

Shout-Outs

To OCR Attorneys & SSPs | Fall 2019



Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following outstanding OCR attorneys who were recognized during OCR's Annual Conference in Estes Park in September!

- **Justin Bawden** – Rising Star
- **Anna Hall Owen** – Covino Advocate of the Year
- **Gina Hickman** – Standing Up for Kids
- **Patricia Lindner** – Social Services Professional of the Year
- **Ranee Sharshel** – Distinguished Contribution to the Practice of Dependency and Neglect Law



Contributors

Kudos and thanks to the OCR contractors who emailed documents for addition to the OCR's Litigation Toolkit in the last quarter – **Megan Curtiss, Mary Davis, Theo Demos, Danny Jackson, Alison Jensen, Diana Richett, and Julie Yates**. Your excellent contributions greatly improve the quality of the Toolkit. We hope other contractors find your examples as helpful as we do!

Litigators

Congratulations to **Tiffany Pelham Webb**! Tiffany litigated a very difficult UCCJEA case in Denver Juvenile Court. After filing multiple motions and seeking judicial review, Tiffany prevailed in ensuring the child was not returned to the abusive parents he ran from. At every turn, Colorado DHS and Texas DFPS argued he should be returned home even though he alleged severe abuse. Tiffany successfully argued that the child could only be released to the custody of Texas DFPS – for Texas DFPS to interview him in person and make safety determinations. After the court issued that order, the regional attorney for DFPS asked for a certification signed by the child detailing his allegations of abuse/neglect, then DFPS determined they would take custody. During the Texas custody hearing, the court granted DFPS' request for continued custody. The child is in a safe placement, happy, and has faith in "the system" again.

Kudos to **Deanna Barton**, a GAL with the Office of the Guardian ad Litem in Colorado Springs. Deanna has been drafting, filing, and litigating motions for lack of reasonable efforts in order to push the Department to process adoptions faster. Thank you for your efforts to secure timely permanency for children, Deanna!

Presenters

Thank you to the OCR contractors who prepared and completed presentations during the OCR's Annual Conference in September – **Alison Bettenberg, Megan Curtiss, Jacquie Esquibel, Stefan Fredricksmeier, Shirley Gien, Holly Gummerson, Melissa Jensen, Jennifer Lundin, Josi McCauley, Mary McWilliams, Beth Padilla, Bob Tweedell, and Anna Ulrich**. The conference would not have been a success without each of you!

Kudos and thanks to the OCR attorneys who lead sessions during *Core Competencies I* Training in July - **Jennifer Conn, Debra Dodd, Colene Robinson, Jacquie Esquibel, Ashley Harrington, Alison Jensen, Mark Jensen, Laura Locke, Josi McCauley, Andrew Price, Diana Richett, Jeff Ruff, and Dana Tartar**. The new contractors greatly benefitted from your hard work and wisdom!

Shout out to OCR Contractors **Megan Curtiss, Alison Jensen, Mary McWilliams, and Ranee Sharshel** for attending the *Train-the-Trainer* program in August! The OCR greatly appreciates you sharing your time and expertise at this program and all of our training events! We hope you enjoyed turning your training ideas into new presentations!

NOMINATE at tinyurl.com/ShoutOutOCR

Nominate an OCR Attorney or SSP for a "shout-out" (a.k.a. kudos) in our next OCR Newsletter! OCR will review your nomination, contact you with any questions, and, if your shout-out is selected, we will contact the nominee and celebrate them!

