	<i>Salon I &amp; II</i>
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Session A</b>	
	<b>1. Changing the Narrative: Telling the Real Story of Families Caught Up in the Child Welfare System</b> Dinah Ortiz-Adames, Bronx Defenders Vivek Sankaran, JD, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, University of Michigan Law School Richard Wexler, National Coalition for Child Protection Reform Changing a system that does so much harm to families requires winning in the court of public opinion. This session will demonstrate ways to win over media gatekeepers — and work around them when necessary — to change damaging stereotypes about children and families.	<i>Salon III</i>

## 2. Trauma and Parental Engagement, Even When a Practitioner Does Not Have Support

*Consulate*

Ron Ayler, MSW, Community Legal Services, Inc.  
Brett Ballew, JD, Washington State Office of Public Defense  
Jason Bragg, Washington State Office of Public Defense  
Heather Cantamessa, Washington State Office of Public Defense  
Alex Dutton, JD, Community Legal Services, Inc.

Not all practitioners have access to parent supports or social workers to assist them in getting their parent clients engaged in their case plans. This workshop will give practitioners in this situation specific tools they can use to connect and support their parent clients even when resources and time are scarce. Because an understanding of trauma is crucial to getting parents engaged, we will use Bruce Perry's neurosequential model to explore the impact of trauma on brain functioning and decision-making and how that effects a practitioner's ability to engage with clients.

## 3. Successful Outcomes for Clients with Concurrent Family Court and Criminal Court Proceedings: The Unified Team Approach

*Colonnade*

Piyali Basak, JD, Brooklyn Defender Services  
Jeff Blank, JD, Brooklyn Defender Services  
Jessica Nitsche, JD, Brooklyn Defender Services

The Integrated Defense Practice at BDS provides representation to parents who have concurrent criminal and family court cases. This workshop will provide information on common issues that arise in the two matters and offer recommendations on how to coordinate defenses and ensure the best outcomes for our clients and their families.

## 4. State Central Registers

*Plaza*

Carolyn A. Kubitschek, JD, Lansner & Kubitschek  
David J. Lansner, JD, Lansner & Kubitschek  
Melissa L. Staas, JD, LAF

This workshop will explain the nature of state central registers of suspected child abuse and neglect, including the statutory basis, the restrictions for employment and other activities for individuals listed in such registers, Constitutional due process considerations, and representation of individuals seeking to be removed from such registers.

## 5. Game of Thrones: Influencing, Challenging, and Toppling Your Judges to Give Your Clients a Fighting Chance

*Old Dominion*

Andrew Cohen, JD, Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division  
David Meyers, JD, Dependency Legal Services of Northern California

Has a judge ever told you - before trial - that you should settle because you were going to lose? Has a judge ever taken over questioning your client and done more damage than the CPS attorney? Has a judge ever treated you - or your client - so badly at trial that you knew that your client couldn't get a fair trial? Did it make you feel powerless? Let's take up arms together. We'll address: influencing judges through aggressive defensive lawyering; understanding bias and the limits of judicial power; recognizing when judges' behavior crosses the line; and standing up to judicial bullying. We'll also talk about making - and surviving - motions to recuse. We can win the Game of Thrones if we fight wisely.

## 6. SKILLS: Cross Examining Child Witnesses in Sex Abuse Cases

*Ambassador*

Sophia Bernhardt, JD, Brooklyn Defender Services  
Juliana Chereji, JD, Brooklyn Defender Services

This workshop focuses on challenging child witnesses in sex abuse cases. Participants will engage in a discussion regarding the dynamics of cross-examining children, workshop a case example, and practice short cross-examinations. The workshop will also include a discussion of social science research on child suggestibility.

## 7. DISCUSSION: Parent Advocates as Leaders and Managers

Boardroom

Brejea Colthirst, East Bay Family Defenders  
Arielle Reisman, MSW, East Bay Family Defenders  
Rita Rodriguez, JD, East Bay Family Defenders

A key strength of interdisciplinary representation is pairing attorneys with parent advocates who have lived experience in the system. These interdisciplinary models are nearly always designed and managed by attorneys or social workers. We will explore how parent advocates can design interdisciplinary programs and be part of a management team.

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Lunch on your own**

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**Session B**

### 1. Family Poverty Is Not Neglect: Exploring the Persistent Mislabeling and the Steps Family Defenders Can Take to End It

Salon III

Darice Good, JD, Good Law Firm  
Jeyanthi Rajaraman, JD, Legal Services of New Jersey  
Diane Redleaf, JD, Family Defense Consulting  
Ruth White, MSW, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

The child welfare system targets families in poverty, treating their lack of resources as neglect and often worsening family poverty. The panel will discuss national and state policies, case law, litigation and legislative developments to address this endemic child welfare system issue and punitive practice applied to poor families.

### 2. Think Different: Persuading Trial and Appellate Judges Using the Psychology of Advertising

Consulate

Andrew Cohen, JD, Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division  
Ruchi Kapoor, JD, Office of Respondent Parents Counsel

Do you want judges to read what you've written, remember it, be persuaded by it, and yearn to give you the relief you want? We need to "think different," as Apple says. We need to learn from advertising psychology how people read and process information, what persuades them, and what makes them buy. Because we want judges to buy what we're selling about our parent clients and the outcomes that justice and fairness demand. You'll come away from this session armed with new ways of thinking about – and writing – motions and briefs.

### 3. In Search of a Silver Bullet: Child Welfare's Embrace of Predictive Analytics

Plaza

Christopher Church, JD, University of South Carolina School of Law, CHAMPS Clinic  
Amanda Fairchild, PhD, University of South Carolina Dept. of Psychology

Predictive analytics has shaken up a number of fields, including child welfare. Although it can help professionals make decisions more accurately, objectively, and quickly, there is concern it may result in discriminatory & unethical practices. This session will examine programmatic & ethical considerations for this new science in child welfare.

### 4. Special Considerations for Representing Noncitizen Parents in Child Welfare Proceedings

Colonnade

Danny Alicea, JD, Center for Family Representation, Inc  
Teresa Garcia, JD, Center for Family Representation, Inc

This session will focus on the unique challenges and consequences that non-citizens face stemming from a child welfare case. This includes ICE detection, triggering a deportation ground, eligibility for discretionary immigration benefits, child visitation, production to family court if held, and maintaining eligibility for release on immigration bond.

## 5. Ensuring Reasonable Efforts for Parents with Substance Use Disorders

*Old Dominion*

Honorable Len Edwards (Ret.) Center for Families, Children & The Courts  
Sid Gardner, MPA, MA, Center for Children and Family Futures

The connections needed between child welfare caseloads and treatment for substance use disorders have led to a wider awareness of reasonable efforts, as it applies to improved safety and permanency outcomes for children and families. Presenters will discuss approaches that attorneys can use to apply reasonable efforts in legal decisions.

## 6. SKILLS: Effective Advocacy and Trial Preparation in Cases Requiring Expert Testimony

*Ambassador*

Rachel Brewer, JD, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.  
Elyzabeth Melendez, SW, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.

This workshop focuses on a multidisciplinary approach to preparing cases that require expert testimony for trial, from both a parent's social worker/investigator and attorney perspective. Best practices will be explored, with a focus on trial preparation beginning from the day the petition is filed through the adjudication hearing.

## 7. DISCUSSION: #SAY HER NAME: The intersection of law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and dependency courts, and how parent attorneys can help flip the script

*Boardroom*

Marci Comeau, JD, King County Department of Public Defense

Charleena Lyles was a pregnant mother of four children navigating the CPS and criminal justice systems when she was killed by law enforcement. Her case serves as a vivid reminder that many clients are walking the tightrope of interconnecting dependency and criminal cases and must deal with law enforcement as a result of it.

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Break**

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Session C**

## 1. Supporting Those on the Front Line: Strategies for Trauma-Informed Supervision and Management in a Family Defense Practice

*Salon III*

Kathleen Creamer, JD, Community Legal Services, Inc.  
Maggie Potter, MSW, MSSP, Community Legal Services, Inc.

Supervisors and managers can help support family defense staff who experience vicarious trauma and burn-out by using a trauma-informed approach. Participants will learn key strategies for fostering a supportive and responsive practice. Come share ideas, learn new approaches, and leave with techniques for improved supervision and management.

## 2. The Indian Child Welfare Act at 40: Legal Updates and Strategies for Practice

*Consulate*

Sheri Freemont, JD, Casey Family Programs  
Ron Walters, JD, ICWA Law Center

Panelists will discuss practice tips for parent attorneys, supported by ICWA gold standard principles to best serve children and families. This session will help practitioners better understand how the ICWA applies as well as some basic principles of cultural humility that can be applied to all families within the child welfare systems. Panelists will also discuss current challenges to ICWA in federal courts across the country and highlight the opportunities for advocacy.

### 3. Family First Prevention Services Act: The Vision, the Pitfalls and the Way Forward

*Colonnade*

Mimi Laver, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law  
Richard M. Pittman, JD, Louisiana Public Defender Board  
Stefanie Sprow, Children's Defense Fund  
Ruth Anne White, MSW, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare

The Family First Prevention Services Act is hailed as a pro-family shift in child welfare funding, and the beginning of a larger pro-family paradigm shift in federal policy. Is it? This workshop will discuss the strengths and shortcomings in the law, cautions about its implementation, and how advocates can guard against unintended consequences.

### 4. Creating Individualized Visitation Plans for Children in Foster Care

*Old Dominion*

Jacob D'Annunzio, JD, Washington State Office of Public Defense  
Natalie Netzel, JD, MSE, Mitchell Hamline School of Law  
Mallory Stoll, JD, Blahnik, Prchal & Stoll, PLLC

This workshop will provide valuable information about children's changing developmental needs and how those needs should be incorporated into an age-appropriate visitation plan. Specific, sample visitation plans will be discussed. There will also be a discussion of ways to utilize relatives and community resources as a part of visitation plans.

### 5. When Parent Counsel Seized the Legislative Narrative

*Plaza*

Senator Alan Clark, Arkansas State Senator  
Diana Rugh Johnson, Diana Rugh Johnson PC, Atlanta, GA  
Glen Hoggard, JD, Arkansas Parent Counsel Program Attorney  
Jerald Sharum, JD, Arkansas Department of Human Services  
Hon. Peggy Walker, JD, Georgia

In the last few years, Georgia and Arkansas parent counsel achieved unprecedented legislative changes. This session will describe how and why those changes occurred. This session will educate practitioners from all states as to how to accomplish legislative success.

### 6. SKILLS: Objections and Offers of Proof in Child Protection Cases: Best Practices for Best Results

*Ambassador*

Richard Cozzola, JD, LAF

The presentation starts with an overview of best practices in objections and offers of proof focusing on unique issues in child protection: e.g. foundation, hearsay, expert opinion. It will then include guided discussion with demonstration and practice on how to adapt these best practices to a variety of jurisdictions and practice.

### 7. DISCUSSION: Advising and Empowering Parents to Be Their Own Best Advocates Prior to Court Involvement

*Boardroom*

Sara E. Gilloon, JD, Family Defense Center  
Elizabeth Larin, JD, Community Legal Services, Inc.  
Bryan Liberona, JD, Family Defense Center

This discussion will focus on leveraging limited resources to assist as many clients as possible; self-help materials and templates to empower clients through self-representation, and the associated challenges, lessons learned, and rewards of providing these limited scope services.

5:15 p.m.

**Reception**

*Salon I*

## Friday, April 12, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

### Session D

#### 1. To the Halls of Congress and The Statehouses: Bringing the Family Defense Movement into the Legislative and Rulemaking Arenas

Salon III

Kathleen Creamer, JD, Community Legal Services, Inc.  
Diane L. Redleaf, JD, Family Defense Consulting  
Heather Zenone, JD, Washington, DC

Change in the child welfare system requires that family defenders include legislative and policy advocacy in their tool boxes. A new bipartisan legislative/policy change agenda developed since 2016 will be highlighted, with presentation by an experienced Congressional staffer (and lawyer) on how family advocates can achieve legislative success.

#### 2. Partnering for Lasting Change: How Collaboration Between the Child Welfare System and Prisons Can Improve Outcomes & Leverage Innovative Resources for Incarcerated Parents

Old Dominion

Katrina Carter, MS, Iowa Department of Corrections  
David Flower, JD, Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA  
Jami J. Hagemeyer, JD, Drake Legal Clinic-Incarcerated Parent Representation Project  
Tracy Ortega, JD, East Bay Family Defenders  
Kristin Walker, Iowa Department of Human Services

Panelists from California and Iowa will discuss barriers to representing incarcerated parents in child welfare proceedings, community solutions and partnering strategies they are using to address those barriers and advocate for incarcerated parents, how collaboration can eliminate barriers, and how these strategies can support families and promote reunification.

#### 3. Bias & the Child Welfare System: A National Training

Plaza

Krista Ellis, ABA Center on Children and the Law Intern  
Shrounda Selivanoff, Washington State Office of Public Defense  
Amelia Watson, JD, Washington State Office of Public Defense

This presentation will discuss the impact of bias on participants in the child welfare system. While focusing on racial and poverty bias, the training will discuss the importance of recognizing bias, welcoming diversity, and overcoming individual predispositions. This training was adapted from nationally recognized research.

#### 4. Sex Trafficking and Minor Mothers

Colonnade

Tiffani Cortez, JD, Children's Law Center of California  
Rosezetta Upshaw, JD, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.

This substantive workshop will define the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), outline best practices when representing CSEC youth as parents, minors, or both, and provide stirring accounts of pimps and thriving sex markets from attorneys on the frontline of the global CSEC crisis.

#### 5. Foster Parents and Reunification: Resource, Roadblock or Both?

Consulate

Dusti Standridge, JD, Arkansas Parent Counsel Program and Foster Parent

Foster parents can play a vital role in a child welfare case and can have a direct impact - both positive or negative - on reunification efforts. This presentation alerts those in the field of some of the benefits and concerns of the foster parent's effect on reunification and termination, as well as the care of the child.

## 6. SKILLS: What's Up Doc? Presenting? and Challenging Expert Medical Testimony

*Ambassador*

Richard Cozzola, JD, LAF  
Jessica Horan-Block, JD, Bronx Defenders  
Melissa L. Staas, JD, LAF

Defending clients against a child abuse pediatrician's "diagnosis" of abuse requires exposing the weaknesses in that opinion and presentation of affirmative medical testimony supporting non-abuse explanations. This workshop will provide an overview of the medical, legal, and trial practice tools for developing direct and cross examinations of medical experts.

## 7. DISCUSSION: Partnering with Appellate: How Trial and Appellate Partnerships Elevate the Practice

*Boardroom*

Daniel Derasmo, JD, NJ Office of the Public Defender  
Robyn A. Veasey, JD, NJ Office of the Public Defender

This session will begin with a presentation on how NJ OPD's Office of Parental Representation has worked on partnering with the Appellate Section for training modules and information sharing with trial counsel. Participants will share effective strategies for similar partnerships.

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Break**

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**Session E**

## 1. Beyond Due Process: Parent Rights After a Child's Removal

*Consulate*

Emily Peeler, JD, MSW, ABA Center on Children and the Law  
Hope Newton, Center for Family Representation, Inc.

Parents retain certain rights after removal, sometimes called "residual rights," including topics such as education or medical decision making and religious affiliation. The presentation will examine residual rights in 51 states identifying trends, gaps, and unique rights. Hear from multi-disciplinary partners helping parents exercise these rights, with a specific focus on education rights.

## 2. Bringing the Data to Life: Data as a Tool for Parent Representation

*Plaza*

Cristina F. Freitas, JD, Freitas & Freitas, LLP  
Debbie F. Freitas, JD, Freitas & Freitas, LLP  
Michael Heard, MSW, Washington State Office of Public Defense  
Alexandra G. Roark, JD, Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services Children and Family Law Division

Successfully representing parents inside and outside of the courtroom is a constantly evolving skill. This session will focus on reviewing national scientific and social science resources to enhance your arguments, motions, and advocacy. We will touch on many important aspects which are critical to successful parent representation, including the harm of removal, racial and ethnic disparities, limiting the onerous demands placed on parents, and visitation. Join us as we move from reviewing the data to putting it into your everyday practice.

## 3. LGBT Parents in Child Welfare Proceedings

*Colonnade*

Nancy Polikoff, JD, American University Washington College of Law  
Emily Haan, JD, National Center for Lesbian Rights

Lesbian/bisexual mothers are at documented higher risk of losing their children to the state. This workshop addresses: discrimination, especially by faith-based agencies; inappropriate removal of a gender-variant child; failure to apply state parentage law to a parent's same-sex partner/former partner; and narrow definitions of kin.

## 4. Pregnancy, Substance Use & The Child Welfare System

Salon III

David Cohen, JD, Drexel University School of Law  
Amber Khan, JD, National Advocates for Pregnant Women  
Mishka Terplan, MD, MPH, Virginia Commonwealth University

This workshop will explore how drug policies are used to expand child welfare investigations and “child abuse” to include pregnancy and any substance use. It will include medical expertise on prenatal substance exposure and tips for utilizing experts and constitutional arguments for parent defense in such cases and appellate proceedings.

## 5. Planning for Successful Reunification/Re-Entry Prevention

Old Dominion

Malena Arnaud, MSW, Center for Family Representation, Inc  
Virginia Christ, LMSW, Center for Family Representation, Inc  
Michele Cortese, JD, Center for Family Representation, Inc

Reunification is a “win” but also challenging. CFR will share lessons learned and materials from our Re-Entry Prevention Project.

## 6. SKILLS: Why TPR? How Family Defense Lawyers Can Get Courts To Address This Fundamental Question

Ambassador

Emma Brown-Bernstein, JD, Public Defender Atlanta Judicial Circuit  
Christopher Church, JD, University of South Carolina School of Law, CHAMPS Clinic  
Vivek Sankaran, JD, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, University of Michigan Law School

When it comes to Termination of Parental Rights, there are a variety of motivations that are not child or family specific, identified as the “5Ps.” This workshop will explore these five motivations and how to incorporate these motivations into courtroom advocacy and challenging and changing child welfare policy.

## 7. DISCUSSION: Family Justice Initiative: A National Approach to High Quality Representation for Parents and Children

Boardroom

Leslie Heimov, JD, Children’s Law Center of California  
Sue Jacobs, JD, Center for Family Representation  
Mimi Laver, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law

The FJI seeks to ensure that every parent and child has access to high-quality legal representation when courts make decisions about their families. This discussion will focus on what constitutes “high-quality” and strategies for working with an interdisciplinary team. Participants will learn about FJI demonstration sites, how parents’ and children’s attorneys can be allies supporting investment in high-quality legal representation and accessing federal dollars to support attorneys for children and parents.

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Lunch**

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Lunch Plenary**

Salon I & II

**Perinatal Addiction and Harm Reduction-  
Preserving the Mother Baby Relationship  
in the Face of the Opioid Crisis**

Dr. Ron Abrahams, founding Medical Director of the FIR (Families In Recovery) Rooming in program at British Columbia Women’s Hospital

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

**Break**

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

## Session F

### 1. A Trauma-Informed Group for Fathers with Dual Criminal Court and Family Court Involvement

Salon III

Albery Abreu, MSW, Children's Aid Society - Family Wellness Program  
Tricia Stephens, LCSW-R, Ph.D. Hunter College - Silberman School of Social Work  
Lisa Washington, JD, Bronx Defenders

This workshop describes how fathers who accept a plea deal after a DV charge receive treatment. Findings from a qualitative study of 14 fathers participating in a trauma-informed "batterers' group" are followed by a detailed discussion of the group elements that prepare fathers for rebuilding healthier relationships with their children.

### 2. Toto, We're Not in Kansas Anymore: Storming, Forming, and Creating Change for Parents in Colorado

Colonnade

Ashlee Arcilla, JD, Office of Respondent Parents Counsel  
Ruchi Kapoor, JD, Office of Respondent Parents Counsel  
Melissa Michaelis Thompson, JD, Office of Respondent Parents Counsel

In 2016, Melissa, Ruchi, and Ashlee were charged with changing the landscape of parents' representation for an entire state through an independent contractor model. Learn about how they messed it up, got it right, and how it's working now. From appellate policy to statewide messaging, the whirlwind of change is making a difference for parents.

### 3. Mandated Reporting from Hospital Staff: A Family Defense Perspective

Plaza

Clara Presler, JD, Bronx Defenders  
Jey Rajaraman, JD, Legal Services of New Jersey

Mandated reporting laws encourage speedy reporting of suspected child maltreatment, inhibiting medical professionals from investigating in order to determine whether a suspicion is reasonable. Reports from hospitals are interpreted in the court system as if they represented a medical conclusion.

### 4. Harm Reduction and Child Welfare: Advocating for Evidence-Based Practices

Consulate

Kaela Economos, SW, Brooklyn Defender Services  
Hannah Roman, JD, King County Dept. of Public Defense

This workshop focuses on how harm reduction principles can be incorporated into child welfare practice, and how defense attorneys and social workers can effectively advocate for evidence based practices (including non-abstinence based approaches and medically assisted treatment) for clients with substance use disorder.

### 5. Mamas of Color and Mental Health: The Harm of State Intervention via the Child Protection System

Old Dominion

Morgan Hill, LMSW, Bronx Defenders  
Fallon Speaker, JD, Bronx Defenders

This workshop will explore the ways in which the child protection system, when used as a tool of intervention in early stages of maternal bonding and parenting, can serve as a patriarchal tool of government oppression, surveillance, intervention, and control over women of color and their families.

## 6. SKILLS: Motivational Interviewing: Tools for Client Counseling in Challenging Contexts

*Ambassador*

Payal Dalal, LMSW, Center for Family Representation, Inc  
Corinne Lundstrum, JD, Center for Family Representation, Inc

This session introduces participants to counseling technique called “Motivational Interviewing”. It is uniquely suited to challenging counseling situations including: clients not following legal advice, clients disclosing that they have violated court orders, and clients and counsel disagreeing about how to proceed.

## 7. DISCUSSION: Building Alliances with Social Justice Movements: The Time Is Now!

*Boardroom*

Erin Miles Cloud, JD, National Family Defense Project  
Joyce McMillan, JMac4Families  
Lisa Sangoi, National Family Defense Project

This discussion group will explore the importance of social justice movement building to achieving meaningful and lasting reforms to the child welfare system. We will provide participants with concrete steps they can take and strategies they can implement to increase this issues’ visibility and build alliances with different movements.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Break**

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Session G**

## 1. How Parents on Probation Can Break Cycles of Child Welfare and Criminal Justice System Involvement

*Salon III*

Sarah Cook, JD, Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA  
AnnaLisa Chung, JD, Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA  
Jermaine Hardy, Santa Clara Adult Probation  
Antoinette Manuel, MSW, Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA  
Victoria Ruiz, Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose, CA

Probation and Dependency Advocacy Center created a unique partnership to break the cycle of multiple system involvement for undeserved families. DAC’s Corridor Program provides parents on probation with an attorney-led interdisciplinary team to assist them with open dependency cases and, where possible, prevent entry into the child welfare system.

## 2. A New Day for Family Defenders: Changes in the Child Welfare Policy Manual to Improve Representation

*Colonnade*

Mark Hardin, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law (ret.)  
Michelle Jungers, JD, Iowa Legal Aid  
Mimi Laver, JD, ABA Center on Children and the Law  
Joanne Moore, JD, Washington State Office of Public Defense

On December 19, 2018 the Children’s Bureau changed the Child Welfare Policy Manual to allow states to access federal resources for the costs of parent and child representation. During this session lawyers from Iowa and Washington will discuss how these new resources will be used to improve legal services for parents before a petition is filed and post-removal. What will this mean in your state?

## 3. The New Jane Crow vs. The New Jim Crow

*Old Dominion*

Michelle L Burrell, JD, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem  
Porsha-Shaf’on Venable, JD, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem

This workshop will suggest to participants concrete actions we can take in the context of our advocacy for parents to challenge the disproportionate impact of child protective intervention and foster care placement on families of color, immigrant families, parents with disabilities and families living in poverty.

## 4. Lawyering from the Inside Out: Using Reflective Practice to Engage Clients and Promote Communication

*Consulate*

Jamie Bahm, MS, Center on Children Families and the Law at University of Nebraska Lincoln  
Jennie Cole-Mossman, Center on Children Families and the Law at University of Nebraska Lincoln  
Tana Fye, JD, Fye Law Office

Reflective practice helps attorneys examine their past experiences, thoughts, and emotions about their work. It helps reduce vicarious trauma, stress and burnout. Not only does it promote well being for the attorney, but also assists them in having more engaging relationships with their clients and helps communication with difficult clients.

## 5. Developing Strategic Appeals Aimed at Creating New Case Law

*Plaza*

Chris Gottlieb, JD, NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic  
Amy Mulzer, JD, Brooklyn Defender Services/ NYU School of Law Family Defense Clinic  
Vivek Sankaran, JD, University of Michigan Law School Child Advocacy Law Clinic & Child Welfare Appellate Clinic

We will explore ways parent defense attorneys can use strategically selected appeals to address recurring issues and move the law forward. Presenters will use examples from our own work, including challenges to the application of the ICPC to parents and to TPR statutes that create irrebuttable presumptions or that discriminate against fathers.

## 6. SKILLS: You Can Call Me Mom: Special Issues in Privately-filed TPRs and Step-Parent Adoptions

*Ambassador*

Trisha Fritz, JD, Wisconsin State Public Defender  
Ryan Reid, JD, Wisconsin State Public Defender  
Elisabeth Stockbridge, JD, Wisconsin State Public Defender

Special issues arise when a parent files for TPR against another parent. We will explore how attorneys can counsel clients, customize discovery demands, negotiate non-TPR resolutions, and approach best interest arguments. This workshop will walk through these issues and allow time for attorneys to share successful strategies.

## 7. DISCUSSION: Strategies for Improving Child Welfare Response to Families Experiencing Domestic Violence

*Boardroom*

Sara Block, JD, The Family Defense Center  
Rachel Ruttenberg, JD, The Family Defense Center

Discuss your jurisdiction's challenges with child welfare interventions into the lives of families experiencing domestic violence. Learn and share best practices and strategies for improving child welfare practice, including litigation, legislative reform, and cross-sector collaborations.

4:35 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

## Closing Plenary

*Salon I & II*

### A Bright Future for Family Defense: Leveraging New Federal Opportunities

David Kelly, JD, Special Assistant to the Associate Commissioner at the U.S. Children's Bureau

As a key voice in the federal government for high quality legal representation, Mr. Kelly will share his insights about making the most of the new Child Welfare Policy Manual change and close the conference with marching orders for advocates across the country.