**Children’s Right to Counsel Briefing**

September 12, 2016

Gold Room, Rayburn House Office Building

***Speaker Bios***

**Kendall Marlowe, M.S.W., J.D.**

Kendall is the Executive Director of the National Association of Counsel for Children, the national advocacy organization of attorneys and other professionals representing children and families in child welfare, juvenile justice, and custody cases. Kendall served as Chief of the Bureau of Operations and as Deputy Director for the Department of Children and Family Services in Illinois, where he was also spokesperson for the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Governor’s Long Term Care Reform Task Force. Kendall grew up in a family that welcomed six adolescent foster youth, has been a foster and adoptive parent himself, and worked as a social worker with at-risk, homeless and foster youth on Chicago’s south side. He holds a Master’s in Social Work from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, where he received the Wilma Walker Honor Award; and a J.D. and Certificate in Child and Family Law from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where he was an Honorary Child Law Fellow.

**Clark Peters, A.M., J.D., Ph.D.**

Dr. Peters’ work focuses on helping vulnerable young people – especially individuals experiencing state care – successfully transition to adulthood. He also examines child welfare services and judicial oversight of dependency and delinquency cases. Dr. Peters works closely with the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative (JCYOI). He recently examined asset building for young adults aging out of foster care and is currently working on a project to assess enhancements to JCYOI’s asset-building activities. Dr. Peters has also examined and presented on increasing the level of “normalcy” of young people in state care, including providing access to drivers’ licenses, dental care, and financial education.

A dedicated teacher, Dr. Peters teaches courses that address policy, social justice and law. He also recently developed a writing seminar that challenges undergraduate students to deepen their understanding of a specific disadvantaged population – such as homeless youths, veterans, disabled individuals, or victims of domestic violence – through examining their experiences in professional literature and through the personal stories provided to the class.

**Derrick Riggins, M.S.W.**

Derrick Riggins, is the Director of Agency Relations for a  nonprofit called Youth For Tomorrow (YFT) located in Prince William County. He has been with YFT for 3 in half years and prior to joining YFT he worked on Capitol Hill for the Senate Finance Committee for Chairman Max Baucus. Derrick also had a brief stint with Health and Human Services working on policy related to domestic minor sexual expiation. Derrick attend Florida A& M University in Tallahassee, Florida receiving his bachelors in social work, he then went on to attend Florida State University receiving his master’s degree in social work with a concentration on Social Policy and Administration. This lead to Derrick working with Florida Children First as a lobbyist working on behalf of children in foster care. This area is an area of passion for Derrick as he is an alumni of the Florida foster care system and uses his story of perseverance and determination to inspire and lobby for policy that impact the lives of children.

**David Kelly J.D., M.A.**

David is is currently serving as Senior Policy Advisor on Courts and Justice for the Office of the Commissioner in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) within the Unites States Department of Health and Human Services. He also oversees the U.S. Children’s Bureau’s work with courts and the legal community, including the State and Tribal Court Improvement Programs, the National Child Welfare Capacity Building Center for Courts, the Quality Improvement Center for the Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System, the Quality Improvement Center for Research-Based Infant-Toddler Court Teams and other efforts to build state and tribal court capacity, support court-based research, and improve the quality of legal representation for all parties in child welfare proceedings.  Prior to joining the federal government, David was an Assistant Staff Director at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law where he provided training and technical assistance to courts and legal practitioners nationally. David has also served as a Senior Assistant Child Advocate at the New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate where he investigated state agency responses to allegations of child abuse and neglect, monitored juvenile justice practices and conditions of confinement, and conducted fatality and near fatality reviews. He began his career as a staff attorney at the Youth Advocacy Center of Covenant House New Jersey where he represented homeless, runaway and at-risk youth on a variety of civil and criminal legal issues and worked on the organization’s policy initiatives, he later became the Center’s Director of Legal and Clinical services.

**Jennifer Podkul, J.D.**

Jennifer Podkul is an international human rights lawyer and expert on child migration in the United States. Prior to joining Kids in Need of Defense, Jennifer was a senior program officer at the Women’s Refugee Commission where she researched issues facing vulnerable migrants seeking protection in the United States and advocated for improved treatment. She is a national expert on issues affecting immigrant children, has published articles, handbooks and reports on U.S. immigration law, and she presents regularly as an expert at various conferences, briefings, and professional trainings. She co-authored “Forced From Home: The Lost Boys and Girls from Central America” and was a contributing author to “Childhood, Migration, and Human Rights in Central and “North America: Causes, Policies, Practices, and Challenges.” Jennifer has taught child migration at Georgetown Law Center’s Human Rights Institute. Jennifer first began her legal career as an attorney at Ayuda in Washington, D.C. first as an Equal Justice Works Fellow and later as a KIND Fellow. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, holds a B.A. in American Studies and Spanish from Franklin and Marshall College and a J.D. with honors from the Washington College of Law, American University, where she was Public Interest/Public Service Scholar.

**Kim Dvorchak, J.D.**

Kim joined NJDC as Executive Director in August of 2015. Kim was the Founding and Executive Director of the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center, where she led programs to advance juvenile defense and juvenile justice policy for five years. In her 20 year legal career, Kim has represented youth in delinquency court, criminal court, and on appeal, has run her own law firm, served as a public defender in two states, accomplished significant policy reforms in Colorado, and lectures to advance due process based juvenile defense policies across the country. Kim was a contributing author to NJDC’s report *Colorado: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Juvenile Delinquency Court*. She received the Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Leadership Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense by the National Juvenile Defender Center in 2009, the Champions of Children Advocate by the Sewall Child Development Center in 2012, the Kutak-Dodds Prize for equal justice by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association in 2012, and was recognized by the Denver Post as a Colorado Woman of Influence in 2013. Kim received her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Colorado at Boulder.\*\*

**Jennifer Renne, J.D.**

Jennifer is the director of the Capacity Building Center for Courts. She has been at the ABA CCL since 2000, and has provided training and technical assistance in almost every state on a wide variety of issues including improving permanency outcomes, achieving permanency for older youth, and collaboration between court systems and the child welfare agency. Her current focus is working with federal and private partners to build capacity among courts, Court Improvement Projects, child welfare agencies and Tribes to achieve sustainable systems’ change.

Her publications include books titled Making it Permanent: Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plans for Foster Children, Legal Ethics in Child Welfare Cases, and Child Safety: A Guide for Judges and Lawyers. Jennifer has represented children in dependency cases, and has been an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, teaching legal ethics to students interested in pursuing public interest law careers. She received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.