



**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE**  
**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**







This annual report covers the activities of the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI)  
between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

CAI is part of the nonprofit University of San Diego School of Law.  
Contributions to CAI are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows.

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# DEDICATION

The Children's Advocacy Institute dedicates this annual report to Paul Peterson and his family. Together with the Price family, they have been a crucial part of our history. Paul tracked everything we did, guiding and supporting our work as a founding member of our Council for Children, and then as a personal adviser to CAI Executive Director Bob Fellmeth. Words are inadequate to express the gratitude of not only CAI, but of child advocates nationally for this example of dedication. He enabled effective work for the purpose of protecting and supporting humankind's most important legacy—our children.



## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In 1989, Professor Robert C. Fellmeth founded the Children's Advocacy Institute as part of the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) at the University of San Diego (USD) School of Law. Staffed by experienced attorneys and advocates, and assisted by USD law students, CAI works to improve the status and well-being of children and youth. CAI engages in the academic and clinical training of law students in child advocacy, conducts research into child related issues, and provides public education about the status of children and of the performance of the state to advance their interests. CAI also engages in direct advocacy before courts, agencies, and legislatures to seek leveraged results for the benefit of children and youth. All of these functions are carried out from its offices in San Diego, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. **CAI is the only child advocacy group operating at a law school, in a state capital, and in our nation's capital.** That presence has grown in importance as organized interests, with a focus on relatively narrow and short-term self-benefit, increasingly dominate public policy.

CAI is advised by the **Council for Children**, a panel of distinguished community, state, and national leaders who share a vision to improve the quality of life for children. CAI functions under the aegis of the University of San Diego, its Board of Trustees and management, and its School of Law.

CAI's academic program is funded by USD and includes the first faculty chair endowment established at the USD School of Law. In 1990, San Diego philanthropists Sol and Helen Price funded the **Price Chair in Public Interest Law**; the first and current holder of the Price Chair is Professor Robert C. Fellmeth, who serves as CAI's Executive Director. The chair endowment and USD funds committed pursuant to that agreement finance the course and clinic academic programs of both CPIL and CAI.

In 2014, the USD School of Law was pleased to establish the **Fellmeth-Peterson Faculty Chair in Child Rights**, which will assure the continuation of CAI as an educational part of USD and, hopefully, as a state, national—and perhaps someday, international—advocate for children. The chair is named in honor of Robert B. Fellmeth (father of CAI Executive Director Robert C. Fellmeth), and Paul Peterson, a

longstanding supporter and inspiration for CAI from its beginning 30 years ago. The Chair is now fully funded, and in August 2018 Jessica Heldman was named the Fellmeth-Peterson Professor in Residence in Child Rights.

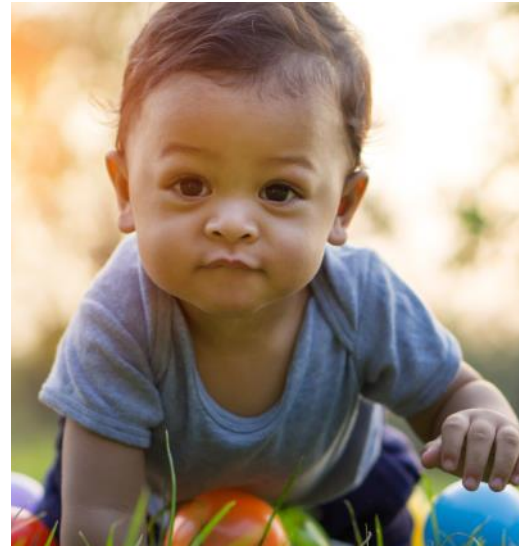
**Although its academic component has established funding sources, CAI must raise 100% of the funding for its advocacy program each year from external sources such as gifts, grants, attorneys' fees, cy pres awards, etc.**



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

**The Ongoing Need for CAI's Work.** My message in prior years has consistently sounded common themes, including the political impotence of children as non-voters or campaign contributors, leaving them with little lobbying potency. This weakness is exacerbated in a political world of extraordinary legislative passivity, with state legislatures substantially controlled by trade associations. And children's disproportionate influence extends to our dysfunctional Congress, which is fatally embroiled in tribalistic party betrayal of basic duties—including the duty to decide on the fairly considered merits.

Three seminal U.S. Supreme Court errors have allowed this imbalance to magnify. The first was *Noerr Pennington*, allowing horizontal competitors who normally cannot conspire to do so and to employ lobbyists (including former legislators and staff) as a part of free speech license. They are thusly able to not only restrain trade in violation of federal and state antitrust laws prohibiting such combinations, evading state or federal limitation in favor of competition, but they have affirmatively recruited the state as the arranger and enforcer of their collusively organized statutes. Indeed, they have become what legislators openly term “stakeholders” in legislative consideration of proposed laws. An argument can certainly be made that corporations may have some free speech allowance notwithstanding the dangers of conspiracy, but the extent of this license extends beyond the basic assumptions of a democratic system controlled by the People. Interestingly, a 2015 SCOTUS holding provides a measure of underlying democracy to this world. The Court's 6–3 decision in *North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC* holds clearly and broadly that any state board, commission or agency controlled by “active participants” in the trade or profession regulated is not a sovereign body. Hence, it cannot constitute “state action” that confers immunity. So in theory, any restraint it produces is subject to at least federal antitrust liability. CAI's brother public interest entity—now termed the Consumer Protection Policy Center—has worked since that holding to facilitate its actual enforcement. Thus far, there has been virtually no compliance. In fact, such regulators are cartel-controlled in a direct manner (virtually every trade or profession is “regulated” by “active participants” in all 50 states).



The two other SCOTUS decisions exacerbating the cartel governance are *AT&T Mobility LLC v. Concepcion* and *Citizen's United v. FEC*. The former substantially undermines the class action remedy, and allows any commercial entity to include in its (rarely read) terms and conditions an obscure and technically written communication precluding any such remedy. And in the modern world of no-cost communication to millions, many grievances are only actionable via class action. The latter, and several subsequent cases, allow corporate and trade association hidden financing of campaigns. In these particular decisions, the Court makes another anti-democratic assumption that corporations and trade associations are effectively equivalent to the People—that they are persons also. But they are not equivalent. Certainly we have benefitted from the operations of many corporations, particularly where subjected to competitive checks and incentives. But the political and legal differences ignored by these holdings are essential. Those governing a corporation have a legal fiduciary duty of the first order to maximize profit to its owners, the shareholders. The short-term profit orientation that they must manifest is not the same as the essence of natural persons constituting the People. The latter consider values beyond economic profit and immediate consequence. We consider diffuse interests and future interests. A primary concern, in addition to global warming and the earth we shall leave behind, is the fate of our children and their children. Although children are lionized in political rhetoric, their actual fate in political decisions is quite disparate from corporate interests. To equate the two as being equivalent is a basic ethical error.



We have consistently mentioned the universal failure to address or even discuss the unprecedented level of future deficits our grandchildren (and theirs) will face due to the actions and inactions of Baby Boomers.

For example, consider the federal budget deficit. We can federally print more money, with the current ideology being the Dire Straits song “Money for Nothing.” But that is a lie. The elderly profit from Medicare, Social Security, and large public pensions. And those are meritorious programs. But the generation benefiting from these programs should finance them. The pre-2017 projection of the total deficit in 20 years is about \$60 trillion in current dollars. These burdens on our children are now exacerbated by radical tax reductions and trillions in federal budget increases. And 2020 to 2022 promises trillions more. It is unclear and dubious that comparable revenues will finance these changes. And the Republican Party’s legitimate focus on deficits has taken a beating—with the Trump Administration violating his Party’s proper inclusion of this element. These preoccupations have all combined to create the largest ongoing financial obligation any human grouping has ever imposed on its successors. The deficit per family is likely to exceed \$600,000—requiring perhaps \$24,000 or more per family just to manage required interest. Where are these issues being discussed?

Another example of the extraordinary greed of current seniors is the

property tax system here in California. If my child or grandchild buys a house next-door to mine, with the same value as mine, he/she will pay ten or more times my property tax for the same services. That’s because under Proposition 13, the property tax rate is set at 1% of the initial market value, and any annual increase are capped at



2%. The longer someone stays in their home, the lower their effective tax rate will be in comparison to its market value. So because market values have increased many times beyond inflation since the enactment of Proposition 13, older Californians who bought their homes perhaps decades

ago pay just a fraction of the property tax that is imposed on new (typically younger) homebuyers.

The second major generational betrayal—global warming—is getting some attention now, and the Biden Administration promises more in 2021. CAI is quite proud of its sibling organization, the Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC); under the direction of Scott Anders, EPIC completes climate action plans for many cities striving to accomplish carbon reductions, holds an annual symposium featuring national environmental officials and experts, and uses that scholarship to help produce the nation’s first law review on global warming—the USD School of Law’s Journal of Climate and Energy Law.

#### **The COVID-19 Pandemic.**

We may never know the full impact and scope that COVID-19 is having on the physical and mental well-being of children and youth. Parents are struggling more than ever to adequately care for their children, facing stressful challenges such as unemployment, financial stress, social isolation, etc. Their children are seeing that, and are probably internalizing that stress themselves. And not surprisingly, such stressful situations are associated with an increased risk of child abuse and neglect. Combine that with the fact that children are being seen by far fewer mandated reporters than ever before, and the potential for undetected child maltreatment is at an all-time high.

I joined forces with Jessica Heldman, Fellmeth-Peterson Professor in Residence in Child Rights and USD School of Law Vice Dean Margaret Dalton to author a law review article published in 2020: *Covid-19 and Preventing Harm to Vulnerable Children*, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO LAW REVIEW, *Volume 57, No. 4, Fall 2020*. This article documents the special costs the pandemic has imposed on children with special needs, as well as those in the juvenile justice and dependency court systems. Included in the current failure are former foster children—categorically at risk and typically lacking self-sufficiency support. We describe below other efforts we made during 2020 to ameliorate the impact of COVID-19 on former foster youth, and to give them a fair chance to achieve self-sufficiency. Once again, and for the umpteenth time, these are not the children of other adults. They are literally and legally our children—yours and mine.

**Racial Injustice and Socioeconomic Inequities.** During 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic directed more attention to the underlying inequities and challenges facing certain populations of children and youth. For example, consider the staggering impact and scope of pandemic-related education disruptions. When K–12 programs transitioned to online learning platforms, how did that impact children in families that do not have internet access? With regard to students entitled to receive special education services and resources, many school districts simply disregarded their legal obligations. College campuses across the country closed their dorms and ordered students to go home—imagine how that impacted former foster youth who had no home to which they could return.



The year also provided a seemingly endless stream of racial injustices and social inequities, leading to renewed efforts to address disproportionality and disparities in the child welfare system—much of which stems from bias related to race and socioeconomic status (poverty). Addressing these issues is absolutely necessary, and child advocates have started to craft a comprehensive approach involving elements both within and beyond the child welfare system. Among other things, such efforts should call for a stronger emphasis on primary prevention, better training of child welfare professionals, increased funding, and enhanced quality, quantity, and capacity of community-driven services and networks that strengthen and support families and prevent child maltreatment.

During 2020, our Jessica Heldman conducted research in the area of racial disparities in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and submitted a proposal to present at the 2021 Children’s Legal Rights Journal Annual Symposium on the topic of racial discrimination and dual status youth. The proposal was accepted, followed by an invitation to publish an article on the topic in the Journal’s Fall 2021 issue.

Also during 2020, CAI adopted a statement on racial injustice, providing in part:

*Every individual, organization, and community must reflect upon their role in perpetuating racial injustice, and commit to serious action to combat it. This is the time to harness our collective outrage productively. The Children’s Advocacy Institute will continue to listen and learn, especially from youth, as we continue our own journey to achieve greater equity at all levels.*

*We will continue to unapologetically push policy makers and legislators to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of children of color and their families. We will work to increase opportunity for transition age foster youth, disproportionately youth of color, to achieve self-sufficiency and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. We will fight for access to justice and due process for court-involved children. We will work to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. We will fight the victimization of young students of color by predatory private for-profit institutions. We will not rest until there are no longer any babies or children killed by abuse and neglect.*

*Guided by love and fortified by indignation at the racial injustice pervading society, we rededicate ourselves to ensuring that every American child can grow up safe, loved, and free to thrive.*



**Looking forward to 2021.** In addition to continuing our work on the many projects described below, we anticipate major legislative work in 2021. At the state level, we anticipate sponsoring legislation to allow parental reunification consideration without mechanical foreclosure where there is some “resistance” to a drug treatment order; we believe some flexibility is appropriate given the profound consequence of parental termination. This would continue the parent’s obligation to break addiction, but would require a court to consider the totality of facts, and not automatically foreclose reunification based on one event that does not itself involve child harm. A second planned bill will enhance housing services for former foster youth. COVID-19 has made homelessness very commonplace among this population, and as their parent we should not relegate them to sleep in parks or homeless shelters. We shall also work for the independence of the Foster Care Ombudsperson, a position intended to check agency abuses. And we shall work for enact-

ment of the temporary restraining order bill discussed below in relation to commercially sexually exploited children. Finally, we shall work for at least a warning on red dye coloring that research increasingly establish has dangerous effect for children; in fact, such use in foods is now prohibited in Europe.

At the federal level, the Biden Administration opens the door (depending on filibuster blockage) to potential improvements in child protection. We anticipate a strong reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which has the potential to reframe and reshape our nation’s prevention of and response to child maltreatment. In addition, many efforts are underway to extend the child tax credit, expand the Chafee Independent Living Program, provide free or very low-cost postsecondary educational opportunities, and consider broader expansion of programs for universal basic income. The Biden Administration is focusing efforts across government to adopt and enact a wide array of federal reforms which will make big impacts in stabilizing families, reducing poverty and food insecurity, and acknowledging the unique perils faced by youth aging out of care and other at-risk young people. CAI is uniquely positioned to inform and engage with policymakers and Administration officials on these important policy priorities in DC via our National Policy Director Amy Harfeld.

**In Closing.** Civil libertarians discuss all sorts of rights that are properly respected, but not much is said with regard to the rights of children to be wanted, to be safe, and to be healthy. To close this message, I pose three questions highly relevant to the disgraceful incidence of child abuse and neglect in perhaps the wealthiest nation on earth:

- ◆ Why do we not recognize the right of a child to be intended by two adults?
- ◆ Why do we not include parenting education in our schools?
- ◆ Why do we not eliminate severe child poverty?

Those questions perpetually ring in our ears.

*Bob Fellmeth  
Price Professor of Public Interest Law  
CAI Executive Director  
University of San Diego School of Law*



# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Like everybody else, CAI had to shift some priorities and revise some standard operating procedures in 2020, in response to the challenges and limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, we maintained our robust academic, advocacy, and public education efforts and achieved some important wins for children and youth, as detailed below.

## Academic Program

**General Overview.** In addition to educating professionals on various child advocacy issues through conferences, trainings, and presentations, one of CAI's primary responsibilities is to educate the child advocates of the future. In 2020, CAI entered its fourth decade of teaching and training law students to be effective child advocates.

The USD School of Law is honored to have been endowed with the Fellmeth-Peterson Faculty Chair in Child Rights, which will assure the continuation of CAI as an educational part of USD and as an effective advocate for children. The chair is named in honor of Robert B. Fellmeth (father of CAI Executive Director Robert C. Fellmeth) and Paul Peterson, a longstanding supporter and inspiration for CAI from its beginning 30 years ago. In 2018, CAI was delighted to welcome USD School of Law

and CAI alumna Jessica Heldman back to USD as the holder of the Fellmeth-Peterson Professor in Residence in Child Rights.

CAI's teaching of *Child Rights and Remedies* has been a fixture of the USD School of Law for over three decades. The treatise for the course is CHILD RIGHTS AND REMEDIES, co-written by Prof. Fellmeth and Prof. Heldman (who also team-teach the course). Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, the text is been being considered for possible adoption and use by 65 professors at 44 different law schools across the nation; we hope to see widespread adoption of it as a text in 2021 and thereafter.

Our *Child Rights and Remedies* traditional lecture and discussion (with role playing) course is supplemented by CAI's Child Advocacy Clinic, which provides three unique clinical opportunities for our law students. Our Dependency and Delinquency clinics are court-based clinics that allow our students to have direct court participation as counsel in Juvenile Court proceedings, under the supervision of practicing attorneys. This allows students to introduce evidence, perform direct and cross examination of witnesses, draft and argue motions, make final arguments, *et al.* These two clinics require students to obtain a special certification by the State Bar through its Practical Training of Law Students program. We also provide a Policy Clinic that allows law students to work with CAI staff on a variety of real-world policy advocacy projects, including legislative and regulatory advocacy, test litigation, researching and drafting reports, etc.

Because of the interest in and importance of CAI's classes and clinics, the USD School of Law has designated "Child Rights" as a concentration that can be placed on the law school graduation diploma if students take a minimum number of units in our academic program and related offerings. An increasing number of law students are applying to the Law School seeking this concentration and graduating with this distinction, demonstrating their commitment to this educational focus.





Law students who graduated from our programs inspired us to create and expand our inspirational “Changemaker Wall.” Featured in our conference room, this display now features over fifty CPIL, CAI, and EPIC graduates engaged in public interest work. We added another five in 2020, with another 15 likely in 2021—a trend that is anticipated to continue. As a member of the Admissions Committee at the USD Law School reviewing hundreds of applications, Prof. Fellmeth sees substantial increases in expressed interest in public interest, environmental law and child advocacy. Indeed, an increasing number explicitly mention CAI as a reason for their selection of USD Law School.

**2020 Academic Highlights.** Starting in Spring 2020, our students showed tremendous resiliency and resolve in the face of the pandemic. Although forced to switch to a remote learning environment in March 2020, on extremely short notice, our students continued to excel at their studies and clinical internships.

In May 2020, CAI recognized nine graduating law students for their exceptional work on behalf of children and youth. CAI presented the 2020 James A. D’Angelo Outstanding Child Advocate Award to Reina Cruz, Molly Humphries, John LaCrosse, Helen Lockett, Helene Mayer, Heather Morse, Melanie Ryan, Francesca Sparaco, and Carson Williams. These students participated in CAI’s Child Advocacy Clinic and/or engaged in other child advocacy opportunities in which they protected and promoted the rights and interests of countless children and youth.

CAI presented the 2020 Joel and Denise Golden Merit Award in Child Advocacy to Shabnam Saadatkhah. This award is presented annually to a second-year law student who has already started to use his/her developing legal skills to benefit system-involved children. Even prior to starting her third year of law school, Shabnam made considerable contributions to the field of child advocacy, particularly in the area of juvenile justice.

And in Fall 2020, CAI welcomed a new class of students to its Child Rights & Remedies class and clinical offerings. Although continuing to be in a remote learning environment (which continued throughout the Spring 2021 semester as well), our students excelled in our course and clinics.



## Research, Advocacy and Public Education

**Juvenile Justice.** In 2020 Jessica Heldman and Melanie Delgado completed a report on the evolution of California's probation system for juveniles. The report was commissioned by the Chief Probation Officers of California, based on Professor Heldman's national reputation in juvenile justice. The report is expected to be released in 2021.

Also during 2020, CAI was selected by the Judicial Council of California (the administrative arm of the California Supreme Court) to prepare and present a 12-hour training program entitled "In Defense of Juveniles: What Delinquency Attorneys Need to Know about Working with and on Behalf of Youth." Juvenile justice is a complex and ever-evolving area of law, policy, and practice. Professionals working with and on behalf of children in delinquency cases require specialized skills, education, and training. Furthermore, children in these cases face potentially severe and enduring consequences as a result of involvement with the juvenile justice system. Juvenile defense attorneys are of critical importance in ensuring that juveniles receive the care, treatment, and guidance upon which the juvenile court system is premised.

During 2020 and 2021, CAI will present a total of six two-hour webinars as part of this series, followed

by a twelve-hour live presentation that will take place in 2022. "In Defense of Juveniles" provides instruction from a faculty of esteemed and experienced professionals on a broad scope of important topics. Participants will gain foundational knowledge about the purpose of the juvenile court as well as California delinquency statutes, case law and general court procedure. This training program will explore the duties and responsibilities of counsel for children and how these apply in various circumstances and stages of representation including pre-adjudication and post-disposition and when there is risk of transfer to adult court. The program will examine the most up to date research on adolescent brain development and offer strategies for effectively interviewing and counseling adolescents. Presenters will share information related to trauma, mental health, multi-system involvement,

racial bias and other circumstances presenting challenges for youth in order to promote research-based and culturally competent representation.

A key aspect of the juvenile justice system is the multi-disciplinary nature of the process. Therefore, sessions within this program offer training on topics relevant to the work of child welfare agencies and probation departments as well as attorneys and judges.

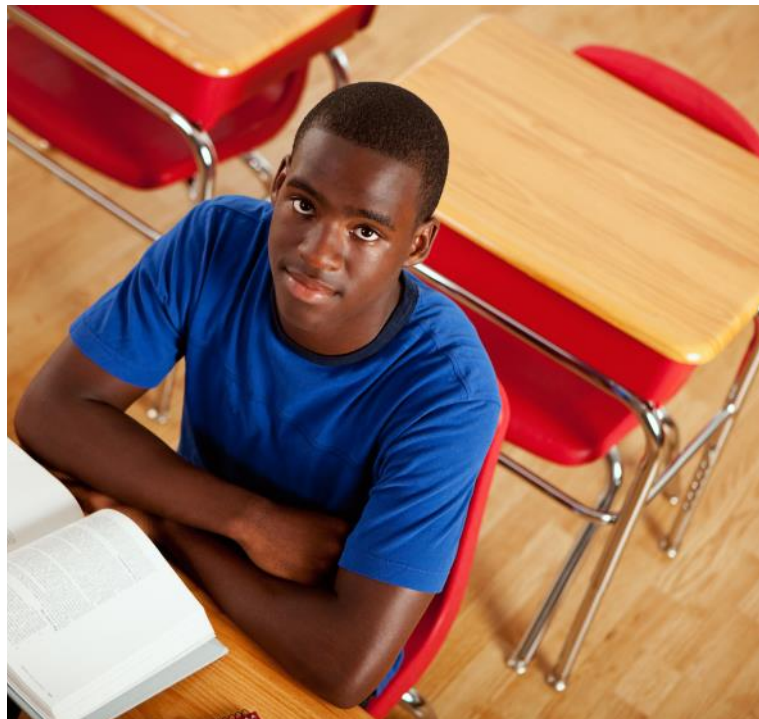
In November 2020, we presented the first two-hour webinar entitled, "Introduction to Juvenile Court and the Role of the Juvenile Defender," with the Hon. Roger Chan and Jo Pastore, JD, presenting. The webinar was attended by almost 300 professionals.



**Championing A Child’s Right to Counsel.** Each abused and neglected child involved in judicial proceedings should be represented by his/her own attorney. These children are hardly in a position to represent themselves, and the impact of these judicial proceedings is momentous—the court acts as the “legal parent” of the child, deciding who will raise the child, where he/she will live and go to school, and who he/she may see. Regrettably, many children are sent to group home settings where they are raised by employees (who often work for for-profit entities). But instead of providing attorneys to all abused and neglected children, some states provide only court appointed special advocates or lay legal guardians; while well-intentioned, these individuals are untrained in the law and are not able to ascertain or argue applicable law, subpoena witnesses or examine them effectively, bring motions, *et al.*

Not only is the child’s constitutional liberty at stake and basic due process at issue here, but appointing minor’s counsel is the smart move for courts. According to multiple studies, ensuring high quality legal representation to children results in a more expeditious proceeding, with children spending less time in foster care, expedited permanency for children, and reduced court and state costs. Furthermore, the importance of procedural justice for system-involved children ensures that the children at the center of the case feel that their experience and voice were valued and considered by the judge.

Advocating for a child’s right to counsel has long been a high priority for CAI, which has also supported the work done on this issue by the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC), the ABA Center on Children and the Law, and Children’s Rights, a New York-based child advocacy law firm. We were heartened by a 2005 victory obtained by Children’s Rights in *Kenny A.*, where the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia held that foster children have a constitutional right to counsel as a part of basic due process. But because the opinion is not at the circuit level (Georgia did not appeal), it is without force in any other state. A circuit court holding would have a dramatically broad impact, including the dozen states still lacking that basic due process for children. Our goal is to establish that right nationally. Accordingly, we filed *Nicole K.* in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana—a state with one of the worst systems of due process for foster children (providing no attorney for the child). We filed on behalf of classes of Indiana foster children, with named class representatives spawning the breadth of due process failures and harmful consequences. During 2020, a hostile district court simply declared that this was a matter for states only and entered a dismissal based on “abstention”—without hearing or considering any of the evidence. It is ironic that a rather basic duty of a federal court is to compel compliance with the U.S. Constitution where there is “state action.” The fact that the state is abridging federal provisions rather commends its consideration—that is the very purpose of these courts. We appealed this decision to the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit covering Indiana, but are concerned about the assigned circuit court panel. CAI, along with co-counsel DeLaney & DeLaney and with *pro bono* assistance from the leading national firm of Morrison & Foerster, will continue to pursue this litigation through 2021.



The national momentum toward the recognition of a child’s right to counsel in dependency cases has continued to grow past a tipping point for reform. After publication of four editions of CAI’s report card, *A Child’s Right to Counsel*, by the end of 2020 approximately 35 states required the appointment of counsel for children. Nearly half of all states are drawing down federal IV-E funds to help reimburse the states for this legal representation. More states are slated to advance a right to counsel for children and take up these available funds to pay for it.



For the first time ever, there is bipartisan interest in the Senate in amending current statutory provisions in CAPTA to once and for all clarify that in order for all parties to participate in the case on equal footing and have their legal rights and interests protected, all parties to the case must have independent attorney representation. Clarifying that the roles of children's attorneys and non-attorney volunteer GALs may be complementary but are not interchangeable is a critical step to acknowledging the will of states, of stakeholders, and of youth themselves.

Also during 2020, CAI's National Policy Director Amy Harfeld:

- ★ partnered with the new federal transition aged foster youth coalition to engage youth with lived experience in foster care and support inclusion of a right to counsel in the enumerated priorities of the National Foster Care and Youth Policy Council;
- ★ engaged in national efforts to identify and promote ways to utilize Family First and a recent federal IV-E policy change (allowing states to seek partial reimbursement for minor's counsel expenses) to expand legal representation for children in dependency proceedings, such as strategizing around best practices with regard to providing pre-petition legal representation;
- ★ worked with the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions to press for amendments to CAPTA to ensure that young adults participating in extended foster care receive legal representation; and
- ★ partnered with NACC in helping to revise its Right to Counsel policy guidance, and supported the work of the Family Justice Initiative, the new Right to Counsel National Campaign, and the National Coalition on a Civil Right to Counsel.



**Protecting Postsecondary Student Consumers.** During 2020, we continued our aggressive efforts to stop the exploitation of students by many private for-profit colleges that deceive prospective students, receive public financing for 80% or more of their revenue, and expend little on education but millions on marketing and executive compensation. Of greatest concern, the abusers among them have created an underclass of former students lacking useful education or job opportunity—but facing debt from unpaid loans that are not easily quashed, even by personal bankruptcy. Some of our 2020 work on this issue included the following:

- ★ ***Sustained Investigative Reporting on Predatory Practices by Postsecondary Schools.*** During 2020, CAI consultant David Halperin published numerous investigative articles drawing on whistleblower accounts and revealing predatory practices and abuses at schools including Perdoceo's AIU and CTU, Ashford University, Keiser University, Florida Career College, Dream Center, and the Carl Barney schools. He also has provided information and analysis for other media outlets, such as a US News piece detailing internal strategy by for-profit college lobbyists. His reports and policy analyses are widely read by key members of Congress and other policy makers, accreditors, and executives and employees in the for-profit college industry, and have been operationalized by David and advocacy groups to press the DOE, the VA, state attorneys general, accreditors, private lawyers, and others to take action against predatory schools. In November, as he worked with student advocacy groups to prepare a new agenda for the Biden era, he published an article laying out a blueprint for federal policy and oversight reforms.

- ★ ***Preservation of Calbright.*** During 2020, CAI Senior Policy Advocate Ed Howard helped defend Calbright, California’s online community college, from a withering attack launched by teacher union opponents, which had asked the Legislature to entirely defund the program. This position initially found support from union-friendly legislators, those concerned with the failure of its first (now departed) president, and those looking for budget savings during the recession. Preserving Calbright with just a modest cut was a major accomplishment.
  
- ★ ***Protecting Postsecondary Student Consumers Webinar Series.*** We planned on hosting a 2020 summit of state and national leaders to address abuses by private for-profit colleges. Due to COVID-19, however, we pivoted and instead created a more extensive and far-reaching series of seven online events involving virtual presentations and interactive discussions on important and timely issues. CAI Senior Staff Attorney Melanie Delgado developed the following webinars: *The Consumer Protection Needs of Veteran and Service Member Students*, presented by Carrie Wofford (Oct. 2020); *The Nov. 2020 Election Outcomes: Where Do Student Advocates Go From Here?*, presented by David Bender and Ed Howard (Nov. 2020); *Model State Programs: How Can States Enact Laws to Adequately Protect Students?*, presented by Dariya Brown, Angela Perry, and Ramond Curtis (Dec. 2020); *The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA): What You Need to Know and How It Impacts Student Protections* (Jan. 2021); *How Advocates Can Work with the Media to Effect Change and Protect Postsecondary Students* (Feb. 2021); *Litigation as a Tool to Protect Postsecondary Students* (Mar. 2021); and *Protecting Students from Innovations in Predatory Lending* (Apr. 2021). These webinars will be recorded and made available for viewing on CAI’s website.
  
- ★ ***Legislative Success and Efforts.*** CAI successfully supported AB 70 (Berman) (Ch. 153, Stat. of 2020), which defines what constitutes a “nonprofit corporation” and “public institution of higher education” in California, an essential step in developing a standard for what a college must demonstrate in order to claim to be a nonprofit or public institution—thus preventing covert for-profit institutions from evading state oversight and deceiving students. CAI’s pre-COVID strategy of leveraging sunset review of the BPPE to secure identified reforms was put on hold when the Business & Professions Committee halted all sunset reviews, postponing them until 2021. Even so, CAI was the leader in trying—unsuccessfully and virtually alone — to secure passage of these reforms through any means alternative legislative means possible, spending time and political capital, for example, attempting to push the sunset review reforms forward through the budget. While that effort was unsuccessful, it is a hallmark of CAI’s relentlessness and passion to protect student consumers.
  
- ★ ***Bringing 90/10 Reform to California.*** With much of the 2020 legislative year snarled because of COVID-19, and the postponement of Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) Sunset Review to 2022, we began the work of bringing 90-10 reform to California. The 90-10 rule refers to a federal regulation that governs for-profit higher education. It caps the percentage of revenue that a school can receive from federal financial aid sources at 90%, and requires that the other 10% of revenue must come from alternative sources; the rule is intended to keep schools from being completely dependent on public subsidy for their revenue. However, schools can evade the rule because the required limit on public money of no more than 90% does not include all federal money, separating out the generous Title 38 funds for veterans and public Department of Education related funds for students. This longstanding lack of coordination between the separate committees controlling the Department of Education and Title 38 for veterans, respectively, has allowed 100% of a school’s revenues to come from public federal money. Understanding that California-based reform in this area must include veterans as a prominent face of the effort, CAI Senior Policy Advocate Ed Howard collaborated with Veterans Education Success, as well as the lead lobbyist for veterans groups in California, to lay the groundwork for making this a sponsored priority for 2021.





★ ***Leveraging Reform to the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement.*** In 2020, we continued our efforts to limit the abuses of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) that now clouds remedy and prevention in 49 states—with only California refusing to participate. Among other things, CAI followed up on its 2019 successful advocacy leading to the enactment of AB 1344 (Bauer-Kahan), which, contrary to SARA, requires rigorous and unprecedented pre-screening of online offerings beginning in 2022. During 2020, we engaged in efforts to leverage further changes to California law in exchange for reforms to SARA by those controlling it.

**Eliminating Private For-Profit Foster Care Providers.** On a related note, CAI, First Star, and Children’s Rights served as expert advisers for the motion picture “Foster Boy” starring Matthew Modine and Louis Gossett Jr., and featuring Shaquille O’Neal as one of the movie’s executive producers. The film explores the plight of the more than 440,000 foster children in the U.S., many of whom live in states where foster care is handled by private, for-profit companies that may not have the children’s best interest as their first priority. The collaboration was spearheaded by First Star’s Executive Director Peter Samuelson, an experienced Hollywood producer, and another of the film’s executive producers.

Released in 2020, the film received critical acclaim. First Star, CAI, and Children’s Rights are now focusing on the entire elimination of these commercial, profit-focused placements. Among other efforts, the organizations are publishing op-eds and lobbying the new federal admin-

istration to address this issue. For more information on Foster Boy and the foster care system, please visit [fosterboy.com](https://fosterboy.com).

**Eliminating Child Abuse & Neglect Deaths and Near Deaths.** CAI’s longstanding efforts to eliminate child abuse and neglect deaths and near deaths, and to improve the timely and meaningful public disclosure of findings and information about such incidents, has been well documented in our previous Annual Reports. Among other things, CAI has played a leadership role in efforts to enhance data collection, accountability, and disclosure of information about these tragic cases because such information gives advocates a rare opportunity to determine what systemic changes are warranted to keep children safe. Our work on this issue continues to be essential, however, as over 3,000 U.S. children die annually as a result of abuse and neglect; that is more children than die annually from all childhood cancers combined.

CAPTA, the primary federal law relating to fatality and near fatality prevention and accountability regarding fatalities, was up for Congressional reauthorization in 2020. CAI provided extensive technical support to Senate staff regarding needed improvements to the law including strengthened statutory text, more robust funding, and more explicit accountability measures. Many of CAI’s proposed recommendations for reauthorization were adopted and passed through the Senate HELP Committee on a bipartisan basis. This includes an entire new section of the law, Title III, exclusively directed at preventing fatalities and near fatalities. At this writing, reauthorization is still pending and CAI continues to press for adoption of these important new provisions in the final bill.



In addition to advocacy around CAPTA reauthorization, CAI worked with bipartisan Senate leadership to introduce the Child Abuse Death and Disclosure Act which would create greater clarity around definitions, lead to more robust and reliable data, and provide greater accountability for state action to prevent fatalities. Further, CAI worked with House Appropriations staff to include language in the 2021 and 2022 Labor-HHS Appropriations Report to call out the Administration for Children and Families for their weak role in oversight and enforcement, and requiring an additional channel of reporting back to Congress on compliance with disclosure requirements.

In 2020, CAI was pleased to support the creation of the first ever public/private philanthropic partnership to reimagine what a primary prevention-focused child welfare system looks like. The partnership, called Thriving Families, Safer Children, brings together the U.S. Children’s Bureau, Prevent Child Abuse America, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Casey Family Programs, to prove that it is possible to fundamentally rethink how child welfare systems function to prioritize strengthening families and building resiliency, rather than separating families. The initiative seeks to demonstrate that intentional, coordinated investment in a full continuum of prevention and robust community-based networks of support will promote overall child and family well-being, equity, and other positive outcomes for children and families. It is rooted in the recognition that all families need help sometimes and that seeking help is a sign of strength and resiliency.



**Stopping the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.** The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) is a national problem, with California—and San Diego specifically—major sites of abuse. CAI’s past work in this area has included helping to stop the criminalization of child victims, moving away from the regrettable practice of arresting and prosecuting them as “child prostitutes.” We prevailed in that effort several years ago, but there is continued work to be done to protect exploited children. It can be a long and difficult process for young victims to disentangle themselves from those who have abused them, and their abusers often continue to prey on them as they work to reclaim their lives. To protect these youth, CAI drafted legislation to ensure judges and prosecutors consider imposing a temporary restraining order barring all communications, either directly or through third parties, between any child victim and any perpetrator charged with their exploitation. In addition to drafting the measure during 2020, we worked hard to build a strong backing from supporters such as the San Diego and Sacramento District Attorney’s Offices and numerous anti-trafficking organizations. The measure will be introduced and considered during the 2021–22 legislative session.

Also during 2020, CAI co-sponsored a summit to mobilize various USD units and San Diego advocates working to combat human trafficking; this effort was spearheaded by Professor Ami Carpenter of USD’s Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, who researched a leading report on sex trafficking in San Diego.

The “Stopping Traffick” summit, the first step in establishing and defining USD’s role in the battle to fight human trafficking, took place on January 29–30, 2020. More than 100 participants attended, each bringing a usefully different lens, from business, technology, social science, education, law, politics, social justice, and health care, among others. Participants educated each other about the root causes of human trafficking, identified gaps in identification and prevention, developed innovative new solutions, and advanced a multi-disciplinary approach to address human trafficking.



Following up on the summit, Prof. Carpenter and CAI's Melanie Delgado teamed up to launch Partners Against eXploitation (PAX), a USD-led initiative to prevent human trafficking and other forms of exploitation through advocacy, education, and cross-sector partnerships. PAX work is evidence-based and grounded in the social justice values of equity, co-creation and diversity. The PAX Initiative, which is part of USD's Urgent Challenges Collective, is a complex partnership that brings together the campus-wide community of students, faculty and staff changemakers who have established expertise on issues as well as policymakers, advocates and those with lived experiences, and provides funding and assistance with innovative projects aimed at addressing various aspects of human trafficking.

Also in 2020, CAI entered into an agreement with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice to provide technical assistance to the state of Delaware, supporting the state's efforts to identify and implement the use of a screening tool to identify children in the child welfare and juvenile justice system who are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. CAI will continue its partnership with this national organization, providing technical assistance to additional states and local jurisdictions in 2021.

**Protecting the Privacy Interests of Children and Youth.** In 2020, CAI sponsored AB 2008 (Cunningham), which would have provided that where parental consent is required by law, it shall not be obtained through the minor. This measure was a response to the regrettable fact that many websites allow minors to self-certify that their parent consents to the minors' access to the sites—and once such "consent" is provided, the sites use the minors' information, postings, images, etc., for their own commercial purposes. Such a measure was urgently needed in 2020, when the pandemic drove children to spend more time online than ever before. Regrettably, the measure was not enacted in 2020, but CAI will renew this effort in 2021.

### **Protecting Children of Asylum-Seeking Parents.**

During 2020, CAI successfully concluded its litigation against the major immigration agencies (the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Office of Refugee Resettlement), all of which failed to comply with CAI's requests under the federal Freedom of Information Act for information about the condition and treatment of children detained at the border. The agencies refused to respond in good faith to any of the eight requests made, so we filed suit in 2019 to compel production, and in 2020 we prevailed. The agencies were required to produce hundreds of pages of documents that detailed many concerning aspects regarding not only child separation from families, but their common movement to impersonal facilities clear across the country (most of them east of the Mississippi). Following the successful conclusion of our case, the court awarded attorneys' fees to our *pro bono* team from Sheppard Mullin (which was led by our former student Travis Anderson, now a partner at the firm)—and Sheppard Mullin generously redirected those fees to CAI.



### **Improving Permanency Outcomes for Abused and Neglected Children.**

In addition to selecting CAI to present a training program for attorneys and other professionals working with youth in juvenile justice proceedings, in 2020 the Judicial Council of California also selected CAI to prepare and present a training program for professionals engaged in Dependency Court practice. Entitled “The Pursuit of Permanency: The First 90 Days,” this 12-hour training program presents promising and effective practices and strategies to positively impact permanency efforts and outcomes, with a special focus on the first 90 days of a child welfare case. For purposes of this training program, the term permanency means permanent connections for children and youth—which can be in the form of reunification or finding another permanent home, and includes connections to the child’s biological family, neighborhood, and culture. This training is intended for judicial officers, attorneys, child welfare professionals, probation officers, tribal representatives and advocates, community advocates, CASAs, and other interested persons, and is offered at no cost to the participants.



During 2020, CAI compiled the curriculum and presented a pilot presentation that took place in June; although originally scheduled to be an in-person presentation, we instead presented it on a virtual platform due to COVID-19. The session was extremely well-attended and

well-received, with attendees learning about topics such as the Cornerstone Advocacy approach to child welfare cases; pre-detention activities and how they impact permanency; advocating for reunification during the first stages of dependency; ethical considerations and obligations during the first 90 days of a child welfare case; inquiry and notice and placement issues specific to Indian and Native American children and families; finding permanency for older youth; recent policy changes impacting permanency during the first 90 days; and bias in the child welfare system and how it impacts permanency efforts.

Also during 2020, CAI developed a distance learning version of The Pursuit of Permanency, which will allow attorneys and others to view individual segments of the training components online at their convenience; that curriculum is now available for viewing through CAI’s website. In addition to the topics discussed above, the distance learning curriculum also includes a segment on neurodevelopmentally-informed decision making during the first 90 days of a child welfare case.

During 2021, CAI will present two additional offerings of the 12-hour live, virtual training program, and in 2022 we hope to present four in-person, regional offerings throughout the state.

**Protecting the Interests of Former Foster Youth During COVID-19 and Beyond.** During 2020, CAI’s National Policy Director Amy Harfeld worked closely with a new coalition of young people with lived experience and advocacy groups nationwide to press aggressively for meaningful inclusions in relief support for transition age foster youth. This new coalition has actively engaged with the new Administration through both the White House and the Administration on Children and Families. This effort led to the December 2020 enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which contains the provisions of HR 7947, the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, and provides significant assistance to young people with experience in foster care during the pandemic by, among other things, increasing the allocation of Chafee postsecondary educational funds by \$400 million, including at least \$50 million for Education and Training Vouchers (ETV); expanding Chafee program eligibility and flexibility by increasing the age of eligibility for Chafee services and ETV through a young person’s 26<sup>th</sup> year and providing several flexibilities to the Chafee and ETV program; making continued place-

ment and services available to youth ages 18 until reaching age 22 by prohibiting states from terminating foster care placement and services due to age; requiring that states provide reentry into foster care to youth who aged out during the pandemic and are under age 22; allowing states to draw down IV-E funds for youth until age 22 for the purpose of continuing foster care services and providing re-entry; and allowing young people to retain IV-E eligibility even if they are not able to meet the participation requirements (school and work) for extended foster care and reentry. This relief has shielded countless youth from food insecurity, homelessness, and health crises over the last year. Efforts continue to extend some of these benefits and opportunities beyond pandemic relief to become permanent.

Also during 2020, CAI Senior Staff Attorney Melanie Delgado worked with San Diego County officials interested in launching a pilot program of CAI's Transition Life Coach (TLC) model, which would help transition age foster youth develop financial literacy skills, attain safe and appropriate housing, pursue education and career goals, and transition into adulthood with the tools they need to be self-sufficient and successful. CAI will continue to work with County officials and advocate for the County's launch of a pilot TLC program.

Also, CAI presented a webinar for the National Association of Counsel for Children, providing information about laws and resources available to transition age foster youth and how attorneys can access these resources. The webinar focused primarily on housing and on preserving benefits.

**Fostering Fairness.** Related to the work described above, in 2020 CAI was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Schultz Family Foundation to launch Fostering Fairness, a peer-to-peer education campaign that will raise awareness of the unfair policies that impede former foster youths' attempts to attain financial stability. Ironically, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are facing serious challenges, such as unemployment, housing uncertainty, and financial insecurity. For youth aging out of foster care, these challenges are nothing new. These and other obstacles are commonplace for transition age foster youth, in great part due to policies that inhibit their ability to attain self-sufficiency after leaving care. The goal of Fostering Fairness is to enable former foster youth to edu-



cate their peers about these barriers and facilitate advocacy to remove them.

As part of Fostering Fairness, CAI joined forces with youth experts with lived foster care experience to create an informative, engaging, and interactive online resource that will feature stories of former foster youth whose paths to self-sufficiency have been blocked by unfair and arbitrary laws and policies; key data points on the outcomes of former foster youth, vis-à-vis young adults with no foster care experience; an array of practical solutions for removing these barriers and impediments; and tools that can be activated to voice support for the removal of these impediments.

The Schultz Family Foundation's grant to CAI is part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Voices for Economic Opportunity Grand Challenge, an initiative supported by eight philanthropic organizations. The Challenge is designed to dispel misconceptions about poverty and opportunity and to replace them with the factual accounts and stories of those who experience it. With tens of millions of Americans unemployed due to COVID-19, and a nation plagued by racism and injustice, the need to listen to those impacted by poverty and create a shared understanding of the structural barriers to economic mobility is greater than ever.

CAI's proposal was one of just 28 selected for funding from more than 1,200 ideas submitted nationwide.



**Continuation of Core Activities—and Creation of a New One.** During 2020, CAI continued its core activities, including briefings with our CAI Council for Children (see page xx)—which both guides and inspires us—and the publication of our annual *California Children’s Legislative Report Card*. Other longstanding activities include the following:

We continued to participate in the governance of major national and regional organizations, including the Partnership for America’s Children (now in 42 states), where CAI’s Bob Fellmeth serves on the Board, as counsel, and—as of 2020—as Chair of its Policy Committee; Public Citizen, First Star, the Maternal and Child Health Access Foundation, and the National Association of Counsel for Children, where CAI’s Amy Harfeld serves on the Board. We have continued as active members of the National Child Abuse Coalition, the National Mental Health and Child Welfare Coalition, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, the Child Tax Credit Coalition, the Families Over Facilities collaborative, and the newly formed Transition Age Foster Youth National Coalition. Also, in 2020 we became active in the California Coalition for the Safety of

Children’s Health (CCSCH), headed by CAI’s former policy advocate Steve Barrow. CCSCH is active in improving swimming pool safety, bike safety, and many other child safety causes, with CAI serving as its legal adviser.

The **Price Child Health and Welfare Journalism Awards**, administered by CAI since 1992, recognize excellence in journalism—specifically, significant stories, series, or bodies of work that advance the understanding of, and enhance public discourse on, child health and well-being issues, including but not limited to health, health care reform, child nutrition, child safety, child poverty, child care, education, child abuse, foster care, former foster youth, juvenile justice, and children with special needs. In 2020, the selection committee focused on journalistic works that revealed the impact that the pandemic was having on children and youth. The 2020 Price Child Health and Welfare Journalism Awards were presented to Elizabeth Aguilera of CalMatters, for several pandemic-related articles; the Imprint, for its July 2019–June 2021 coverage of child welfare and juvenile justice in a time of pandemic; and Richard Winton of the Los Angeles Times, for two pandemic-related articles.



In 2020, CAI's Melanie Delgado convened four meetings of our **Children's Advocates Roundtable** (one in person in Sacramento, and three virtually over Zoom). The Roundtable, established by CAI in 1990, is an affiliation of statewide and local children's policy organizations, representing over twenty issue disciplines (e.g., child abuse prevention, child care, education, poverty, housing, juvenile justice). The Roundtable provides a setting where advocates gather to share resources and information and strategize on behalf of children; an opportunity to educate each other about the variety of issues and legislation that affect children and youth—facilitating prioritization of issues and minimizing infighting over limited state resources historically budgeted for children's programs; an opportunity to collaborate on joint projects that promote the interests of children and families; and a setting to foster a children's political movement, committed to ensuring that every child in California is economically secure, get a good education, has access to health care, and lives in a safe environment. Topics discussed during 2020 Roundtables included transitional housing for former foster youth; the 2020 census; implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and youth; the 2020 California budget; the pandemic's impact on CSEC and how advocates are responding; addressing the resurgence of for-profit colleges and the dangers to vulnerable youth; the evolution of the juvenile justice system; and the child welfare, immigration, and healthcare outlook following the 2020 election.

During 2020, CAI launched a new effort that we hope will become one of our core activities. Under the supervision of Jessica Heldman, we are compiling model state statutes that have been enacted with regard to a wide variety of issue areas (child welfare, juvenile justice, education, health, etc.). We are also building a website that will house these model statutes, making them available for advocates across the country to reference and use as templates in their own work. This project, which is being undertaken in conjunction with Partnership for America's Children (PAC) new policy committee, has an important underlying rationale. The PAC has child advocate organization members in 42 state capitols, but outstanding and successful state statutes benefitting children are not adequately promoted between jurisdictions. A website with both the text and the evidence attending these laws will ideally provide the opportunity for national dissemination of policies that can be replicated in numerous state legislatures.





# OUR FUNDERS

We thank those who make our work possible, and in particular, the late Sol and Helen Price; Robert and Allison Price and their family; the late Paul A. Peterson and his family; and Louise Horvitz. Their vision of what we should be remains our charted course. We are also grateful to our Council for Children and our Dean and colleagues on the faculty, many of whom contribute to CAI.

We are also thankful for the generous grants, gifts, and other funding contributed or directed to CAI by the following individuals and organizations between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, or in response to CAI's 2020 holiday solicitation. CAI is fortunate to have the personal backing of many highly respected individuals. Together, these funds support CAI's advocacy, outreach, and public education efforts at the local, state, and federal levels; without them—*without you*—CAI would not be able to do what we do.

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Shay Barnes

Jenny Bates

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Lori Guardiano-Durkin *in memory of David Durkin*





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 John Thelan

Stephen M. Tillery

James Topper *in memory of Merle Topper*

Edmund Ursin

Nancy Vaughan

Kim Washington

Carrie Wilson

Adam Woellert

Marjorie & Ya-Ping Zhou

Jake Zindulka

*While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, we apologize for any mistakes or omissions.*

*A final note about Sol and Helen Price, that we have repeated each year, and which we shall continue to repeat. Their passing will never diminish our duty to represent their ideals for child representation — we strive to be an important part of their legacy. All of us at CAI feel their presence, and what they would want us to do is our guiding lodestar.*

*And as noted in our dedication, we are equally grateful to the late Paul Peterson and his entire family. Like the Price family, the Peterson family has been a crucial part of our history, and their generosity has been instrumental in allowing us to protect and promote the interests of children and youth, now and into the future.*



# COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN

CAI is guided by the Council for Children, an advisory body that meets periodically to review policy decisions and recommend action priorities. Its members are professionals and community leaders who share a vision to improve the quality of life for children in California. CAI is also honored to have former Council members who served for many years remain a part of the Council as emeritus members. Accordingly, the CAI Council for Children includes the following:

**Council Chair:** Gary F. Redenbacher, J.D.  
*Attorney at law*

**Council Vice-Chair:** Gary Richwald, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Chief Medical Officer, Reel Health*

**Council Members:** Bill Bentley  
*Child Advocate*

Denise Moreno Ducheny  
*Attorney, Former State Senator*

Anne E. Fragasso, Esq.  
*California Appellate Project, Staff Attorney*

John M. Goldenring, M.D., M.P.H., J.D.  
*Health Plan Medical Director, Pediatrician and Adolescent Medicine specialist, and attorney at law*

Hon. Leon S. Kaplan  
*Retired Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court*

David M. Meyers  
*Chief Operating Officer, Dependency Legal Services*

Thomas A. Papageorge, J.D.  
*Special Prosecutor, Economic Crimes Division, San Diego District Attorney's Office*

Gloria Perez Samson  
*Retired school administrator*

Ann Segal  
*Consultant*

John Thelan  
*Senior Vice President, Costco Wholesale*







**Emeritus Members:**

Robert Black, M.D.<sup>†</sup>

Birt Harvey, M.D.

*Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus, Stanford University*

Louise Horvitz, M.S.W., Psy.D.

*Licensed clinical social worker, individual and family psychotherapist*

James B. McKenna<sup>†</sup>

Paul A. Peterson, J.D.<sup>†</sup>

Blair L. Sadler, J.D.

*Past President and Chief Executive Officer, Children's Hospital and Health Center*

Alan E. Shumacher, M.D., F.A.A.P.

*Retired neonatologist; Past President of the Medical Board of California; President, Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States*

Owen Smith

*Past President, Anzalone & Associates*

<sup>†</sup>Deceased

# STAFF

During 2020 CAI was extremely fortunate to have the following passionate and dedicated team of employees, all of whom contributed greatly to the work CAI did — and the achievements CAI made on behalf of children and youth across the state and nation:

**Executive Director:**

Robert C. Fellmeth  
*Price Professor of Public Interest Law*

**CAI Team:**

Tina Calvert  
*Executive Assistant*

Melanie Delgado  
*Senior Staff Attorney / Director of Transition Age Youth Projects*

Katie Gonzalez  
*Assistant Director, Public Interest Law Communications*

Amy Harfeld  
*National Policy Director / Senior Staff Attorney*

Jessica Heldman  
*Fellmeth-Peterson Professor in Residence in Child Rights*

Ed Howard  
*Senior Counsel / Senior Policy Advocate*

Elisa Weichel  
*Administrative Director / Senior Staff Attorney*





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# HELP CAI HELP KIDS

We greatly appreciate your continued support of CAI's work. Here are a few different ideas for how you can help us help kids:

- ★ Make a tax-deductible donation to CAI online at [law.sandiego.edu/caigift](http://law.sandiego.edu/caigift) or for other donation options, contact us by phone or email (see below).
- ★ Participate in meetings of the **Children's Advocates' Roundtable** and/or follow the Roundtable activities on Facebook.
- ★ Volunteer to serve as an **Educational Rights Holder** for a San Diego County Juvenile Court-involved student.
- ★ For attorneys involved in class actions that result in a **cy pres distribution**, identify CAI as a potential recipient.
- ★ Subscribe to **E-NewsNotes**, periodic emails from CAI about important legislative or regulatory proposals, significant litigation, new reports and publications, and other important events that impact the health and well-being of California's children.
- ★ Join **Lawyers for Kids**, which gives attorneys, law students, and others in the legal community the opportunity to use their talents and resources as advocates to promote the health, safety, and well-being of children; assist CAI's policy advocacy program; and work with CAI staff on impact litigation or by offering expertise in drafting amicus curiae briefs.
- ★ Make CAI your charity of choice when using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to conduct online searches or [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) when shopping online. GoodSearch is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates about a penny per search to CAI each time you use it to search the Internet. GoodShop is an online shopping mall which donates up to 30% of each purchase to CAI. Hundreds of vendors — stores, hotels, airlines, and other goods and service providers — are part of GoodShop, and every time you place an order, part of your purchase price will go directly to CAI!
- ★ Purchase a **California Kids' Plate**, a special license plate featuring one of four special symbols: a star, a hand, a plus sign, or a heart. Proceeds support local and statewide programs to prevent child injury and abuse, as well as childcare health and safety programs.
- ★ Review the list of CAI's legislative priorities currently pending at the state and federal levels (see [www.caichildlaw.org](http://www.caichildlaw.org)) and express support to your elected officials.



**For information on these opportunities and all of CAI's activities,  
please visit CAI's website at [www.caichildlaw.org](http://www.caichildlaw.org),  
email us at [info@caichildlaw.org](mailto:info@caichildlaw.org), or call us at (619) 260-4806.**





