

The Office of the Child's Representative Presents:

Doubling Down on Your Legal Advocacy for Children

September 10 & 11, 2017

SESSION TOPICS AND SPEAKER BIOS

September 10, 2017

GUARDIAN AD LITEM LEGAL ADVOCACY THEN & NOW – 60 minute session

This plenary session will address the following learning objectives for GALs:

1. An overview of the needs in legal advocacy for best interests representation that led to the creation of the Office of the Child's Representative;
2. An understanding of the statewide implementation of best practice legal advocacy for children; and
3. Develop ideas for innovations moving forward to build on excellence in representation for children.

➤ Speaker: *Hon. Theresa Spahn, Denver County Court*

Judge Spahn became a Denver County Court judge in October 2014 and she is currently serving as Presiding Judge. Previously, Judge Spahn was in private practice with Wedgle & Spahn, P.C., served as the Director of the O'Connor Judicial Selection Initiative at the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, was the founding Executive Director of the Colorado Office of the Child's Representative, was an Adams County Court magistrate, and a deputy district attorney in Adams County.

PLAYING YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH UCCJEA CHALLENGES – 75 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. GALs will understand the UCCJEA requirements;
2. GALs will engage in a discussion about UCCJEA issues in the context of child welfare cases; and
3. GALs will use a checklist provided during the session to troubleshoot legal practice issues involving UCCJEA.

➤ Speaker: *Hon. Angela Arkin and Josi McCauley, Esq.*

Hon. Angela Arkin served as a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District from 2002 through 2015. She began her judicial career in August 2000 by serving two years as a District Court Magistrate in Arapahoe County. Judge Arkin served as a District Judge in all four counties, with mixed dockets of criminal, civil, probate, mental health, juvenile and domestic cases, with a 100% DR docket for her final 7 years. In 2015, Judge Arkin was chosen as the District Court Judge Honoree for the Colorado Judicial Institute Judicial Excellence Award, and received many other awards and recognition for her service to the Colorado bench, bar and Colorado families. Judge Arkin is now retired from the District Court bench, and is an Arbiter at the Judicial Arbiter Group (JAG) providing mediation, arbitration, ENA/ENE, special master and appointed judge services.

Josi McCauley attended the University of Colorado School of Law and has dedicated herself to the practice of juvenile law since that time. She has been practicing as a Guardian ad Litem in Larimer County since 2006 (except for a yearlong sabbatical during which she lived in Ireland). Josi has acted as a Guardian ad Litem in dependency and neglect, delinquency and probate matters. She has served as the 8th Judicial District Juvenile Drug Court

Guardian ad Litem and as the Child's Legal Representative in domestic relations cases. Josi is a current member of OCR's Litigation Support Team specializing in appeals and providing assistance with litigation strategy to other Guardians ad Litem. Josi is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist and sits on the Best Practice Team for the 8th Judicial District, The Larimer County Interagency Oversight Group, and represents the Juvenile Law section of the bar on her local bench/bar committee.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) – 75 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. GALs will understand the ESSA federal legislation and requirements;
2. GALs will understand how ESSA is being implemented in Colorado; and
3. GALs will brainstorm legal advocacy strategies to address the challenges in providing stable and consistent educational services to children in child welfare.

➤ Speaker: *Emily Peeler, Esq., Danny Jackson, Esq., Kristin Myers, CDE*

Emily Peeler joined the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law as a Staff Attorney in early 2016. Emily works on a variety of projects including: the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, Pennsylvania Education Barriers, the Capacity Building Center for Courts, kinship care, and parent representation. The projects involve providing training and technical assistance across the country on a variety of topics and working with national partners. Prior to this position, Emily worked at the National Association for Law Placement as a Street Law fellow where she managed a legal diversity pipeline program with law firms and high schools across the country. Emily also worked as a youth advocacy coordinator at CASA for Children of DC. Emily received her J.D. from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, her M.S.W. from Boston University, and B.S.W. from the University of Louisville. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

Danny Jackson is a Guardian ad Litem in the 17th Judicial District and previously worked as a GAL at the Colorado Springs Office of the Child's Representative. Danny has been a strong supporter in the area of educational advocacy for children involved in the child welfare system.

Kristin Myers is the State Coordinator for Foster Care Education at the Colorado Department of Education. In this role, she works with K-12 public schools and districts to help students in foster care to excel academically, complete courses, and create a path that will lead to postsecondary success. The Foster Care Education Program partners with school district Child Welfare Education Liaisons (CWEL's) and the Colorado Department of Human Services to ensure both agencies are following the provisions in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Prior to accepting this position, Kristin was a school counselor for ten years primarily at the high school level. Kristin is also in her fourth year in the Counselor Education and Supervision Ph.D. program at the University of Northern Colorado. She completed all required coursework and is currently working on her dissertation on the educational needs of students in the foster care system. Kristin was also on a research team at the University of Northern Colorado that studied the educational outcomes for children and youth in the foster care system.

UNDERSTANDING AND MITIGATING COMPASSION FATIGUE IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION – 75 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. GALs will understand The Colorado Lawyer Assistance Program and the types of assistance available;
2. GALs will be able to understand and distinguish between stress, trauma, and secondary trauma; and

3. GALs will be able to identify personal and job specific factors that contribute to compassion fatigue, the signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue, and mitigating strategies to deal with stress and secondary trauma.

➤ Speaker: *Sarah Myers, Esq.*

Sarah Myers is the Clinical Director of the Colorado Lawyer Assistance Program. Ms. Myers obtained her law degree from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law and became a Colorado licensed attorney in 2016. She has been a Colorado Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and a Colorado Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC) since 2008. Ms. Myers is also a licensed post-graduate level secondary teacher, certified trauma and abuse psychotherapist, and certified LGBTQ specialized therapist. Ms. Myers received her Bachelor's degree in Social Psychology from the University of Richmond, Virginia. She received her Master's degree in Education and post-graduate degree concentration in Somatic Counseling Psychology from Naropa University, Colorado. Ms. Myers has over 15 years of experience as a counselor, psychotherapist, and clinical supervisor working with professionals. She also has over 16 years of experience as a professor and teacher, program director, and curriculum coordinator.

EXCELLENCE IN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION REQUIRED BY CJD04-06 – 90 minute session

Small groups with OCR contract attorneys as facilitators to discuss CJD specific requirements in the following areas:

- 1) **JD Requirement** - Ranae Sharshel, Esq. & Jason Berns, Esq.
- 2) **Diligent Search and Relative Engagement** - Kurt Metzger, Esq. & Beth Padilla, Esq.
- 3) **Observations of Children and Parents** - Ruth Acheson, Esq., Debra Campeau, Esq, Chip Cutler, Esq, Scott Sabin, MSW
- 4) **Engaging Youth** - Lisa Hilbig, Esq., Wendy Hammack-Smith, Esq., Cara Nord, Esq.
- 5) **Placement Visits** - Jenna Mazzucca, Esq., Meghan Scott, Esq.
- 6) **Educational Assessment** - Megan Curtis, Esq., Chris Henderson, Esq.

Learning Objectives:

1. Provide a forum to discuss practical, law-based solutions to independent investigation requirements for GALs.
2. Promote a learning and practice culture in which all attorneys are recognized as experts and leaders in best practices.
3. Generate practice tools and tips that can be immediately implemented, tailored to individual advocacy styles and jurisdictional needs, and further developed over time.

Ranae Sharshel has been practicing as a Guardian ad litem in Colorado for 18 years. She began this work first through her position with The Joffe Law Firm focusing primarily on GAL work but also practicing in the areas of domestic relations and post-conviction appeals. In 2011 Ranae, along with her other law partners, opened a Multi-Disciplinary Law Office serving the children in Arapahoe County through Guardian ad litem representation in Dependency and Neglect, Delinquency, and Truancy courts. This is where Ranae remains currently, a partner at Bettenberg, Sharshel & Maguire, where in their seventh year they continue to advocate for the children in Arapahoe County and pass along their knowledge and expertise to new attorneys coming in to the ever changing field of juvenile law and child representation. Ranae has been an active participant in the D&N Best Practice Team and the Juvenile Sex Offender Task Force in Arapahoe County and has participated on prior sub-committees working to revise the Juvenile SOMB standards.

Jason Berns works in El Paso and Teller Counties as an OCR GAL focusing primarily in D & N and delinquency cases. He is contracted through ORPC as Respondent's counsel. He has been employed by the CO Public

defender's office and ADC earlier in his career. Today his practice is entirely devoted to Juvenile proceedings and he offices out of Colorado Springs.

Kurt Metzger attended University of Colorado Boulder for his undergraduate degree and received a B.A. in Sociology and Economics in 1980. He worked for the Department of Youth Corrections as a counselor before attending law school in 1985. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1988 and was licensed as an attorney in October of 1988. His primary area of practice has been juvenile law, in Dependency and Neglect cases as well as Delinquency cases.

Beth Padilla is an equity partner in Padilla Law, P.C., located in Durango, Colorado. She is licensed in Colorado and New Mexico. Beth is bilingual in English and Spanish and has lived in Argentina, Mexico, Peru, and Spain. She was chosen as a Rising Star by Superlawyers magazine in 2014 and 2015. Beth was nominated for the Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year award by the Colorado Bar Association in 2015. She is the co-chair of the Sixth Judicial District Best Practices Court Team.

Ruth Acheson spent nearly 25 years as a public defender in Indiana and Colorado, initially as a trial deputy, and ended her criminal defense work as Alamosa Regional Public Defender Office Head. In 2004, she began a solo practice focused on child advocacy. Currently she is the (part-time) Mineral County Judge (since 2013) and previously served as Municipal Judge for the Town of Creede 2006-12.

Debra Campeau is the Managing Attorney of the Office of the Guardian ad Litem for El Paso County, which was established in July 2000 in response to the Colorado Judicial Department's request for high quality, cost efficient legal representation for children in dependency and neglect cases. The office has been part of the Office of the Child's Representative since 2003. Debra manages a staff of 12 attorneys, 5 social workers and 4 administrative staff. The office currently has 481 open D & N cases and 242 Delinquency cases. Debra is a member of the Leadership Committee for the El Paso County Family Treatment Drug Court and was the Guardian ad Litem assigned to those cases for two years. She is a member of the 4th Judicial District Juvenile Court Best Practices Committee, the Subcommittee to improve services for Incarcerated Parents and a member of the Placement Alternatives Commission for El Paso County. She has represented children as a GAL for more than 30 years in dependency and neglect cases, delinquencies, probate, and domestic relations cases. Debra served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Advocacy Center of El Paso for three years and was the Chairperson for two years. She is a founding instructor of Kidpower in Colorado Springs, which teaches children safety and self-protection skills. She received the El Paso County CASA President's Award, the Lohman Award and the National Association of Counsel for Children Outstanding Legal Advocacy Award. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Northern Colorado in 1979, where she received her Bachelor's degree in Finance. She received her J.D. degree from the University of Denver in 1982.

Chip Cutler received his J.D. from the University of Denver College of Law in 2000. He started out practicing water law, real estate, and environmental compliance at Carlson, Hammond & Paddock, L.L.C. He then spent a year in solo practice focusing on corporate formation & transactions, estate planning, and water law. After that, he spent 6 years as a Deputy District Attorney in Salida, and has been working as a guardian ad litem since 2009. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at Colorado Mountain College, teaching basic law and Colorado's Criminal and Juvenile Codes.

Scott Sabin has been the Managing Case Coordinator for 11 years at the Office of Guardian ad Litem, El Paso County. Scott currently supervises 4 other Case Coordinators, each with their own strengths and expertise that make their Case Coordinator Department a significant asset to the Office of Guardian ad Litem. The key to the effectiveness and efficiency of their Department has been the collaborative approach to working with GALs and other professionals to tap the diversity of expertise in Case Coordinator Department to best utilize the strengths of the children and families we serve. Scott completed his undergraduate studies of Criminology and Psychology at Southern Oregon State College, 1978. He also received a B.A. degree in 1998 in Sociology from University of

Colorado, Colorado Springs, (UCCS), and M.A. in Counseling and Human Resources from UCCS in 2005. Scott comes from a strong therapeutic focused background while serving in a diversity of roles while working in the field. Some of his former roles include: authoring grief and loss Group therapy curriculum, facilitating group therapy, Family therapy, individual therapy, Clinical supervisor, Family Preservation Worker, and Offense Specific therapeutic provider for adjudicated youth.

Lisa Hilbig graduated from Law school at Dedman School of Law at SMU (1987). She spent several years as a GAL in Texas before moving to Colorado. She has been a GAL in the 4th Judicial District since 2004, both at office of GAL (2004-2012) and in private practice since then. She has been a member of the 4th Judicial District Family Treatment Drug Court Team since 2012, and serves on the 4th Judicial District Best Practices Committee.

Wendy Hammack-Smith has been a Guardian ad Litem since the Spring of 2014. Prior to that she was a 1991 graduate of Georgetown Law and moved to Colorado with her husband Steve Smith to practice law as a Public Defender. A hiring freeze by the Legislature provided an opportunity to work for a prominent family law attorney and learn family law. After the freeze was lifted, she began working at the Public Defender's office in Colorado Springs. After five years, she opened her private practice specializing in criminal defense and family law. Taking time off to enjoy her three daughters, Wendy returned to the practice of law as a GAL and thoroughly enjoys the joys and challenges of representing youth.

Jenna Mazzucca practices in the 11th and 12th Judicial Districts, in approximately 7 different counties. She opened her practice in Salida, Colorado in 2012 and began GAL work in 2013. She also serves as respondent parent counsel and provides Child and Family Investigator services.

Meghan Scott has been a practicing Guardian ad Litem in Colorado for six years. Meghan is a 3rd generation Colorado native and has played a role in the child welfare community in various capacities since 2005. Prior to becoming a licensed attorney, Meghan served as a CASA in Boulder County, clerked with Juvenile Court Judicial Officers, interned with GAL's and RPC's, and served as the OCR's Summer Law Clerk in 2010. Meghan always knew she wanted to practice as a GAL and landed her dream job right out of law school with the Office of Guardian Ad Litem in El Paso County. Here, Meghan practiced for nearly five years as GAL in D&N and JD cases. In El Paso County, Meghan served as a member of the planning committee for Educating Children of Color and the Lawyers Planting Trees Project. In January 2016, Meghan left the Office of Guardian Ad Litem to become a contract GAL in the 19th JD (Weld County) where she continues to practice as a GAL in all OCR case appointment categories.

Megan Curtiss has been a Guardian ad Litem in Adams County since 2008. Prior to this she worked at the law firm of Reilly Pozner & Connelly, L.L.C in Denver. Megan received her B.A. from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA in Sociology with a concentration in Legal Studies with Minors in Education and Anthropology in 1992. She received her J.D. from the University of Denver School of Law in 2002, Order of St. Ives. In 2014, she received the Barry Glasgow Guardian ad Litem Award from CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties and is a member of the Colorado Bar Association.

Chris Henderson

THROUGH THE APPELLATE LENS: EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY THROUGHOUT YOUR REPRESENTATION – 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. Update attorneys on some of the practice issues and potential pitfalls to avoid as revised 3.4 continues to be implemented.
2. Ensuring GALs throughout Colorado handling trial level D&N cases have the knowledge and skill set to advance their theory of the case at the trial level in a manner that effectively preserves the record for appeal.

3. Provide basic information about the appellate process for GALs who decide to handle their own case on appeal.
4. Inform GALs of some of the hot topic/issues currently pending before the Court of Appeals.
5. Remind GALs of OCR's litigation support resources and policies.
6. Emphasize importance of independent role of GAL throughout all phases of litigation, including appeals.

➤ **Speakers:** *Sheri Danz, Esq., Alison Bettenberg, Esq., Kristin Marburg, Esq., Barry Meinster, Esq., and Josi McCauley, Esq.*

Sheri Danz is the Deputy Director at the Office of the Child's Representative. Her legal advocacy on behalf of children and youth includes representing adolescents and young adults in child welfare and other civil matters as a Skadden Fellow/staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago; representing juveniles in delinquency proceedings as a staff attorney at the Colorado State Public Defender's Office; and representing youth in public benefits, child welfare, and protective order proceedings as a legal intern at the Door's Legal Services Program, a multidisciplinary youth services center in New York City. Ms. Danz has also worked on issues regarding parents' counsel at the Office of the State Court Administrator in Colorado and served as a law clerk to the Hon. Gene Carter, United States District Court Judge for the District of Maine. Prior to law school, Ms. Danz taught special education in rural North Carolina through the Teach for America Program. Sheri Danz is a graduate of New York University School of Law, where she received a Root-Tilden-Kern public interest scholarship and served as a member of the New York University Law Review.

Alison Bettenberg is currently a GAL and /Managing Partner at Bettenberg, Sharshel & Maguire LLC. Alison has been a GAL in both the Dependency and Neglect and Delinquency cases for over 10 years. Alison was in private practice until January 2011 when she joined the law firm of Bettenberg, Sharshel & Maguire, LLC. Alison is the managing partner of BSM where her responsibilities include sitting on the hiring committee and training team, case assignments, supervision of attorneys and case coordinators as well as general oversight of the office.

Kristin Marburg has been a staff attorney with the Colorado Court of Appeals for six years. Her work is primarily focused on appeals in dependency and neglect, adoption, and domestic relations cases. Prior to becoming a staff attorney, she served as a law clerk in Denver Juvenile Court.

Barry Meinster is an appellate attorney who provides litigation support to Colorado GALs. Barry graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and has been practicing in Colorado since he moved here in 1985.

Josi McCauley attended the University of Colorado School of Law and has dedicated herself to the practice of juvenile law since that time. She has been practicing as a Guardian ad Litem in Larimer County since 2006 (except for a yearlong sabbatical during which she lived in Ireland). Josi has acted as a Guardian ad Litem in dependency and neglect, delinquency and probate matters. She has served as the 8th Judicial District Juvenile Drug Court Guardian ad Litem and as the Child's Legal Representative in domestic relations cases. Josi is a current member of OCR's Litigation Support Team specializing in appeals and providing assistance with litigation strategy to other Guardians ad Litem. Josi is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist and sits on the Best Practice Team for the 8th Judicial District, The Larimer County Interagency Oversight Group, and represents the Juvenile Law section of the bar on her local bench/bar committee.

ANTE UP YOUR ADVOCACY IN D&N CASES AND CR ISSUES– 75 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. Overview of the CR Process;
2. Ensure that GALs have the knowledge and tools to effectively advocate for their children/youth when a CR case is parallel to the D&N case; and

3. Brainstorm and network ideas for ensuring appropriate advocacy when this occurs.

➤ Speaker: *Laura Locke, Esq, Samantha Walls, Esq.*

Laura Locke is the Clinical Director of the Colorado Lawyer Assistance Program. Ms. Myers obtained her law degree from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law and became a Colorado licensed attorney in 2016. She has been a Col

Samantha Walls is an attorney at Martin & Reed in Greeley. With a strong background in litigation, including conducting dozens of jury trials, Samantha has successfully represented hundreds of clients since being admitted to the Colorado bar in 2011. Samantha started her career with the Colorado State Public Defender. While there, Samantha zealously represented clients on cases ranging from misdemeanor DUI to first degree murder. Samantha's in-court experience is nearly unmatched in the family law field.

INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – 75 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. Information about what Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and what it is and is not;
2. Information about distinguishing between IDD and mental health diagnosis; and
3. Tools for working with children and parents who have IDD issues.

➤ Speaker: *Matt Cloven, ARC, Maggie Greene, Esq., Ed Rodgers, Esq.*

Matt Cloven has worked with individuals who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 2002 years. Matt holds a Master's in History and Philosophy. He began this work in Eugene, Oregon as a direct care staff at one of the earliest organizations that helped to facilitate the closing of institutional housing, and opened homes to care for adults with developmental disabilities in a community setting. Matt ultimately became a program manager and oversaw multiple group homes. Currently at The Arc of Larimer County, Matt specializes in working with youth with disabilities, ages birth to 21. He specializes in Special Education advocacy and has attended the Institute of Special Education Advocacy.

Maggie Green currently works as a GAL in the 8th Judicial District. Maggie graduated from the University of Denver School of Law. Prior to her work as a GAL, Maggie was an Advocacy Specialist at the Arc of Larimer County where she provided advocacy services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Ed Rodgers is senior attorney at the El Paso Office of the Guardian ad Litem. Ed worked previously as the District Attorney in the 11th Judicial District. Ed graduated from Northern Illinois University Law School in 1982 and throughout his career has remained committed to the needs of children involved in the child welfare system. Ed served as the President of the Colorado District Attorneys Council in 2000.

September 11, 2017

ICWA'S SECRET PITFALLS: I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE APPEAL – 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. Update attorneys on ICWA and the 2016 BIA Guidelines;
2. Discuss the implications of recent ICWA cases reviewed by the Colorado Court of Appeals;

3. Ensure that GALs have the knowledge and skill set to effectively respond to the practice challenges of ICWA cases; and
4. Brainstorm and network ideas for ensuring ICWA compliance.

➤ *Speakers: Deborah Dodd, Esq., Jennifer Lundin, Esq.*

Deborah Dodd started her legal career at the Adams County District Attorney's Office in 1997. She moved to Guardian *ad Litem* work in 2004, working primarily in the 19th Judicial District. In 2016, Debra became an appellate attorney for ORPC. This position has added a new perspective to her work in D&N cases, which she feels has greatly improved her representation of all parties in these difficult cases. In 2017, Debra moved to the Litigation Support Division at OCR, focusing on appellate issues from the GAL perspective. Debra has served as president of the Adams/Broomfield Bar Association. In Weld County, Debra has been a member of the Best Practices Steering Committee, which twice won the Excellence in Practice Award; the Court Improvement Plan team; and Weld County Family Treatment Court. She has presented at the Colorado Summit on Youth & Families on the benefits of neurofeedback for trauma-exposed children, and on appellate issues for the Office of the Respondent Parent's Counsel.

Jennifer Lundin has been practicing law for over 17 years. She started out at a Deputy District Attorney in the 18th Judicial District where she remained for seven years prosecuting traffic and misdemeanors, delinquency cases and adult felony cases. After leaving the DA's office in 2007 she went to work for Qwest Communications in their Compliance and Ethics Division, investigating employee misconduct. In 2010, she went into private practice, focusing on family law matters and criminal defense. While working in private practice she began doing GAL work for Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center on a pro bono basis, making recommendations in TPO/PPO matters involving domestic violence. Finally, in 2012, she left private practice to do GAL work full time in Denver Dependency and Neglect cases at Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center. In 2016, she left Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center to continue her work as a GAL at Child Advocates of Colorado, where she remains. In 2016, she became part of the Denver ICWA Court Planning Committee, helping to establish one of only a few ICWA courts in the Nation, which has been up and running since January 2017. In June of 2017, she was fortunate enough to participate in an ICWA outreach trip, along with professionals from the Denver ICWA court, Denver Department of Human Services, Denver City Attorney's Office, CASA, Casey Family Programs and Adams County Court. The team visited four tribes in South Dakota and Montana – Crow, Northern Cheyenne, Oglala Sioux and Rosebud Sioux.

OVERREPRESENTATION OF MINORITY AND IMPOVERISHED YOUTH IN COLORADO SYSTEMS: CAUSES AND POTENTIAL CURES – 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. To gain insight into the issue of overrepresentation from the perspective of a local committee in Colorado Springs;
2. To understand the strategies that the community has used to meet the needs of children and families of color in the child welfare and juvenile justice system; and
3. Identify strategies that GALs can use in their own communities to address this issue.

➤ *Speakers: Cara Nord, Esq., Dr. Tiko Hardy, LSW, PsyD*

Cara Nord currently serves as a staff attorney at the Office of the Child's Representative. Prior to joining OCR in 2017, Cara worked as Senior Assistant County Attorney in El Paso County where she handled large caseloads, heavy dockets, and conducted over 100 trainings.

Tiko Hardy currently serves as faculty within the Social Work & Psychology Departments and as Professional Development Coordinator for the Center for Excellent Teaching & Learning at Pikes Peak Community College. Dr. Hardy has a Doctorate Degree in Psychology in Organizational Leadership and Development. She attended the University of Denver, where she earned a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work and an academic certificate in Interpersonal Trauma Studies.

CREATIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS: MORAL RECONATION THERAPY – 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. The history of Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT);
2. The use of MRT in substance abuse treatment;
3. The method and methodology used in MRT;
4. The benefits and drawbacks of MRT when used with different populations in substance abuse treatment; and
5. When and how to recommend MRT.

➤ *Speaker: Dr. Joyce Smith, Clinical Director, Creative Treatment Options*

Dr. Joyce Smith is a co-owner of Creative Treatment Options and serves as the Clinical Director. Dr. Smith holds a Doctorate degree from University of Denver in Clinical Psychology and a Master's degree from the University of Colorado (Denver) in Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Smith is a Licensed Addictions Counselor (LAC), and a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of Colorado. In addition to running the Level II Education and Cognitive Restructuring groups, Dr. Smith sees clients individually for treatment and dual-diagnosis assessment. Dr. Smith is also a Certified Addictions Counselor Level III.

USING EXPERTS TO PRESENT YOUR CASE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CHILD – 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. Lay Witness versus Expert Witness distinction and scope of testimony;
2. Ensure that GALs understand types of experts, sing them to present their case, and supports from OCR;
3. Qualification, testimony, and objections – tools and tips for GALs; and
4. Case law pertaining to experts.

➤ *Speaker: Mary McWilliams, Esq.*

Mary McWilliams has devoted her practice to children's issues. She is admitted to practice law in Colorado, New Jersey and New York. She received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1992 and her J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco in 1995. Ms. McWilliams excelled in law school as a Merit Scholar and Litigation specialist. She began her career as a prosecutor in San Francisco at the District Attorney's office. She continued her career as a prosecutor in the Denver Metro Area. Ms. McWilliams focuses her practice on criminal, family and juvenile law. She has recently expanded her practice to include assistive reproductive technology and collaborative reproduction. Ms. McWilliams has tried approximately 100 jury trials and 300+ trials to the Court. Since 2002 Ms. McWilliams has been active as a juvenile defense attorney, a Guardian ad Litem, Child's Legal Representative and a Child and Family Investigator. In 2011, she was recognized as Guardian ad Litem of the year by the CASA association of Broomfield and Adams Counties. Ms. McWilliams is also certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist awarded by the National Association Counsel for Children.

Plenary Session: WHAT DOES REASONABLE EFFORTS MEAN IN A D&N Case -75 minute ETHICS

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the applicable law and provisions of Title 19 regarding the state's responsibility to provide, purchase, or develop the supportive and rehabilitative services required to prevent placement or achieve reunification and the ethical implications for attorneys working with families.
2. Understand the diligence and care requirements in Colorado Code of Regulations §7.304.21(D)(1)(d).
3. Understand the case law that interprets the requirements to make reasonable efforts on behalf of parents regarding treatment plans, visitation, placement and other services; how the trial court cannot delegate the determination of entitlement to visitation to caseworkers, therapists, and others; the difference between ordering services and authorizing such services; and the reasonableness of services and the ethical implications for the courts, attorneys and parties.
4. Understand the case law that interprets mental health issues as they relate to reasonable efforts and the ethical implications for the courts, attorneys and parties.
5. Understand case law that interprets ICWA issues and how they relate to reasonable efforts and the ethical implications for the courts, attorneys and parties.
6. Understand case law that interprets the ability of the courts to terminate parental rights with a finding of no appropriate treatment plan devisable to address the parent's unfitness and the ethical implications for the courts, attorneys and parties.

➤ *Speaker: Hon. Leonard Edwards, Santa Clara Superior Court (Ret.)*

Judge Leonard Edwards is a retired judge now working as a consultant, educator, and trainer. He served as a Superior Court Judge in Santa Clara County for 26 years and then for six years as Judge-in-Residence at the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, a division of the Judicial Council of California. As a judge, he worked in the juvenile court for over 20 years. As Judge-in-Residence he served California's courts as a consultant specializing in juvenile and family law, domestic violence, drug courts, mediation, judicial ethics, and other issues relating to children and families within the court system. Judge Edwards is a graduate of Wesleyan University (1963) and The University of Chicago Law School (1966), Judge Edwards has dedicated his professional life to working in the court system to improve outcomes for children and families. Judge Edwards is a well-known teacher, trainer, and lecturer, having taught at the University of Santa Clara Law School, Stanford Law School, and the California Judicial College. He has conducted trainings in 48 states and 13 foreign countries as well as over 500 invited presentations in the United States. Judge Edwards has written widely and created teaching videos that have been used for training throughout the United States. His most recent book, *The Role of the Juvenile Court Judge: Practice and Ethics*, has been distributed to all California judges working in juvenile and family court as well as to all appellate justices in the state. Judge Edwards has been given numerous awards from local, state, and national organizations. In 2004, he was awarded the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, the only juvenile court judge ever to receive that award. His juvenile court was the inspiration for the book, *Somebody Else's Children*, by John Hubner and Jill Wolfson. In his work as a consultant, Judge Edwards has assisted judges make significant changes in their court system including starting mediation programs, family drug treatment courts, CASA programs, and other innovations. His primary focus is improving court practice to improve outcomes for children and families in the courts system.

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, ETHICAL CONFLICTS IN REPRESENTING PARTS OF THE WHOLE FAMILY - 90 minute ETHICS

Learning Objectives:

Increase awareness of, and identify, possible ethical pitfalls in the dual role of GAL and RPC;

1. Reduce and eliminate situations that may cause ethical issues for attorneys as guardian ad litem (GAL), respondent parent counsel (RPC), judicial officers, and dual GAL/RPC; and

2. Understand the applicable law and provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct regarding working in a collaborative environment with different client directed models (expressed interest versus best interest) including Rule 1.9 Duties to Former Clients, Rule 4.2 Communication with Person Represented by Counsel, Rule 1.4 Communication, Rule 1.14 Client with Diminished Capacity.

➤ *Speakers: Hon. Gail Meinster, 1st Judicial District, Jonathon Carlson, Esq., Christina Fulmer, Esq., Lauren Dingboom, Esq., Peggy Fulks, Esq.*

Judge Gail Meinster was appointed as a District Court Magistrate in Jefferson County Colorado in January 2009 and hears primarily juvenile and domestic matters. Magistrate Meinster presides over the Family Integrated Treatment (FIT) Court which is a dependency drug court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was a partner in the firm of Meinster & Meinster, PC, where she practiced as a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), Child and Family Investigator (CFI), and attorney for respondent parents throughout the state. Ms. Meinster is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts, received her law degree from the University Of San Diego School Of Law in California, and is licensed to practice law in California, Colorado, and Maryland. She formerly served as Assistant Park County Attorney representing the Department of Human Services, and has taught and facilitated trainings throughout Colorado regarding the role of the GAL in Dependency and Neglect actions and the CFI in domestic relations matters. In 2004 she was awarded the Linda T. Palmieri Award for Outstanding Service on Behalf of Children. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Ms. Meinster served on various non-profit boards including the board for the Office of the Child's Representative in Colorado. On October 3, 2011, Ms. Meinster was appointed to fill the vacancy on the 1st Judicial District Court created by the resignation of the Honorable R. Brooke Jackson. Ms. Meinster is currently the Presiding Juvenile Judge for the First Judicial District.

Jonathon Carlson received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Business Administration from the University of Arizona with Honors in 2008. From there Mr. Carlson went on to study law at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and graduated cum laude in 2012. While in law school Mr. Carlson excelled in trial practice, advocacy, and criminal law courses. During law school he interned in the homicide division of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in Detroit, Michigan where he learned the difference a good criminal defense attorney can have in a high stakes case. He saw firsthand how essential it is for the criminally accused person to have a zealous, dedicated, and passionate attorney to represent them in court. Mr. Carlson went on to clerk for the Honorable Patricia Fresard of the Third Judicial Circuit in Wayne County, Michigan, and then the Detroit based firm of Mogill, Posner, & Cohen which focuses their practice on criminal defense, family law, and professional responsibility litigation. Both experiences provided opportunities to work on various criminal trials and appeals from the standpoint of the litigator and the judge. Since joining The Law Office of Jeffrey J. Timlin, Mr. Carlson has focused on representing the criminally accused in juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony cases, representing parents in dependency and neglect cases, and representing individuals going through divorces or child-custody cases.

Christina Fulmer received her juris doctorate from Florida State University School of Law in 2003. Ms. Fulmer practices in Montrose, Colorado. 90 percent of Ms. Fulmer's practice is dedicated to representing indigent parents as a respondent parents' counsel. Ms. Fulmer is dedicated to representing indigent people because she understands they are at a disadvantage in the legal system without adequate representation.

Lauren Dingboom has served as a guardian ad litem since 2011. She worked as a staff attorney at the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center from 2011-2015. In 2016, she started her own law practice, Koy Dingboom, LLC., with another child advocate, Jeff Koy. Jordan Oates also joined the firm in 2016. Ms. Dingboom earned a Bachelor of Arts from Pepperdine University, and went on to obtain a Masters of Social Work and a Juris Doctorate at the University of Denver in 2011. Before joining the Children's Law Center, Ms. Dingboom worked for three years with the Court Improvement Program at the Colorado State Court Administrator's Office, where she helped develop several multi-disciplinary curricula for the improvement of the child welfare system and launched Colorado's first attorney training for Respondent Parent Counsel. Currently, Ms. Dingboom is a

committee member of the Jefferson County Best Practice Court Team, the Court Improvement Program, the Dependency and Neglect Caseflow Management Committee, and the Colorado Dependency and Neglect Judicial Institute Planning Committee.

Peggy Fulks is a Guardian ad Litem in Teller County, Colorado. Peggy has been active in the OCR Training Programs for new GALs for several years and is valued for her dedication to children and families in the rural areas near Colorado Springs.

AN ACE UP YOUR SLEEVE: EFFECTIVE LEGAL ADVOCACY IN JD & TRUANCY CASES - 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will understand the CO Mental Health Act;
2. Participants will have the knowledge and tools to effectively advocate for their children/youth are in need of services in a JD or Truancy case; and
3. Participants will brainstorm and network ideas for ensuring appropriate advocacy when it is difficult to obtain services.

➤ *Speakers: Lori Hughes, Esq., Jeff Ruff, Esq.,*

Lori Hughes has been doing Guardian ad Litem work in the 19th Judicial District for the past eight years. Prior to that she was an attorney at Donelson, Ciancio, Goodwin, & Juarez, P.C. Lori graduated with her juris doctorate from the University of Colorado in 2004.

Jeff Ruff is a GAL in the 17th Judicial District and also does criminal defense and family law work.

THE COLORADO SAFETY AND RISK TOOLS – UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF THE TOOLS - 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. The history of the creation of the Colorado Safety and Risk Assessment Tools;
2. Statewide implementation of the tools;
3. What each tool is and what it is designed to assess; and
4. How attorneys can work with families and caseworkers to identify next steps if court involvement is required.

➤ *Speakers: Julie Anderson, CDHS, James Connell, CDHS, Alison Baker Jensen*

Julie Anderson has worked in the field of social work since 2008 focusing on government child welfare. Julie's career began with conducting child abuse and neglect assessments for approximately seven years. Julie moved to Colorado in 2015 and began facilitating family engagement meetings for Douglas County Colorado Human Services. She has continued her child welfare career with the Colorado Division of Child Welfare as a Referral and Assessment Specialist and a Subject Matter Expert for seven Colorado counties. Julie is passionate about Empowering families and strongly believes families should be a part of the decision making. Julie supported Implementation of Differential Response in Wisconsin and is confident that through Differential Response, good safety decisions can be made for children, youth, and their families.

James Connell is a Referral and Assessment Specialist with the Division of Child Welfare. He has served families in multiple capacities in the human services field for 10 years and has been with the Colorado Department of Human Services since 2014. In 2016 he implemented the Colorado Family Safety and Risk

Assessment tools in all 64 counties. He strives to enhance child welfare practice across the beautiful state of Colorado through continues quality improvement and acting as a subject matter expert 7 counties.

Alison B. Jensen has been practicing in Denver as a Guardian *ad litem* in dependency and neglect cases since 2012. Prior to this, she worked in London at a non-profit providing advocacy, support, and legal assistance to young people in difficulty. She also volunteered delivering an active learning project to vulnerable 8th and 9th grade students in East London. Before law school, Alison lived in Minneapolis and worked in public relations.

LEGAL ADVOCACY IN CASES INVOLVING COMPETENCY: HOLDING ALL THE CARDS – 90 minute session

Learning Objectives:

1. This session will provide GAL attorneys with an overview of SB 12 followed by a presentation about competency evaluation and restoration process.
2. Participants will engage in a discussion about practice challenges in raising the issue of competency, challenging a competency evaluation, working with defense attorneys, and advocating for restoration services.

➤ *Speakers: Sheri Danz, Esq., Tracy Maguire, Esq., Diana Richette, Esq.*

Sheri Danz is the Deputy Director at the Office of the Child’s Representative. Her legal advocacy on behalf of children and youth includes representing adolescents and young adults in child welfare and other civil matters as a Skadden Fellow/staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago; representing juveniles in delinquency proceedings as a staff attorney at the Colorado State Public Defender’s Office; and representing youth in public benefits, child welfare, and protective order proceedings as a legal intern at the Door’s Legal Services Program, a multidisciplinary youth services center in New York City. Ms. Danz has also worked on issues regarding parents’ counsel at the Office of the State Court Administrator in Colorado and served as a law clerk to the Hon. Gene Carter, United States District Court Judge for the District of Maine. Prior to law school, Ms. Danz taught special education in rural North Carolina through the Teach for America Program. Sheri Danz is a graduate of New York University School of Law, where she received a Root-Tilden-Kern public interest scholarship and served as a member of the New York University Law Review.

Tracy Maguire is a Guardian ad Litem in the 18th Judicial District. Tracy has been practicing criminal defense and family law work for the past twenty-seven years. She is currently a partner at Bettenberg, Sharshel, & Maguire LLC in Centennial, Colorado.

Diana Richette has a Bachelor's of Sciences in Individual and Family Studies and a Masters in Psychosocial Science with an emphasis in Community Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Denver School of Law in 1982. She has been practicing juvenile law since 1982 when she started as a trial attorney in the Denver Public Defender's Office in the Juvenile Division. She served as a Public Defender for six years including supervising the Juvenile Division in the Denver Public Defender's Office. She has been in private practice since 1989 and continues to represent children either as a defense attorney in delinquency cases or as a Guardian ad Litem in dependency and neglect and delinquency cases. She is a founding director of the Colorado Juvenile Defender Coalition whose mission is to ensure excellence in juvenile defense and advocacy. She is the primary author of the Colorado Juvenile Defense Manual sponsored by the Coalition and the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel.