



Children's Advocacy Institute
2022 Annual Report





This annual report covers the activities of the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI)
between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

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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HISTORY AND PURPOSE

In 1989, Professor Robert C. Fellmeth founded the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) as part of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego (USD) School of Law. In 2021, the Center for Public Interest Law was renamed the Consumer Protection Policy Center (CPPC), and CPPC, CAI, and the Energy Policy Initiatives Center (EPIC) are now all part of the Centers for Public Interest Law (CPIL).

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 CPPC 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 over 30 years ago. Nationally renowned child advocate (and CAI alumna) Jessica Heldman holds the Chair, serving as Fellmeth-Peterson Associate Professor in Child Rights.

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



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Political Failure of the Utmost Shame: The Fate of Our Own Children. The most important criteria for judging our political system is the legacy we leave for those who follow us. Our forefathers had serious flaws, particularly in their treatment of women and non-white people. But many of them risked all of their possessions and even their lives to assure the creation of a democracy rather than rule by a king. We honor those who achieved that birth 250 years ago. But it is unclear how our nation will be regarded 250 years from now. The answer will be the legacy we leave to our children and their grandchildren and their grandchildren for generations to come. Signs glaringly indicate that we will not look good.

Let's start with child poverty. As one of the wealthiest nations on earth, our children should not experience the harms of poverty—and yet about 15% of American children live in poverty, with almost half of those children living in extreme poverty. This is more than the children in many nations, from Czechia to Finland to Austria. The U.S. briefly offered a child tax credit of a modest \$2,500 per child under 6 years of age, which reduced child poverty by nearly a half in just two years. But in spite of its wild success, it was abandoned.

The cost of higher education has been skyrocketing for decades and student debt is at record levels. Its rise resembles housing prices, not modest inflation at all. Many schools now charge above \$50,000 per year. These sky-high prices are not set competitively at all but are rather, as dynamic scholars call it, based on the “cuisinart effect.” That was a vertical price fixing violation based on the appliance maker contending that retailers who lower its price implies that it is not superior to its competitors—and so it unlawfully cut off retailers not charging a high price. Universities do the same thing: We are a better school so we have to charge at least \$50k. In fact, this inflated tuition is then used to grant reductions and scholarships to many students persuaded they are special. And then we have the private for-profit sector—with schools like (the now defunct) Trump University and many, many more collecting tuition and massive federal and state subsidies for a huge number of students—but failing to give students income generating abilities to match the expenses they incurred. It has been a horrendous industry sector scandal well-exposed in many investigative journalism pieces by fearless journalists and advocates like David Halperin.

Then we get to child death and injury. We have made critical progress—thanks to Ralph Nader, Joan Claybrook, and other consumer legends in auto safety. So now what's the largest cause of death of our children and youth? Gun violence. This is all justified by a self-dealing industry and its supporters who point to a Constitutional amendment to allow arms for purposes of a “militia”—when such arms consisted of a blunderbuss capable of firing a small lead ball a short distance after a minute or two of black powder loading. Now we have AR-15s and other high-capacity military-grade guns on our streets that can fire multiple rounds in seconds—any one of which can kill — and has killed — children at parades, in shopping malls, in classrooms, et al. And the much heralded 2022 federal gun bill is doing very little to ameliorate the problem.



A bit more about that corruption. We allegedly have a democracy where the People rule. And that is critical to the basic purpose of our existence mentioned above—to leave a legacy to those who follow us. Although we have a doctrine of fair competition, including a prohibition on horizontal competitors colluding—they are supposed to compete with each other—we also have the *Noerr-Pennington* doctrine, allowing competitors to combine for purposes of political influence. The result has been governance of our nation by cartels who form trade associations to influence a government supposedly representing the People. And this distortion gained more evil traction in the U.S. Supreme Court *Citizens United* holding—conferring on corporations the same political rights applicable to human persons. But there is a huge difference that is not discussed. The purpose of a corporation is to obtain maximum profit for the stockholders who own it. In fact, that is a recognized sacrosanct fiduciary duty of all directors and officers of every corporation. How does immediate profit impact compare with the predominant values of actual People—who have great concern for their children, for diffuse interests, and for the future?

That corruption now fatally infects our democratic values, with elections funded secretly by the wealthy and organized political interests—an obscure and massive lobbying industry engaging in corruptive tactics. In fact, regulatory agencies supposedly policing professions and trades and major institutions are governed directly by the cartel interests, profiting from the enterprise allegedly regulated in the interests of the People. Many Medical Boards, or State Bars, or most other such agencies are not just influ-

enced by involved special interests—they are governed by them. The Supreme Court did rightly decide in the 2015 case *NC Dental Board v. FTC* that any regulatory agency controlled by the interests regulated is not a legitimate “state agency” conferring antitrust immunity. However, that decision has not been enforced or effectuated substantially anywhere to date.

We are all betraying our obligations to future generations, the best example being an excessive national debt now reaching \$32 trillion. Who is going to have to pay off this ever-expanding deficit? Our children, our legacy.



And we continue to spend a fortune on the military. Is it really necessary to our defense to have military bases in Germany and 25 other nations perfectly able to defend themselves? And although we certainly have to maintain our nuclear deterrence power and deal with the crazy terrorists on our planet, spending hundreds of millions at the behest of major tech firms for an airplane of unbelievable cost—that has dubious relevance to any real defense need—should be on the table for discussion. But it is not. Both sides of the aisle are guilty of ignoring these burdens and impositions

on future generations. Both sides are failing our children.

There are other ways in which we are violating our ethos and our hopes for the future. The first is over-population. The population of the earth has gone from 3 billion in 1960 to now over 8 billion. And that is a blink in time. How will we find things with 20 billion in 50 years? Or 50 billion in 100 years? Second, how will these births affect the global warming problem? Continuously tripling the world’s population is hardly going to minimize it.

The traditional Republican Party has many meritorious values. They are right to eschew socialism. The state should not control the means of production. We should use the free market as much as possible, and the state should create conditions so it can thrive and perhaps supplement some functions for the general welfare. But the far right crowd has introduced different elements that undermine our fidelity to basic American values and to the future of our children. These include a level of tribalism that our nation has stood against since its inception, and especially in the modern era. We are an amalgam of many ethnic groups and religions and backgrounds. That is our strength. But some increasingly view the world through the tribalistic eyes of human evil—favoring particular groupings and eschewing others.

Yet it is wrong to pin our grim realities all on one faction of one party, since they hardly capture the problem. Take, for example, California—supposedly a liberal, Democratic state. Pursuant to Proposition 13, property taxes are based on the value of your home or other real property and cannot go beyond 1% of that value. This law allows you to grow that taxable assessment by no more than 2% a year while actual values go up many times that. I am an example. I am 77 and bought my home for \$90,000. It is now worth \$1.4 million. I am paying \$1,900 per year—due to the limited 2% increase in taxable home value. My son, buying an identical house of the same value next door, will pay \$14,000 per year, or seven times what I pay. This is happening all over the state. You cannot

find any example more immoral than this discrimination against our children and in favor of the elderly. And it is only one example of the shameless exploitation of our children.



We have a lot of work to do, and the above list is not complete. But unfortunately, legislation to benefit vulnerable children does not do well in our Congress. Not at all. Dozens of meritorious bills were introduced in Congress in 2022—many to ameliorate child abuse and bolster rights of and opportunity for foster children—but few were enacted. Especially discouraging was the Congressional failure to reauthorize a foundational child protection program, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Our hopes were high that 2022 would finally be the year that Congress would clarify in CAPTA that abused and neglected children have a right to be represented by attorneys in the judicial proceedings that will impact every aspect of their lives (where they live and with whom, their schooling, when they will see their family and friends, etc.). Believe it or not, some states refuse to provide these children with their own counsel—the most basic guardrail to ensure constitutional due process, particularly for someone whose entire fate will be determined via a judicial proceeding. Congress must once and for all enshrine this basic right through CAPTA or the most expedient vehicle, but recent efforts failed, and there appears to be little political will to re-engage with the process.

Similarly, big tech's harmful impact on children must be addressed. Social media platforms intentionally addict children on a massive scale, resulting in all sorts of serious problems from record suicide rates to sex trafficking—all while Congress sits by idly. CAI, active in Sacramento and D.C., knows full well the impact of disenfranchisement of our nation's children and youth and is pressing to ensure that the needs and voices of children are heard. In 2022, we co-sponsored [AB 2084 \(Cunningham and Wicks\)](#), which would have imposed a clear duty on social media platforms not to use techniques that addict children and to make platforms liable for penalties and damages when social media addiction harms children. Unfortunately, big tech was able to kill this effort late in the legislative process. Our 2023 work on this issue is already underway. We lost that battle, but we will win this war.

Perhaps illustrating this national morality scandal in extremis is the existence of Social Security disability and survivor benefits for which some of our children and youth are eligible. Our states, including the supposedly liberal ones, do not ensure that these benefits are used to address unmet current needs of these youth (to

provide additional resources or services to address a disability, for example), nor do they create trust accounts to conserve these funds for future needs of the beneficiaries—uses that would comply with federal law by serving the beneficiaries' best interests. Rather, states and counties apply to serve as representative payee for these funds, and then embezzle them—diverting them to their general funds, or using them to reimburse themselves for the beneficiaries' foster care costs. Most times, this goes on with no notice to the children, their parents, counsel (where they are appointed representation), or judges. This happens in virtually every state. But CAI is working to stop this practice through litigation, legislation, and regulatory advocacy. But even this seemingly obvious correction is legally difficult and politically challenging.

We have a generational challenge: to match—and even exceed—the work undertaken for our benefit by those who preceded us. And that success may turn on the restoration of a real democracy that makes decisions that not only considers, but prioritizes, diffuse and future interests.

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



ACADEMIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

General Overview. One of CAI's primary responsibilities is to educate the child advocates of the future. 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 more than 30 years ago. CAI is honored to have USD School of Law and CAI alumna Jessica Heldman serve as the Fellmeth-Peterson Associate Professor 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 also called *Child Rights and Remedies*, co-written by Prof. Fellmeth and Prof. Heldman (who taught the course in Fall 2022). Now in its 4th edition, the text is being considered for possible adoption and use by dozens of professors at law schools across the nation; we hope to see widespread adoption of it as a text in the near future.

Child Rights and Remedies is taught as a traditional lecture and discussion course, while utilizing role play to help students develop their critical thinking skills. Professors Heldman and Fellmeth wrote about this pedagogical technique for teaching child law in the article [*More than just child's play: Enhancing the class experience through role-playing in children's law*](#), published in a special issue of The Family Court Review in 2022.

The Child Rights and Remedies course is supplemented by CAI's Child Advocacy Clinic, which provides three unique clinical opportunities for our law students. Our Dependency and Youth Justice clinics are court-based clinics that allow our students to serve as counsel in Juvenile Court proceedings under the supervision of practicing attorneys. Students obtain certification from the State Bar through its Practical Training of Law Students program, allowing them to do the work of a practicing

attorney—introduce evidence, perform direct and cross examination of witnesses, draft and argue motions, and much more. We also offer a Policy Clinic in which law students work with CAI staff on a variety of real-world policy advocacy projects, including legislative and regulatory advocacy, test litigation, and researching and drafting reports.

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, over the past five years, over 20 USD Law students have graduated 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” (see below). Featured in our conference room, this display now features several CAI graduates now working as child advocates in different respects. We anticipate this number steadily growing over the next few years, as an increasing number of USD Law School applicants explicitly mention CAI as a reason for attending this school.



2022 Academic Highlights. In May 2022, CAI recognized five graduating law students for their exceptional work on behalf of children and youth. CAI presented the **2022 James A. D’Angelo Outstanding Child Advocate Award** to Brooke Engel, Adrielli Ferrer, Jordan Kellogg, Allison Plette, and Ashley Thompson. 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. These passionate, dynamic, and effective individuals will no doubt be leading the next generation of child advocates.



(L-R), Adrielli Ferrer, Ashley Thompson, Prof. Jessica Heldman, Jordan Kellogg, Brooke Engel, Allison Plette

Also in May 2022, CAI presented the **2022 Joel and Denise Golden Merit Award in Child Advocacy** to Stella Gerson.

This award is presented annually to a second-year law student who has already started to use their developing legal skills to benefit system-involved children. Even prior to starting her third year of law school, Stella made considerable contributions to the field of child advocacy through her undergraduate internship with Blue Sky Bridge, helping children who have suffered physical and sexual abuse, her work with Free to Thrive, an anti-human trafficking organization, her participation in CAI’s Policy and Delinquency clinics, and her leadership and service on the Women’s Law Caucus, Advocates for Children and Education, and Representatives for Youth in Academic Affairs, student organizations at the USD School of Law.

In Fall 2022, CAI welcomed 23 students to its Child Rights & Remedies class, and 17 students participated in CAI’s various clinical offerings over the course of the academic year

Pre-Law Internships. During Summer 2022, CAI welcomed an impressive class of pre-law interns, undergraduates who worked closely with CAI staff in support of several of our ongoing campaigns and projects.

Research, Advocacy, & Public Education Highlights

Improving Outcomes for Transition Age Foster Youth

Protecting Federal Benefits for Eligible Foster Youth. Much of CAI's 2022 advocacy in support of transition age foster youth focused on efforts to protect foster youths' federal benefits, such as Social Security Disability (SSI) and Survivor (OASDI) benefits, from diversion by state foster care agencies. Regrettably, although these benefits belong to the youth, and are required to be spent or conserved pursuant to their best interests, agencies routinely use these funds to reimburse themselves for the cost of the youth's foster care. Funds that could be used to provide critical resources or services to a disabled foster youth, or conserved for their use during the difficult transition to self-sufficiency, are being taken and used to pay a debt these children do not owe, while compromising their chances to have stability and become self-sufficient after leaving care.

During 2022, and with funding from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, CAI launched an expansive multifaceted national campaign to inform the public, policymakers, and advocates how to protect and promote the proper use of funds and assets belonging to youth in foster care, both on an individual basis and through systemic policy reform. Led by CAI's Amy Harfeld, this project is aimed at prohibiting foster care agencies from intercepting children's federal benefits and using them to reimburse themselves for the cost of foster care, and ensuring the funds are used as intended — to pay for current unmet needs of the youth and/or be conserved to address their future needs. This effort involves several fronts and activities, including the following:

★ Building on CAI's sustained and multifaceted advocacy on this issue, an impressive coalition of child advocacy organizations joined forces in 2022 to draft legislation to once and for all prohibit this practice in California. [AB 1512 \(Bryan\)](#), introduced in early 2023 and co-sponsored by CAI, includes provisions that would require counties to ensure that a foster child's ben-

efits are not used to pay for, or to reimburse the placing agency for, any costs of the child's care; require the placing agency to promptly notify the child, the child's attorney, and the child's parents or guardians, of any application for benefits administered by the federal SSA made by the agency on the child's behalf,

★ CAI is compiling data and information regarding the practice of foster care agencies intercepting and diverting federal benefits belonging to eligible foster youth. In addition to a deep dive into how each California county handles federal benefits belonging to foster youth in their care, CAI is researching the laws and policies of all states and will be analyzing and grading them in an upcoming report expected to be released in Fall 2023. Many states rely on informal policy or undocumented practice, making it challenging to determine state practice and compare across states. CAI's Melanie Delgado is leading efforts to analyze information received and draft this much needed report.

★ CAI is identifying foster youth lived experience experts, as well as practitioners who have worked on their behalf, who are willing to provide snapshots of their experiences regarding this practice. This effort has revealed some disturbing and compelling narratives which help bring life to this issue for policymakers, the media, and the public. Some of the young lived experience advisors we have connected with have played critical roles in partnering and collaborating in this advocacy.



★ We are educating and training stakeholder communities in California and beyond on best practices to preserve the benefits of foster youth, and ways to advocate for the protection of their assets. We identified dozens of contacts around the country who are working to protect the assets of foster youth, or are interested in doing so; this extensive list of contacts includes advocacy and direct service organizations, state and federal legislators and legislative staff, dependency attorneys, judicial officers, social workers, CASAs, disability advocates, and more.

★ In response to the deluge of requests for information, legislative updates, and best practices from advocates, policymakers, media, and other stakeholder groups, CAI's Katie Gonzalez created a comprehensive [website](#) for this campaign. This site includes an overview of the issue; applicable federal law and policies; comprehensive media coverage; quotes from impacted youth; federal, state, and local reform efforts; practice and self-help tools; policy advocacy tools; and information on litigation and case planning.

★ In addition to countless discussions with advocates and policymakers in California and across the nation, and testimony provided by CAI's Amy Harfeld in support of several legislative attempts to end this practice at the state and local levels, we presented several trainings on this issue. For example, Amy, joined by Sabrina Forte of the Alliance for Children's Rights, presented training on "Protecting and Preserving SSI for Eligible Foster Youth" at the Children's Advocates Roundtable in June 2022; in July 2022, Amy presented a webinar entitled, "Redirecting SSI Funds to Foster Children" to members of the Bar Association of San Francisco; and Amy, along with CAI lived experience consultant Ian Marx and Prof. Dan Hatcher, presented "Preserving Disability and Survivor Benefits of Youth in Care" at the National Association of Counsel for Children's August 2022 annual conference.

★ CAI is regarded as the leading authority on this issue, and our staff is constantly interacting with media from across the nation, and has been interviewed and quoted by, and supplied background info to, several outlets, including NPR, the Imprint, CalMatters, and numerous local news organizations.

★ CAI has engaged in extensive direct administrative advocacy on this issue, particularly with two key federal agencies—the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). We persistently urge SSA and ACF to take meaningful administrative action to prohibit states from using foster children's federal benefits in a manner contrary to their best interests. We have held multiple meetings and provided extensive proposed language for the requested reforms.

★ CAI has met several times with the White House Office of Management and Budget staff, requesting their assistance and support of our efforts to advance administrative and legislative policy reform on this issue. They indicate that they are working behind the scenes to press ACF for action. Additionally, we work with a bipartisan group of Congressional offices who submitted a formal request to speak directly with ACF on their policy plans which could complement pending Congressional action.

★ CAI is leading efforts to propel action on this issue within California and across the nation, providing technical assistance to advocates and policymakers in several states and cities. In addition to our work in California, we have contributed to efforts in Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington, as well as Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New York City, and the District of Columbia.



CAI is also attacking this issue through litigation. CAI and pro bono co-counsel Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP spent much of 2022 preparing to file a lawsuit on behalf of two former foster children, alleging that San Diego County improperly used their Social Security Survivor benefits in a manner violating federal and state law, in violation of the County's fiduciary duties, and contrary to the children's best interests. That lawsuit was filed in early 2023. Also during 2022, CAI authored an amicus brief, joined by a powerful array of allied organizations across the country, challenging this practice in Alaska.

Protecting the Financial Futures of San Diego's Foster Youth. During 2022, and with funding from the San Diego County Bar Foundation, CAI launched a campaign to help protect San Diego County's current and former foster youth from identity theft and other financial perils. After conducting a county-wide inventory, interviews, and related research to determine what resources and assistance exist to help foster youth deal with identity theft and related issues, CAI set forth to fill the gaps through the following actions:

We developed informational materials to help foster youth and those working on their behalf prevent, identify, and resolve identity theft and related financial harms. These materials include a guide to credit reports for current and former foster youth;; red flags that may indicate a foster youth is a victim of identity theft; how to use fraud alerts and security freezes; and dealing with disputes on a credit report. Along with other information and resources, these materials are available on CAI's webpage dedicated to

assisting San Diego foster youth prevent, identify, and resolve identity theft (discussed below). The materials developed through this project were informed and reviewed by subject matter experts in credit fraud and identity theft, as well as several youth advocates and former foster youth, all of whom helped to ensure that the materials would be accurate and appropriate for use by youth and caregivers as well as professionals.

In December 2022, CAI — together with partners Just in Time for Foster Youth and the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) —convened a Countywide summit of officials, advocates, service providers, former foster youth, lived experience experts, CASAs, and others. The Summit featured training to establish a shared foundation of knowledge about identity theft among youth in foster care, how to prevent it, and how to resolve it. Summit speakers included lived experience experts, Mona Terry of the Identity Theft Resource Center, and local practitioners Mika Wilbur of the Legal Aid Society of San Diego and Jeremy Golden of Golden & Cardona-Loya, LLP. It is anticipated that the summit may take place annually to ensure that stakeholders continue to work together to help protect the financial future of current and former foster youth.

CAI's Katie Gonzalez developed a [website](#) to help San Diego foster youth and those working on their behalf learn about resources and how to access specific services. The site will serve as a hub of local information for youth and those who work with them, and will be updated and revised by CAI staff and volunteers going forward. Given that the average number of children in out-of-home care each month in San Diego County is almost 2,000, and the average number of children in extended foster care each month is almost 400, this website has the potential to be a resource for thousands of children and those who support them.

CAI partnered with a local attorney to provide free legal assistance to two former foster youth who experienced identity theft as a result of their experience in foster care. One of these young adults met with the attorney as well as CAI staff and our student intern, and received guidance on steps to resolve her credit issue. The attorney is continuing to counsel this client as well as handle additional inquiries that come up as a result of the Summit discussion.



Promoting Online Safeguards for Children

Promoting Online Accountability and Safeguards. During 2022, CAI co-sponsored [AB 2084 \(Cunningham and Wicks\)](#), which would have imposed a clear duty on social media platforms not to use techniques that addict children and would have made platforms liable for penalties and damages when children are harmed by addictive features. Written and championed by CAI's Ed Howard, the bi-partisan, first-in-the-nation state legislation would have discouraged, through financial accountability, social media companies from manipulating their inventions to be addictive and harmful to kids. Perhaps no issue CAI has ever spearheaded has broader and deeper consequences for our nation's children than what social media platforms are doing to our kids.

The first iteration the bill simply clarified that the existing legal duty we all have (the duty that is the basis of personal injury law) of acting carefully included a duty of social media companies not to make addicts of our children, and included a safe harbor for platforms that take steps to avoid addiction. CAI engaged in an extensive and urgent campaign that included lobbying the bill member-by-member, drafting supporting documents, doing press outreach, assembling the biggest coalition of supporters CAI has ever assembled, conducting ongoing research, and responding quickly to opposition arguments.

Despite being Big Tech's number one kill target, the bill was voted out of the Assembly by a vote of 51–0 with broad bi-partisan support. All the while, the bill received [national press attention](#) and [editorial support](#). CAI built a [web page](#) to support the bill, including news stories, the long list of supporters, informational videos, and key support letters. It moved on to the Senate's Judiciary Committee where, working collaboratively with Chair Tom Umberg, the bill was modified simply to declare addiction to be illegal. The bill passed with no “no” votes.

But AB 2408 then went to the Senate Appropriations Committee. In years past CAI has remarked about how the Legislature's Appropriations Committees are places of maximum peril for public interest bills opposed by powerful interests because bills can die there without the elementary democratic accountability of a vote—without the sunshine that inoculates public decision-making from merit-free exercises of raw special interest power.

CAI, Assemblymember Cunningham, and other bill supporters repeatedly reached out to the Committee Chair, Anthony Portantino, to see if he had concerns. No response. We proposed amendments nevertheless. No response. The bill died in his Committee without a vote—regrettably just days after he attended a Big Tech-sponsored event at a toney Napa winery.



The death of the bill was reported internationally. CAI's Executive Director, Prof. Robert C. Fells, issued the following statement:

Turning a deaf ear to the pleas of anguished children, terrified parents, and experts all warning that social media use is contributing to an epidemic of teen girls committing suicide, the California Senate's fiscal committee today handed a horrifying victory to Facebook and social media giants that are knowingly making addicts of our children by, in secret and without a vote, killing a bipartisan bill that previously had not a single no vote cast against it.

The Senate's fiscal committee did this despite us living in a declared teen mental health emergency, despite the Big Tech opposition heartlessly offering not a single amendment or alternative to the bill, despite the authors taking every amendment asked of them by policy Committee chairs, and despite it being the only bill in the Legislature addressing the social media aspect of our current teen mental health emergency.

No other way to say it: today's defeat in Sacramento is a crushing defeat for struggling parents, desperately ill children, and stemming the epidemic of teen suicides and depression, and a great Sacramento triumph for Facebook and other multi-billion dollar social media companies that knowingly make addicts of children for profit. And, they will have to triumph year after year and forever because this bill will come back every single year until our children are safe from those who would profit from their pain.

As he noted, public interest advocacy is never a one-and-done proposition. Veteran advocates know that public interest litigation and legislation begets press and reveals facts that change the atmosphere within which cases are decided and bills considered. The press begets lawsuits and bills which beget press, and so on. This is how public interest advocacy iteratively works. And, measured by that realistic benchmark, AB 2408 was a triumph. Over 500 lawsuits were filed against social media companies during the time AB 2408 was in the headlines, other worthy California social media bills were enacted because 2408 took fire for them, and the press uncovered scandal after scandal. And not to be deterred, CAI has drafted bills and secured key allies and legislative authors for

more social media legislation in 2023.

CAI Files Amicus Curiae Brief in U.S. Supreme Court in *Gonzalez v. Google*. In *Gonzalez v. Google*, the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to determine whether Google can use section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to escape a lawsuit alleging that YouTube's targeted recommendations of ISIS videos violated the Anti-Terrorism Act. Because the outcome of the case could have had broad implications for the public's ability to hold tech companies accountable for harmful design decisions, CAI's Ed Howard drafted an amicus brief to weigh in on behalf of the children at risk of harm from social media giants.

CAI's brief argued that courts can practically distinguish between harms caused by targeted recommendations that fall outside section 230's immunity, and harms caused by traditional editorial functions (such as displaying or withdrawing content) in two ways. The first is technological. The (1) artificial intelligence-driven autonomously created recommendation algorithms that decide who sees what and for how long (whether they asked to see it or not), (2) vast amounts of data about each individual user gathered by these platforms, and (3) integrated neuroscience-grounded interfaces like nudges, likes, and infinite scrolling invented to keep users glued to these streaming recommendations for as long as possible, together operate as a machine that is distinct from the content uploaded by another content provider. This machine is distinct both as a different thing in and of itself and also distinct in the effects it has on people.

The second way is legal. Because of the autonomous way the AI recommendation machines deployed by YouTube and other social media businesses such as Facebook and TikTok operate, literally here nobody—no human—is likely engaging in traditional editorial functions. Humans do act to instruct autonomous social media AI recommendation machines to re-write and re-write their algorithms to deliver whatever is required to help keep users online as long as possible; to maximize user engagement in the parlance of social media. But that programming business decision is a plain vanilla one which, like any other such decision, can cause foreseeable harms and be actionable in tort. As argued by CAI, it is not an editorial decision nor is it publishing.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in this case was issued in Spring 2023; however, it did not resolve the Section 230 issue.

Protecting Postsecondary Student Consumers

CAI, together with the USD School of Law's Consumer Protection Policy Center and Veterans Legal Clinic (collectively referred to as the USD Team), engaged in significant state and federal public education and policy reform efforts over the last decade to protect vulnerable student consumers — including current former foster youth and veterans — from unfair and predatory tactics by the private for-profit postsecondary industry. Highlights of our 2022 efforts include the following:

California Legislative Successes. The USD Team, led by CAI's Ed Howard, helped ensure the enactment of the following measures:

AB 1730 (Davies) authorizes treble damages for unfair competition against veterans (Ch. 78, Stat. of 2022).

AB 1731 (Davies) requires the California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education to gather specific information to determine whether an educa-

tion business should be entrusted with a veteran's future and hard-won, one-time benefits (Ch. 380, Stat. of 2022).

Protecting Postsecondary Student Consumers Webinar Series. CAI's Melanie Delgado coordinated and hosted an extensive and far-reaching series of online events for policymakers, prosecutors, consumer advocates and others, with leading experts sharing information and strategies to protect college student consumers from unfair practices and predatory institutions. These webinars, which are available for viewing online, addressed topics such as consumer protection needs of veteran and service member students; model state programs and how states can enact laws to adequately protect students; the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement — what it is and how it impacts student protections; litigation as a tool to protect postsecondary students; and protecting students from innovations in predatory lending. In 2022, CAI presented a webinar entitled *Protecting Postsecondary Consumers: Nonprofit or For-Profit? What Education Advocates Need to Know about Fake Conversions*, featuring Bob Shireman, Director of Higher Education Excellence and Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation. Bob discussed the recent trend that has seen several for-profit colleges use loopholes in the law to convert to nonprofit status and avert regulations, explained the impact of these fake conversions, and provided insights on what advocates can do to protect students.

BPPE. CAI continued to monitor the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, theoretically one of the strongest state-based regulatory entities given its statutory authority. Among other things, CAI's Melanie Delgado continues to serve on the BPPE Advisory Committee as one of its three Consumer Advocate members; the Committee examines BPPE's oversight functions and operational policies, advises with respect to matters relating to private postsecondary education, and provides assistance as may be requested by the Bureau. Also, CAI's Ed Howard continued in his role as a trusted behind-the-scenes advisor to DCA leaders who oversee BPPE, especially on matters regarding the BPPE's funding—a critical facet of whether it can fulfill its function.



Championing a Child's Right to Counsel

CAPTA Amendments and RTC Advocacy.

CAI again led federal advocacy efforts to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to include a right to counsel (RTC) for children and parents at all phases of a child welfare case. The Senate included language in their reauthorization bill to do so, on a fully bipartisan basis. CAI's National Policy Director Amy Harfeld met with Congressional staff in both chambers of Congress, on both sides of the aisle to highlight the opportunity to advance the RTC provision in CAPTA and encourage support of this to be included in the final bill passed. Harfeld collaborated with allies at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, the National Association of Counsel for Children, and First Focus to formulate proposed amendments to the pending CAPTA right to counsel language in order to maximize chances for adoption, and submitted proposed consent amendments to the Senate for consideration.



Although we came closer than ever to achieving the enactment of CAPTA amendments that included a right to counsel for children and parents at all phases of a child welfare case, we encountered a formidable and unlikely foe: the national association of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASAs are volunteer lay advocates who are available to help speak on behalf of children in foster care. Although CAI would like every foster child to be assured of having both an attorney and a CASA appointed to represent them, the national CASA organization has strenuously resisted efforts to strengthen CAPTA to explicitly include a right to counsel for children — and their well-financed lobbying efforts aimed at defeating the CAPTA amendments regrettably won out. However, CAI will not stop its work on this issue until all foster children have legal representation in these momentous judicial proceedings.

Eliminating Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities and Near Fatalities

Federal Advocacy. CAI continued to take a leadership role in efforts to enhance data collection, accountability, and disclosure with regard to child abuse and neglect fatalities and near fatalities. CAI successfully advocated for the introduction of an entirely new section in the Senate version of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act dedicated to the prevention of maltreatment fatalities. These amendments to the most significant federal law addressing the disclosure and reporting of child abuse and neglect fatalities and near fatalities would have expanded reporting, created greater accountability, facilitated better interagency collaboration and data-sharing, and dedicated more substantial funding for this critical statutory framework. The language was endorsed on a bipartisan basis in the Senate and House, but CAPTA was ultimately not taken up in end of year legislation moved by Congress. Also left on the cutting room floor in Congress was the bipartisan Child Abuse Death Disclosure Act, championed by Senators Roy Blunt and Sherrod Brown, which would have required the establishment of a national standard definition of a fatality and made federal fatality reporting mandatory rather than discretionary.

CAI also provided recommendations and technical assistance to Congressional staff on fatality prevention reforms in Title IV-B reauthorization, both to advance previously adopted law in the Family First Act, and to reconcile legislative inconsistency with the Child Welfare Improvement and Innovation Act.

State Advocacy. CAI continued to raise awareness and support for strengthening and enforcing states' public disclosure requirements regarding child abuse and neglect fatalities and near fatalities; improve transparency and accountability within child welfare systems; and enhance the oversight and enforcement of child protection and child welfare laws. For example, CAI sponsored [AB 2660 \(Maienschein\)](#), which would have made the establishment of an interagency child death review team and the development or adoption of a protocol mandatory for each county no later than January 1, 2025. CAI's Ed Howard engaged in extensive public education to California policymakers on the need to mandate every county to establish child death review teams and interagency child death review teams, and develop and adopt a protocol that may be used as a guideline by persons performing autopsies on children to assist coroners in the identification of child abuse or neglect. Child death review teams have been used successfully to ensure that incidents of child abuse or neglect are recognized as such, thus allowing for examination and analysis to determine if systemic issues can be addressed to prevent such tragedies in the future. Although our efforts on this issue were successful in educating legislators, and the bill was enrolled to the Governor, he vetoed it, claiming that the policy change would have a "significant fiscal impact"

Stopping the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Legislative Advocacy. To protect victims of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), CAI successfully sponsored [SB 382 \(Caballero\)](#), which includes commercial exploitation of a minor in existing provisions of law that authorize courts to issue a restraining order during the pendency of criminal proceedings and upon conviction of specified offenses. This measure was signed by the Governor on July 1, 2022 (Chapter 87, Statutes of 2022).

CSEC Technical Assistance. During 2022, CAI's Jessica Heldman and Melanie Delgado continued to work with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice in providing technical assistance to Clark County, Nevada. Among other things, CAI is providing on-site and off-site consultation and guidance in support of the County's Dual Status Youth CSEC Project, providing expert advisement and materials review as the County develops new policies and protocols to better serve exploited youth involved in the child welfare and youth justice systems.

Partners Against eXploitation. In 2022, CAI's Melanie Delgado completed her oversight of 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 was evidence-based and grounded in the social justice values of equity, co-creation and diversity. The PAX Initiative, which was part of USD's Urgent Challenges Collective, was a complex partnership that brought 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 provided funding and assistance with innovative projects aimed at

and thus needs to be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

Expertise and Technical Assistance. CAI continued to provide technical assistance to advocates seeking to improve individual state's public disclosure policy and practices. For example, CAI's Amy Harfeld continued to serve as a resource for advocates in New Mexico on state and federal mandates with regard to public disclosure of child abuse and neglect deaths and near deaths.



Eliminating Inequities in Child-Centric Systems

Addressing Inequities in the Educational and Foster Care Systems. During 2022, CAI worked to address inequities in our educational and foster care systems that result in the over-suspension of Black male foster youth. While just 5% of the entire state's male youth population are suspended at some point during their school years, suspensions are imposed on nearly one-third of all Black male foster youth. Black foster youth in high school are over seven times more likely than the average high school student to be suspended.

One of CAI's responses to this inequity was to ensure that students in foster care have an experienced advocate working on their behalf. We successfully advocated for a requirement that school districts notify a foster child's state-appointed attorney of any suspensions, pending suspensions, involuntary school transfers, and expulsion proceedings within the same timeframe that they are required to notify a child's parent or guardian. Working together with the Black Minds Matter Coalition and the Children's Law Center, CAI co-sponsored [AB 740 \(McCarty\)](#), which extends requirements for parental notification of a pupil's involuntary transfer to a continuation school, suspension, or expulsion, in the case of a foster child, to the foster child's attorney and county social worker, and extend these requirements to charter schools. Thanks to the work of CAI's Ed Howard, AB 740 was signed by the Governor on Sept. 18, 2022 (Chapter 400, Statutes of 2022).

Conducting an Organizational Self-Assessment. With the assistance of consultant Sarah Bryer, an expert in race equity centered program development, policy analysis, and organizational development, CAI engaged in a self-assessment process to determine how effectively it is meeting its goals of promoting racial equity and racial justice in its work. As a result of the assessment, CAI updated its policy analysis process to enhance and institutionalize the consideration of racial equity in all of its legislative proposals and policy advocacy. Also as a result of the assessment, CAI recognized the need to diversify its CAI Council to ensure representation by individuals of varying perspectives and life experiences, including those of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds as well as those with lived experience in the systems we seek to improve. We look forward to welcoming new members to the Council in 2023.



Improving Systems Serving Children, Youth, and Families

Improving Permanency Outcomes for Abused and Neglected Children. In 2022, CAI completed its contract with the Judicial Council of California 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 was designed for judicial officers, attorneys, child welfare professionals, probation officers, tribal representatives and advocates, community advocates, CASAs, and other interested persons, and was offered at no cost to the participants.

During 2022, CAI presented the final four presentations of this training program, one virtually and three in person trainings, in San Francisco, Bakersfield, and San Diego.



Enhancing Youth Justice. During 2022, CAI completed its contract with the Judicial Council of California to prepare and present a training program for professionals engaged in Youth Justice practice. After holding six two-hour webinars in 2020 and 2021, CAI presented a full live, in-person twelve-hour presentation that took place in San Diego in August 2022. This training series, “**In Defense of Youth**,” provided instruction from a faculty of esteemed and experienced professionals on a broad scope of important topics. Participants gained foundational knowledge about the purpose of the juvenile court as well as California delinquency statutes, case law and general court procedure. The program provided the most up to date research on adolescent brain development and offered strategies for effectively interviewing and counseling adolescents. Presenters shared 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.

CAI's work in the area of youth justice also included the release of two new publications in early 2022. In *[Transforming the Culture of Juvenile Justice in the Wake of Youth Prison Closures](#)*, 26 Lewis & Clark L. Rev. 1 (2022), Jessica Heldman details the recent changes to California's youth justice system that culminated in the closure of state youth prisons. Heldman argues that this is an opportune time for California and other states to adopt research-based policies and practices to help promote and sustain fair, developmentally-appropriate, and effective youth justice systems.

[The Evolution of Juvenile Justice and Probation Practices in California](#), authored by CAI's Jessica Heldman and Melanie Delgado, was commissioned by the Chief Probation Officers of California and released in February, 2022. The report tracked youth justice policy and practice in California over the past 25 years, highlighting improvements in juvenile probation practice during this period and offering recommendations for future change.

Impacting State Policy. In 2022, CAI joined forces with Dependency Legal Services to co-sponsor [AB 2866 \(Cunningham\)](#), which modifies the standard of proof for establishing at a review hearing that a parent or guardian whose child has been removed from their physical custody was offered reasonable reunification services. This is done by raising the standard to the clear and convincing evidence standard, in order to make the standard of proof consistent with the clear and convincing evidence standard already in place for permanent placement hearings. In other words, the bill clarifies that a county has the same burden to show it is offering reasonable services at periodic reviews as it has at the hearing when a court decides those services have not worked and termination of parental rights is the only option. Thanks to the work of CAI's Ed Howard, AB 2866 was signed by the Governor on Aug. 22, 2022 (Chapter 165, Statutes of 2022).



LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, & SPECIAL PROJECTS

Promoting the Replication of Successful Child-Related Legislation. In 2022, CAI launched an online repository of model state statutes covering a wide variety of issue areas related to children (child welfare, juvenile justice, education, health, etc.). The [Child Advocacy Bill Exchange](#) website provides easy access to examples of important legislation that can be referenced and replicated by advocates across the country. The website includes both the text of these provisions and the evidence supporting the laws, ideally providing the opportunity for national dissemination of policies that can be replicated in numerous state legislatures. This project was undertaken in conjunction with the new Policy Committee of the Partnership for America's Children (PAC). The website was developed with the help of a tireless and talented volunteer, Das Narayanadas.

Collaborating and Leadership. CAI continued to participate in the governance of major national and regional organizations, including the Partnership for America's Children, where CAI's Bob Fellmeth has served on the Board, as counsel, and currently 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 and the Policy Committee. 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, the Transition Age Foster Youth National Coalition, and the California Coalition for the Safety of Children's Health (CCSCH), headed by CAI's former policy advocate Steve Barrow.



Honoring Outstanding Child-Related Journalism. 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 2022, this award program acknowledged the outstanding work of Georgia Wells, Jeff Horwitz, and Deepa Seetharaman of the Wall Street Journal for articles revealing how social media platforms are negatively impacting the health and well-being of young users; and Steve Volk and Julie Christie of Resolve Philly / The Philadelphia Inquirer, for articles discussing how foster youth are being denied use of important benefits they are entitled to, and one local effort to stop that from happening.

Convening California's Child Advocates. In 2022, CAI's Melanie Delgado convened four meetings of our [Children's Advocates Roundtable](#), allowing members to share about their policy priorities for the year and featuring timely and helpful discussions on a variety of child- and youth-related topics:

- ★ The Dec. 8, 2022 Roundtable featured a segment called Implications of the 2022 Election: How Will the Outcome Impact Children and Families, by Alberto Torrico, Former Assembly Majority Leader; Child Care Policy: Update and Outlook for 2023, by Donna Sneeringer, Vice President & Chief Strategy Officer at Child Care Resource Center; Juvenile Justice Policy: Outlook for 2023, by Meredith Desautels, Staff Attorney, Youth Law Center; Immigration Policy: Update and Outlook for 2023, by Neha Desai, Senior Director of Immigration at the National Center for Youth Law; Education Policy: and Addressing Inequitable Disciplinary Practices in California Public Schools— Update and Outlook for 2023, by Dr. Luke Wood, Vice President for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity, San Diego State University.
- ★ The Oct. 27, 2022 Roundtable was devoted to a discussion on Gun Violence Prevention in California: Where Do We Go From Here?, with panel members Dr. Eric Fleegler, Associate Physician in Medicine, Division of Emergency Medicine, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Julia Weber, Implementation Director at the Giffords Law Center; Carol Landale, San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention; Lori Van Orden, San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention; Pastor Jesus Sandoval, Executive Director Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention; and Stephan Abrams, National Chapter Coordinator, Team ENOUGH.
- ★ The June 16, 2022 Roundtable featured presentations by Scott Graves, Director of Research, California Budget and Policy Center, to provide a California budget update; Amy Harfeld, National Policy Advocate, Children's Advocacy Institute and Sabrina Forte, Director of Policy and Impact Litigation, Alliance for Children's Rights, to discuss protecting and preserving federal benefits for eligible foster youth; and Jennifer Pokempner, Policy Director, Youth Law Center, on closing the extracurricular gap for youth in foster care and juvenile justice..
- ★ The March 24, 2022 Roundtable featured a discussion on protecting children from the dangers of social media, led by Marc Berkman, CEO, Organization for Social Media Safety, Gaia Bernstein, Seton Hall School of Law, Technology, Privacy and Policy Professor of Law, Co-Director for the Institute for Privacy Protection, and Co-Director of the Gibbons Institute for Law Science and Technology, David Carter Dinielli, Visiting Clinical Lecturer at Yale Law School and Senior Policy Fellow at Yale's Tobin Center for Economics and Policy, and CAI Senior Counsel Ed Howard.



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 of the USD School of Law, 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, 2022, and December 31, 2022, or in response to CAI's 2022 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.

Prof. Larry Alexander

Travis J. Anderson

Anonymous Donors

Association of the Open Mind and Spirit

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Shay Barnes

Melissa Beattie

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Ed Ursin

Nancy L. Vaughan

Elisa & Timmy Weichel *In memory of James A. D'Angelo*

Brigitta and Mark Whiting

Adam Woellert

Marjorie & Ya-Ping Zhou

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.

Similarly, we are eternally 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 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 (Retired)*

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*

Sarah Pauter *Founder and CEO, Phenomenal Families**

Gary F. Redenbacher, J.D. (Council Chair) *Attorney at Law*

Gary Richwald, M.D., M.P.H. (Council Vice-Chair) *Medical & Public Health Director, Kulbersh Health Screening Services (KHSS); Lecturer, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, USC Keck School of Medicine*

Gloria Perez Samson *Retired School Administrator*

Ann Segal *Consultant*

Tracy L. Simmons *Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs, Howard University School of Law**

John Thelan *Retired Senior Vice President, Costco Wholesale*

**joined the CAI Council for Children in 2023*

Emeritus Members:

Robert Black, M.D.[†]

Birt Harvey, M.D.[†]

Louise Horvitz, M.S.W., Psy.D. *Licensed clinical social worker, individual and family psychotherapist*

James B. McKenna[†]

Paul A. Peterson, J.D.[†]

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*

[†] Deceased

STAFF

During 2022, 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:

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

Robert C. Fellmeth *Price Professor of Public Interest Law, CAI Executive Director*

Katie Gonzalez *Assistant Director, Public Interest Law Communications*

Amy Harfeld *National Policy Director / Senior Staff Attorney*

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

Ed Howard *Senior Counsel / Senior Policy Advocate*

Ben Sims *Executive Assistant / Office Manager*

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 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 **cypres distribution**, identify CAI as a potential recipient.
- ★ 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 to conduct online searches or 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) 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,
email us at info@caichildlaw.org,
or call us at (619) 260-4806.**





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