

*The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC),  
in Partnership with the California Central  
Regional Training Academy Present:*



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS

CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN  
& THE COURTS

## **Improving Permanency & Inclusion For Our Youth**

**June 17-18, 2014**

**California State University Fresno**  
University Dining Hall  
5200 Campus Drive  
Fresno, California 93740

## **Agenda**

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014**

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.     **Registration**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.     **Current Legal Overview of Extended Foster Care**

*Hon. Patricia Bresee (Ret.), Consultant/Trainer/Retired Juvenile Court  
Commissioner*

*Hon. Mary Dolas, Commissioner, Superior Court of California, County  
of Fresno*

*Marymichael Miatovich, Attorney, AOC, Center for Families, Children  
& the Courts*

*Brian Blalock, Youth Justice Project Director, Bay Area Legal Aid*

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.     **Lunchtime Speaker: The Road to Permanency**

*Jennifer Rodriguez, Executive Director, Youth Law Center*

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.     **Permanency Planning**

*A. Chris Downs, Ph.D., President, The Downs Group, LLC, Seattle  
Washington*

3:00 - 3:15 p.m.     **Break**

3:15 – 5:00 p.m.     **Getting the System Involved/Q&A**

*Joanna Hoppock, Deputy Probation Officer, Fresno County Probation  
Department*

*Heaven Everra, Non minor dependent youth, Fresno  
Faculty Panel*

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & OBJECTIVES— TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014**

### **A Focus On Permanency for Non Minor Dependents**

The training will provide current legal information on AB 12; 212; 1712 and 787 regarding extended foster care and non-minor dependents. Taking a look at some of the unintended consequences of the new law and ethical considerations, participants will re-focus efforts toward concurrent planning and permanency for this youth population.

#### **Participants will be able to:**

- Identify the legal requirements for permanency in older youth;
- Distinguish between legal and emotional permanency;
- Explain the legal process for extended foster care;
- Value the importance of focusing on permanency at the beginning of the case;
- Understand the legislative history and intent of extended foster care;
- Understand the relationship between securing connections for youth and permanency outcomes;
- Learn at least one new strategy for meaningfully engaging youth;
- Describe several unintended consequences from AB12; and
- Apply 3 new strategies when working with youth to help improve outcomes.

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#### **Day One of this training will provide continuing education units for the following categories:**

- 6 hours towards continuing education for Judicial Officers, Juvenile Dependency Mediators (California Rules of Court, rule 5.518), and court staff (pursuant to education requirements in California Rules of Court, rule 10.474, subject to the provisions of California Rules of Court, rule 10.481).
- 6 hours of continuing education for MFTs & LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS). The AOC, Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) is a Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) approved CEU provider, Provider #699.
- 6 hours of continuing education for Attorneys as required by the State Bar Association (MCLE). The AOC is approved by the State Bar of California as a Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Provider #4781
- 6 hours of continuing education for Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) credit.

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#### **Disclaimer**

The points of view expressed in this training event and in associated training materials are those of the authors and presenters and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the Judicial Council of California.

#### **Accessibility**

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## **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014**

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b>
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<b>Benefits for Non Minor Dependents</b> <i>Brian Blalock, Youth Justice Project Director, Bay Area Legal Aid</i>
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Increasing Engagement with LGBT Youth</b> <i>Shannan Wilber, Youth Project Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights</i> <i>Rob Woronoff, MS, Child Welfare Consultant</i>
12:15 - 1:45 p.m.	<b>Lunchtime Speaker and Film Valentine Road</b> <i>Marta Cunningham, Director and Producer of the film, Valentine Road</i>
1:45 - 3:15 p.m.	<b>Research and Legal Framework</b> <i>Shannan Wilber</i> <i>Rob Woronoff</i>
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:30 - 4:45 p.m.	<b>Permanency and Well-being</b> <i>Shannan Wilber</i> <i>Rob Woronoff</i>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & OBJECTIVES—WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014**

### **Permanency & Inclusion for Youth**

This training will provide an overview of the legal benefits for non minor dependents before shifting the focus to the LGBTQ youth population. Participants will take a look at the unique needs of LGBTQ youth and how to engage in culturally sensitive practices that promote safety and wellbeing. Additionally, participants will learn strategies and effective practices toward achieving improved outcomes for our youth.

### **Participants will be able to:**

- Distinguish between the different benefit options available to foster care youth and non minor dependents;
- Have knowledgeable conversations with youth about their benefit options;
- Explain the need for integrating culture and diversity into practice;
- Define human sexuality terminology commonly used by young people;
- Distinguish terminology related to human sexuality and gender identity development;
- Describe the links between familial acceptance or rejection of LGBTQ youth and the effects they have on youth health outcomes;
- Increase their understanding of the California laws and professional standards governing services to LGBT youth in state custody; and
- Apply new strategies when working with LGBT youth to help improve outcome.

**Day Two of this training will provide continuing education units for the following categories:**

- 7.25 hours towards continuing education for Judicial Officers, Juvenile Dependency Mediators (California Rule of Court, rule 5.518), and court staff (pursuant to education requirements in California Rules of Court, rule 10.474, subject to the provisions of California Rules of Court, rule 10.481).
  - 7.25 hours of continuing education for MFTs & LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS). The AOC, Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) is a Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS) approved CEU provider, Provider #699.
  - 7.25 hours of continuing education for Attorneys as required by the State Bar Association (MCLE). The AOC is approved by the State Bar of California as a Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Provider #4781
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## **FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES**

**BRIAN BLALOCK** is a staff attorney at Bay Area Legal Aid, where he founded and currently directs the Youth Justice Project (YJP), providing direct representation and systemic advocacy on issues related to youth who are under twenty-five years old. Brian's work at YJP aims to create a civil legal safety net for youth in the Bay Area through a strong presence in the community and collaboration with system partners with a focus on reaching youth who are delinquency or dependency involved and/or who have disabilities. YJP's current projects include working with homeless young adults in accessing appropriate benefits, health, and emergency supports and looking at systemic funding issues that create barriers to entitled services. Brian was formerly a public school teacher in the south Bronx. He has graduate degrees from Columbia and Harvard and a law degree from Stanford Law School.

**HON. PATRICIA BRESEE (RET.)** is a retired Juvenile Court Judge. Pat Bresee is a recognized expert in Juvenile Law and has been recognized as Juvenile Court Judge of the Year by the California Judges Association and as Judge of the Year by the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association. She served two terms on the San Mateo County First Five Commission and currently serves on the San Mateo County Blue Ribbon Commission and the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. In addition, she is the Chair of the Board of California CASA. She continues to train attorneys and judicial officers in Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Law and fills in for judges in Juvenile Court in San Mateo County on request.

**MARTA CUNNINGHAM** is an accomplished actor turned first-time filmmaker. A native of Northern California, she was so moved by the story of Lawrence King's murder that she became embedded in Oxnard and soon began filming those whose lives were touched by the tragedy. The result would be "Valentine Road", a feature length documentary that was selected to compete in the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and premiered on HBO in October of 2013. Ms. Cunningham was awarded the prestigious Baker Scholarship at Georgetown University, where she studied English literature. Recently she became a part of the Sundance Institute's Film Forward program, which aims to enhance cultural understanding, collaboration and dialogue around the globe by engaging audiences. She has also joined the Sundance Institute's Women Filmmakers Initiative which assesses the role of women in the film industry.

**HON. MARY DOLAS** has been a Court Commissioner with the Fresno County Superior Court since 2006. During her years on the bench she has served as the judicial officer in Traffic Court, Adult Drug Court and in 2009 assigned to the Juvenile Dependency Court. In 2012 she was designated the supervising/presiding judge of Juvenile Dependency Court where she continues to serve. Prior to serving on the bench, she practiced criminal law as a Deputy Public Defender, primarily representing juveniles. In 2005 she received certification as a criminal law specialist and was also selected as the first recipient of the San Francisco Youth Law Center Gold Foundation Fellowship for her work as a juvenile law advocate.

**CHRIS DOWNS, PH.D** is a Developmental Psychologist with over 35 years experience in universities, corporate America, and non-profits focused on issues of adolescent and young adult well-being, independent living, and permanency. Chris is considered a national expert on improving both services and outcomes of youth living in out-of-home care. He co-authored the Casey Alumni studies published

by Oxford University Press, led the creation of life skills assessments and companion tools completed by over 1 million youth and caregivers since 1996, and was selected Master Teacher by the University of Houston. Chris' company, The Downs Group LLC, is a national child welfare consulting firm with offices in Seattle, Denver and Indianapolis. Chris and his team created a highly effective approach to permanency called the Permanency and Transition Highway, or PATH. This model offers many training courses, assessments and formal consultation to help public and private, large and small agencies improve their services and outcomes for youth.

**HEAVEN EVERRA**, age 19, is currently a non minor dependent living in Fresno. Miss. Everra was initially removed in March of 2011 and has been involved with social services and probation over the years. She recently moved into her own apartment and is currently attending San Joaquin Valley College where she is working toward an Associate Degree in the Health Care Administration Program. Miss. Everra has overcome many challenges and is actively pursuing a better life for herself and her son.

**JOANNA HOPPOCK**, Deputy Probation Officer, has a bachelor degree in psychology from California State University, Fresno and has been with the Fresno County Probation Department since 2007. Officer Hoppock has worked in group homes, police community service work programs, and volunteered with youth organizations throughout California. She has worked as a Deputy Probation Officer with the Placement Unit since 2011, and more recently has served youth in extended foster care.

**MARYMICHAEL MIATOVICH** is an Attorney with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts for the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco. Currently, she is a part of the Juvenile Court Assistance Team (JCAT) which works to help improve the juvenile dependency courts in California. She is a statewide trainer on the topic of laws and best practices related to children in foster care. In 2008, Ms. Miatovich became a Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) through the National Association of Counsel for Children. This specialty is accredited by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization. Ms. Miatovich was previously a court-appointed attorney representing parents in Juvenile Dependency proceedings in Santa Clara County. In that capacity, she represented parents in all parts of the juvenile dependency process from the initial hearing to permanency planning. Prior to her work in the area of Juvenile Dependency, she worked in the City Attorney's office for the City of Santa Clara. Ms. Miatovich obtained her undergraduate and law degree from Santa Clara University and became a member of the California State Bar in 2001. Ms. Miatovich obtained her Masters in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in child abuse and neglect from JFK University in 2013.

**JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ** is the Executive Director of the Youth Law Center (YLC). Jennifer initially joined the YLC as a Gold Foundation Fellow in 2007, continued as a YLC staff attorney, and in 2012 became Executive Director. As a former foster youth who also spent time in juvenile justice institutions, her life focus is systemic legal advocacy on behalf of other children and youth who, like her, are growing up with a government agency as their only family. Jennifer works on both child welfare and juvenile justice projects at YLC where she develops and drafts legislation, works collaboratively with state and local agencies to improve programs and services, and provides training and technical assistance to professionals, youth and families. Jennifer received her J.D. from the University of

California, Davis in 2004. In 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Jennifer to the Presidential Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

**SHANNAN WILBER** joined the National Center for Lesbian Rights in 2013 to direct the Youth Project, bringing over 20 years of experience advocating for vulnerable children and youth. She represented individual children at Legal Advocates for Children and Youth, engaged in policy advocacy and impact litigation to reform child welfare and juvenile justice systems at the Youth Law Center, and served as the Executive Director of Legal Services for Children. She is the primary author of CWLA's "Best Practice Guidelines: Serving LGBT Youth in Out-of-Home Care," and "Guidelines for Managing Information Related to the Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity and Expression of Children in Child Welfare Systems."

**ROB WORONOFF, MS**, has been working with and on behalf of LGBTQ youth and families for more than twenty years. Among other positions he has held, Rob spent several years as Director of LGBTQ Services with the Child Welfare League of America in Washington, DC where he coordinated national efforts to improve systems of care for LGBTQ foster youth. He also directed the Putting Pride into Practice Project, a state-wide initiative seeking to improve treatment of LGBTQ foster youth throughout California. He is the principal author of *Out of the Margins: A Report Highlighting the Experiences of LGBTQ Youth in Care*, and his work has been featured in numerous publications including Time, USA Today, and The Advocate, and on NPR. Rob has trained thousands of social workers, youth, foster parents, attorneys, judges, mental health professionals and other children's advocates in nearly every state in the country. As an independent child welfare consultant, Rob is a lead trainer for the Human Rights Campaign's All Children All Families project and continues to provide training and technical assistance to organizations throughout the country.