



THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
**Children's  
Law Institute** | **2016**

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# The 23rd Annual *Children's Law Institute* 2016



JANUARY 6 - 8



## Supreme Court of New Mexico

CHIEF JUSTICE  
BARBARA J. VIGIL  
JUSTICES  
PETRA JIMENEZ MAES  
RICHARD C. BOSSON  
EDWARD L. CHÁVEZ  
CHARLES W. DANIELS

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January 6, 2016

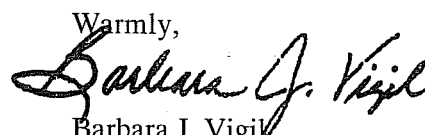
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As Chief Justice, it is my honor to welcome you to the 23rd annual Children's Law Institute (CLI). CLI is the result of the hard work, collaboration, and planning of leaders from every sector of our child welfare and juvenile justice community, and this year's plenary sessions and workshop topics reflect many of the critical initiatives New Mexico has undertaken during the past year.

For example, New Mexico has launched a statewide initiative to reduce reliance on pretrial detention for youth while still ensuring public safety. The selection of Mr. Glenn E. Martin as CLI's opening keynote speaker underscores our commitment to this initiative. Mr. Martin is a national leader in criminal justice reform and the founder of JustLeadershipUSA which is dedicated to reducing our country's correctional population by half by the year 2030. His remarks could not be more timely as we work together to develop and implement strategies for juvenile justice reform.

New Mexico's child welfare and juvenile justice communities have also worked diligently to implement the federal *Preventing Sex Trafficking and Safe Families Act*. As part of our efforts, we have called upon youth and other key stakeholders to draft new regulations designed to normalize a young person's experiences while in care, and several of this year's workshops address issues associated with the Act. Additionally, we continue to strive to ensure that our court appointed attorneys are equipped with the skills and resources necessary to advocate on behalf of their clients. This year attorneys have a special opportunity to receive intensive legal advocacy skills training from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, one of the nation's leading trial skills training providers.

The work we do is challenging and it is easy to wonder if our efforts really matter. I can assure you that your work makes a difference in the lives of those you serve. On behalf of all of those whose lives you have touched, I extend to you my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude.

Warmly,  
  
Barbara J. Vigil  
Chief Justice



## Conference Overview

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

- 7:45 am - 12:30 pm **Conference Registration and Sign-In**
- 8:00 am - 12:00 pm **Pre-Conference Sessions** *(see detailed agenda)*
- 1:00pm - 1:45 pm **Opening Remarks and Excellence Award Presentations**  
 Senior Supreme Court Justice Petra Jimenez- Maes  
 The Children's Court Improvement Commission (CCIC) Co-Chairs: Honorable Jennifer Delaney, Ezra Spitzer and Honorable John J. Romero, Jr.  
 Chief Justice Barbara J. Vigil, New Mexico Supreme Court  
 Nick Costales, Deputy Director of Field Services, CYFD Juvenile Justice Division  
 Beth Gillia, Director, Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center, UNM
- 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm **Keynote Presentation**  
 Glenn E. Martin, Founder and President, JustLeadershipUSA
- 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Break**
- 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Workshop Session I** *(see detailed agenda)*

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

- 7:45 am - 8:30 am **Conference Sign-in**
- 8:30 am - 10:00 am **Workshop Session II** *(see detailed agenda)*
- 10:00 am - 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm **Workshop Session III** *(see detailed agenda)*
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm **Lunch** *(on your own)*
- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm **Workshop Session IV** *(see detailed agenda)*
- 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm **Break**
- 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm **Workshop Session V** *(see detailed agenda)*

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016

- 7:45 am - 8:30 am **Conference Sign-in**
- 8:30 am - 10:00 am **Workshop Session VI** *(see detailed agenda)*
- 10:00 am - 10:30 am **Break**
- 10:30 am - 11:15 am **Closing Remarks & Excellence Award Presentations**  
 Monique Jacobson, Cabinet Secretary, Children, Youth, and Families Department  
 Nick Costales, Deputy Director of Field Services, CYFD Juvenile Justice Division.  
 Beth Gillia, Director, Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center, UNM
- 11:15 am - 12:30 pm **Keynote Presentation**  
 Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, Founder, The Trauma Stewardship Institute

## Special Thanks to

### 2016 CLI PLANNING COMMITTEE

April Barela, Management Analyst, NM Administrative Office of the Courts  
 Nick Costales, Deputy Director of Field Services, CYFD Juvenile Justice Division  
 Caroline Dailey, Isleta Pueblo  
 Ellen Genné, Director, NM CASA Network  
 Beth Gillia, Director, UNM Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center  
 Tracey Kincaid, UNM Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center  
 Rebecca Liggett, Children's Court Attorney, CYFD Protective Services Division  
 Hilari Lipton, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Attorney, NM Administrative Office of the Courts  
 Ted Lovato, Juvenile Probation & Aftercare Policy/Program Field Manager, CYFD Juvenile Justice Division  
 Brenda Manus, Policy and Procedure, Federal Reporting & Training Bureau Chief, CYFD Protective Services Division  
 Liz McGrath, Executive Director, Pegasus Legal Services for Children  
 Marcy Oliver, Foster Parent, Children, Youth, and Families Department  
 Angela Peinado, Senior Statewide Program Manager, NM Administrative Office of the Courts  
 Heather Philpot, Foster Parent, Children, Youth, and Families Department  
 Marial Quezada, New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks  
 James Sumrow, Court Monitor 5th Judicial District Court & Successful Reunified Parent  
 Brooke Stanley Tou, Assistant Director, Southwest Region National Child Protection Training Center, New Mexico State University

### STAFF OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING CENTER AT NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Brooke Baca, Shelly Bucher, Theresa Cano de Ochoa, Lorretta Diaz, Valerie Galindo, Arianna Lovato, Jessica Maldonado, Cynthia McNamara, Mary Ortaleza, Darlene Paul, Heather Proctor, Jackie Sanchez, Brooke Stanley Tou, Cynthia Sylvan, Mary Younger





## Special Meetings

### SESV Teambuilding Meeting

Tuesday January 5th, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm  
Fireplace Room

### New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium Meeting

Wednesday, January 6th, 8:00 am-12:00 pm  
Rendering Room

### Children's Justice Act Advisory Group (CJAAG) Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday January 6th, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Fireplace Room

### Respondent Attorney Luncheon

*\*tickets can be purchased at CLI Registration Desk*  
Thursday, January 7th, 12:00 pm-1:15 pm  
Hotel Albuquerque Q-Bar

### Judges & Youth Luncheon *by invitation*

Thursday, January 7th, 12:00 pm-1:15 pm  
Fireplace Room

### Children's Court Judges (CAAFF & Performance Measures) Meeting

Thursday January 7th, 1:30 pm-3:00 pm  
Fireplace Room

### Children's Law Section Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 7th, 3:00 pm-3:30 pm  
Rendering Room

## Continuing Education

### Continuing Education Credits (CEUS)

for social workers are available for most workshops at CLI. The NM Counseling Board honors Social Work CEUs. Some workshops also qualify for cultural competence CEUs. To receive a CEU certificate for the sessions you attend you must sign-in each day of the conference and after lunch on Thursday and **submit a CEU documentation form at the end of each day of the conference.** Failure to sign-in or submit the forms each day will result in a loss of credit hours. Certificates will be emailed after the conference.

### Continuing Legal Education Credits (CLES)

for attorneys and judges are available for most workshops at CLI. To receive CLE credits, you must complete the CLE form and return it to the registration table.

## Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Excellence Awards

### 2016 NOMINEES

Valerie Archuleta	Jerry Fekete	Kay Ohmberger	James Sumrow
Richard Austin	Candace Garcia	Ernest Pacheco	Barbara Tegtmeier
Karla A. Baca	Carol Gingerich	Bianca Padilla	Martha Todd
Kevin Berry	Nathan Gingerich	William Parnall	Lisa Torracco
Rebecca Brannon	Jessy Graham	Bryce Pittenger	Karen Townsend
Cathy Bryant	Leah Jeffcoat	Gabriel Puente	Allan Trosclair
Robert Carbajal	John Jones	David Reeb	Erin Van Soelen
Mary Carr	Vivian Jones	Joann Reynolds	Amanda Veracka
Janice Davis	Susan Laughlin	Tommy Rodriguez	Clyde Wesson
Amber Dollar	Lindsey Lucero	Sheryl Saavedra	Therese Yanan
Glenn Elington	Susan Malone	Bart Sandoval	Deborah Yost
Matthew Esquibel	Dominica Montano	Judy Schlotterback	
	Matthew Montoya	Clara Sevy	
	Sheyenne Myrtle	Michael Sousa	



## Detailed Conference Agenda

### Pre-Conference Sessions

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

**8:30 am - 12:00 pm | Specialized Attorney Skills Training from the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) | Franciscan**

*Attorneys only. This includes a 3 hour pre-session and 3 additional workshops offered during the CLI conference.* Please see separate handout for additional information and specific NITA group and room assignments.

**8:30 am - 12:00 pm | NM CASA and CYFD Protective Services Division Pre-Session: Shifting Policies and Our Practices with Children and Youth | Salon ABCD**

**Presenters:** Honorable John J. Romero Jr. and Glen Casel

Do you want to learn more about changes for children and youth in the Child Welfare System? Please join us in an interactive training to learn more about the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act including: Child sex and labor trafficking, prudent parenting or "normalcy" for children and youth in care, increased youth involvement in case and transition planning, reporting missing children and youth in care.

*SW CEUs: 3.0 Cultural, CLEs: 3.0 General*

**8:45 am - 12:00 pm | SESV Pre-Session: Increasing My Personal Safety as a Safe Exchange & Supervised Visitation Provider and In My Everyday Life | Salon FGH**

**Presenter:** Honorable Conrad F. Perea

Personal safety is a topic that is always talked about after a terrifying story has hit the news. The New Mexico Court Standards for Safe Exchange and Supervised Visitation reinforce the need to develop and maintain skills necessary to stay safe while providing much needed services. This pre-session training will provide a dynamic approach to personal safety, not only in the workplace but also in our daily lives. *SW CEUs: 3.0 General*

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Judicial Officer Pre-Session: Achieving Permanency for All — How Judges Can Meet the Developmental Needs of Infants and Prevent "Long-Stayers" in Foster Care | Fireplace Room**

**Presenters:** Honorable Peggy Walker & Deborah Fowler

This pre-session for judicial officers will explore why achieving permanency quickly is especially important for two populations in foster care—infants and "long-stayers." We will first discuss why early attachment and permanency are vital to infants' developing brain structure and their ability to build secure, lasting relationships; then, we will identify practical strategies judges can use to hasten permanency and meet infants' developmental needs. Next, we will focus on what judges can do to reduce prolonged stays in foster care and swiftly move children into safe, permanent homes. This portion of the pre-session will describe the findings of a Texas study demonstrating how courts can accelerate children's movement out of foster care by employing a few simple best practices. *CLEs: 3.0 General*

## Conference Opening General Session

**1:00 pm - 1:45 pm | Opening Remarks and Presentation of Excellence Awards | Ballroom**

**Presenters:** Honorable Petra Jimenez- Maes, Honorable Jennifer Delaney, Ezra Spitzer, Honorable John J. Romero, Jr., Chief Justice, Honorable Barbara J. Vigil

**Masters of Ceremony:** Nick Costales, Deputy Director of Field Services, CYFD Juvenile Justice Division and Beth Gillia, Director, Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center, UNM

**1:45 pm - 3:00 pm | Keynote Presentation | Ballroom**

**Presenter:** Glenn E. Martin, Founder and President, JustLeadershipUSA

Why has robust research, increased media coverage, outspokenness by our elected officials on both sides of the aisle, and seemingly active advocacy not led to significant decarceration efforts and a roadmap to end mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline? With best intentions, policy makers, advocates, service providers and reformers alike have failed to invest adequate time and resources to identify meaningful ways to successfully work in partnership with people and communities that are most directly impacted by over-policing, disparate sentencing practices and mass incarceration. Without such an investment, and the momentum for reform that it would create, criminal and juvenile justice policy reform lacks urgency in comparison to four decades of reactionary, fear-driven and non-evidenced policy making. In short, disproportionately impacted communities remain in crisis, while we have burgeoning proof that current practice is ineffective in fighting crime or deterring behavior. Those who have experienced crime and the criminal and juvenile justice systems firsthand not only bring a valuable and culturally-competent frame to the discussion, but "living closer to the problem" often means that they have given significant thought to the possible solutions. This keynote presentation will explore these issues and provide some thought provoking and viable solutions in moving forward to action.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**3:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Break | Atrium**

## Workshop Sessions

You will find detailed workshop session descriptions starting on page 8, and Speaker Bios starting on page 20.

*Attorneys attending the NITA Track will be provided with a separate workshop group assignment and schedule. Please check your personalized agenda for instructions. All NITA track sessions will take place in the Potters, Weavers, and Turquoise Rooms.*

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm | Workshop Session I**

The Affordable Care Act and Youth Formerly in Foster Care: An Overview and Update on State Outreach, Implementation and Opportunities | **Fireplace Room**

Current Perspectives on Best Practice When Working with Youth Who Have Caused Sexual Harm | **Salon ABC**

I am Me: Understanding the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality and Identity | **Salon E**

Reasonable and Prudent Parenting | **Salon D**

Successful Reunified Parents | **Franciscan**

Supporting Young Parents and Helping Young Parents Succeed | **Salon FGH**



## THE 23RD ANNUAL **Children's Law Institute**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016**

### **8:30 am - 10:00 am | Workshop Session II**

Changing the Pathway for Incarcerated Youth: An Inside Look at New and Innovative Programs in Juvenile Detention | **Salon ABC**

ICWA Updates | **Franciscan**

Promoting Positive Outcomes for Children and Youth Using the New Mexico Children's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Act | **Salon FGH**

Reasonable and Prudent Parenting (REPEAT) | **Salon D**

Special Education Round Table | **Salon E**

Supported Kinship Care Diversion | **Fireplace Room**

### **10:00 am - 10:30 am | Break**

### **10:30 am - 12:00 pm | Workshop Session III**

Embracing and Healing At-Risk Youth and Communities | **Salon ABC**

2015: Developments in the Law of Abuse and Neglect | **Salon FGH**

The Power of Language - Is It What You Say or How You Say It? | **Salon D**

Roundtable Discussion on Improving Foster Kid Access to Compensation Grants | **Rendering Room**

Understanding the Past and Changing the Future: Historical Trauma and Native Peacemaking | **Franciscan**

Working with Non-Offending Parents in Child Sexual Abuse Cases | **Salon E**

### **12:00 pm - 1:30 pm | Lunch (on your own)**

### **1:30 pm - 3:00 pm | Workshop Session IV**

2015: Developments in the Law of Abuse and Neglect (REPEAT) | **Salon FGH**

Family Involvement in Juvenile Justice - The Pennsylvania Model | **Salon ABC**

A Practical Approach to Recognizing, Evaluating and Responding to Domestic Violence in Decisions Involving Parents and Children | **Salon D**

Walking In Our Shoes to Better Outcomes: Youth Led Workshop | **Franciscan**

Wraparound: This is Not Business as Usual | **Salon E**

### **3:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Break**

### **3:30 pm - 5:00 pm | Workshop Session V**

Children's Court Mediation, Illuminated | **Salon ABC**

Getting a Job: What Foster Youth Can and Can't Do, and When They Can, Some Tips on How to Do It | **Fireplace Room**

Human Trafficking | **Franciscan**

I am Me: Understanding the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality and Identity (REPEAT) | **Salon E**

The Impact of Childhood Trauma and Working with At-Risk Youth | **Salon D**

The Social Roots and Outcomes of Adverse Childhood Experiences | **Salon FGH**



## FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016

### 8:30 am - 10:00 am | Workshop Session VI

Family Involvement in Juvenile Justice- The Pennsylvania Model (REPEAT) | **Salon D**

The Impact of Childhood Trauma and Working with At-Risk Youth (REPEAT) | **Salon ABC**

Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline: Transforming Delinquency Involvement into Education Advocacy | **Franciscan**

The Link: Are Animals Part of the Picture? Working Together to Support the Whole Family | **Salon FGH**

Transforming Trauma - How to Do This Work and Stay Sane | **Salon E**

### 10:00 am - 10:30 am | Break

### 10:30 am - 11:15 am | Closing Remarks and Presentation of Excellence Awards | Ballroom

**Presenter:** CYFD Cabinet Secretary Monique Jacobson

**Masters of Ceremony:** Nick Costales, Deputy Director of Field Services, CYFD Juvenile Justice Division and Beth Gillia, Director, Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center, UNM

### 11:15 am - 12:30 pm | Keynote Presentation | Ballroom

**Presenter:** Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, Founder, The Trauma Stewardship Institute

Laura van Dernoot Lipsky's talks on transforming trauma—the cumulative toll on those who are exposed to the suffering, hardship, crises, or trauma of humans, other living beings or the planet itself—offer a compelling mix of personal insight and cutting-edge research. Filled with stories, quotes (by wise men and women from Bob Marley to Wangari Maathai), and countless New Yorker cartoons, they have been widely praised as both engaging and effective. Many participants leave these sessions with a renewed sense of purpose and fresh optimism about the possibilities for transformation. *SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*



The Heart Gallery Project began in New Mexico in 2001 and has since spread to 42 states. The collection includes photographic portraits of current children in CYFD custody who are dreaming of finding their “forever families” through adoption. The portraits are created and donated by some of the region's most talented photographers. They are displayed in government buildings, hospitals, airports, galleries and other venues across the state. The Heart Gallery has resulted in numerous adoptions of the children and youth who appear in amazing portraits in this program.

For more information, visit [heartgallery.org](http://heartgallery.org)





## Detailed Workshop Descriptions

### Workshop Session I

**WEDNESDAY, 3:30 P.M.–5:00 P.M.**

#### The Affordable Care Act and Youth Formerly in Foster Care: An Overview and Update on State Outreach, Implementation and Opportunities

In January 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) made youth who were in foster care at age 18 and who were enrolled in Medicaid at that time categorically eligible for Medicaid until age 26 regardless of their income. This provision seeks to address the health care needs of youth aging out of foster care who overwhelmingly are un-insured yet have significant health care needs. As we approach two years of implementation of the former foster youth provisions of the ACA, states are working hard--and confronting challenges--to improve access and enrollment for youth as they age out and youth who have already aged out. This session will provide participants with a systematic approach to improve implementation of the former foster youth provision of the ACA by targeting change at multiple levels.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Shadi Houshyar & Jennifer Pokempner

**Room:** Fireplace Room

#### Current Perspectives on Best Practice When Working with Youth Who Have Caused Sexual Harm

The first portion of the session will provide an overview of best practice for the assessment and treatment of youth who have caused sexual harm, including discussion of currently available resources and gaps in New Mexico services. The second portion of the

training will focus on the new emergence of referrals for youth who possess, distribute, and/or manufacture child pornography (not victimless crimes but usually hands-off offenses) and ways to adequately supervise them in the community on electronic media. The final portion of the session will be an overview of Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behaviors, an evidence based practice which works with youth with problem sexual behaviors in their homes and communities.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Bryce Pittenger, LPCC, Tom Hall, LCSW, Renee Martinez, LMFT, and Joe Mirabal

**Room:** Salon ABC

#### I am Me:

#### Understanding the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality and Identity

Being a young person comes with immense challenges from bullying and school to finding themselves and becoming confident with their place in the world. Our youth come to us with not just one identity, but layers or intersections of identity. Some of these identities, like gender and sexual orientation, come with additional challenges caused by societal discrimination, harassment and bias. These challenges increase the risks for these youth to a critical level. "I am Me: Understanding the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality and Identity" is a training film that explores concepts, terminology and challenges that our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) young people face. This session will show the film, and then engage participants in meaningful discussion of tangible ways adults can be supportive and welcoming to the LGBTQ+ young people they serve. Participants will also be provided with information about how to host a showing of this training video in their own community or organization. (Will repeat in Session V)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Jenn Jeverton, MS & Suzanne Pearlman

**Room:** Salon E



## Reasonable and Prudent Parenting

Can our Foster Care system be a better parent to our kids? How? Think of all the experiences our Foster Kids miss out on, just because they are in foster care. We can learn to work better together and provide a platform for caregivers to open the development and thriving of our children to our passion for protection. Federal Law now supports this notion, and we should embrace it; it is reasonable and prudent parenting. This session will explore the ways that professionals and caregivers can change our understanding of parenting and decision making in foster care. (Will Repeat in Session II) *SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Glen Casel

**Room:** Salon D

## Successful Reunified Parents

A panel of successfully reunified parents, some who are associated with the First Steps Toward Reunification (FSTR) Program in Chaves County, will present their collective and individual stories, struggles and strategies that enabled their successful reunification. This session will help participants gain appreciation for the stories and strategies employed by a team of parents that achieved successful reunification and develop an understanding of the uses and misuse of language in official encounters with parents attempting reunification.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 Ethics/Professionalism*

**Presenters:** James Sumrow & Panel

**Room:** Franciscan

## Supporting Young Parents and Helping Young Parents Succeed

This session will address the legal rights of young parents and discuss strategies and supports aimed at helping young parents succeed. This session will look at the needs of young parents who are currently involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems, either as respondents or foster youth. The needs and rights of young parents are often overlooked, which can result in young parents being pushed into the child

welfare or juvenile justice systems or being unfairly separated from their children. With appropriate supports, young parents are capable of excellent parenting. This session is aimed at all professionals in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, including attorneys, social workers, juvenile probation officers, and CASA volunteers.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Grace Spulak, JD Jennifer Romero, JD & Denicia Cadena

**Room:** Salon FGH

## Workshop Session II

**THURSDAY, 8:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.**

### Changing the Pathway for Incarcerated Youth: An Inside Look at New and Innovative Programs in Juvenile Detention

This session will tackle some very sensitive and difficult topics that youth face in juvenile detention and juvenile correctional facilities. Assault, bullying, harassment, and sexual misconduct are just a few of the problems that occur all too frequently while youth are incarcerated. In addition, what are our juvenile detention facilities and community partners doing to help youth succeed upon their return to the community? "Core Enrichment Programs for Detained Youth" is a new concept that is being developed and implemented at the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center. The High Ropes Course for youth with substance abuse issues, Canine Program (Pet Therapy), La Cocina Verde (The Green Kitchen), Golf? .....Yes, Golf..... and an Equine Program are just a few of the options for detained youth. The cultural diversity of New Mexico and the juvenile detention population was factored into the process as these programs were created with the specific intent to reduce the existing racial and ethnic disparities. The goal of these innovative programs is to have a positive, lasting impact for at risk youth that goes well beyond their stay in detention.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Craig Sparks, MA

**Room:** Salon ABC

## ICWA Updates

Thirty-seven years after the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act (the Act or ICWA), compliance continues to be an issue. This session will include an overview of the Act and will provide a synopsis of the recent Bureau of Indian Affairs Guidelines. Models of successful Tribal/ State relationships will demonstrate the importance of this critical alliance for compliance and working in the best interest of the Indian child. Further, Peacemaking and family conferencing will be discussed as a potential best practice for ICWA cases. We will review and analyze federal ICWA case law, including *Holyfield*, *Baby Veronica* and *Oglala Sioux et al v. Hunnick*, and discuss several cases filed throughout the nation targeting ICWA matters.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Honorable Cheryl Fairbanks & Honorable John J. Romero Jr.

**Room:** Franciscan

## Promoting Positive Outcomes for Children and Youth Using the New Mexico Children's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Act

This session will address the basic rights afforded to children and youth under the Children's Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Act and how these rights come into play when a child is in state custody. We will discuss consent to treatment, rights for children and youth in out-of-home treatment settings, and how the Act, if followed, can be used to ensure that children and youth have better outcomes. This session is designed for all professionals in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Grace Spulak, JD

**Room:** Salon FGH

## Reasonable and Prudent Parenting

Reasonable and Prudent Parenting. Can our Foster Care system be a better parent to our kids? How? Think of all the experiences our Foster Kids miss out on, just because they are in foster care. We can learn to work better together and provide a platform for caregivers to open the development and thriving of our

children to our passion for protection. Federal Law now supports this notion, and we should embrace it; it is reasonable and prudent parenting. This session will explore the ways that professionals and caregivers can change our understanding of parenting and decision making in foster care. (Repeat from Session I)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Glen Casel

**Room:** Salon D

## Special Education Round Table

Do you ever feel overwhelmed when someone mentions special education law? Do you know why the courts in child welfare identify educational decision makers? Do you worry that a child in the delinquency system will not be successful in school? Do you wonder about how schools are supposed to support students with disabilities? The goal of this session is to give audience members a chance to raise their questions about the nuts and bolts of special education law. Two of the most experienced special education lawyers who represent students in New Mexico will host this forum to answer those burning questions and to provide basic advocacy advice.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Tara Ford, JD & Gail Stewart, JD

**Room:** Salon E

## Supported Kinship Care Diversion

During this interactive session, we will collectively explore both sides of the kinship diversion debate, and elements of supported diversion. By "diversion" we mean when a child welfare agency investigates a report of child abuse or neglect, determines that a child cannot remain safely with parents/guardians, and helps to facilitate that child's care by a relative instead of bringing the child into state custody. Together, we will discuss questions like: Is diversion a practice that can work well if the necessary supports are in place for the families? Are relatives pressured into taking responsibility for children without being given explanations of placement options and supports, including licensed foster care? Is there philosophical opposition to licensing kinship foster parents because the system shouldn't "pay family to care for family"? Mary

Bissell, a key contributor to the Annie E. Casey Foundation publication, *The Kinship Diversion Debate* will present her findings from over 50 extensive interviews with public agency administrators and supervisors; prevention, child protective service and foster care caseworkers; and clinicians, researchers, policy experts and judges. Participants will walk away with concrete ideas they can take to their communities.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Mary Bissell, JD

**Room:** Fireplace

## Workshop Session III

**THURSDAY, 10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.**

### Embracing and Healing At-Risk Youth and Communities

A unique, compassionate and community-based approach is used to embrace and heal at-risk youth to build the strength of connection to themselves, their families, and their communities. The program grew

out of a predominantly rural area of the state, through a collaborative effort by the schools, the courts and juvenile justice groups. Anyone with an interest in troubled youth and families, collaborative problem solving, development and sustainability of services in rural areas, and strengthening community connections will leave with new insights and inspiration. Participants will learn by demonstration how some mediation, restorative justice and other techniques are combined with a healing circle process to engage youth and their families to support growth and development. Participants will also learn how to build alliances in order to develop, fund and establish similar programs in their own communities. Early organizers of the program will discuss its history, successes, struggles and transformations.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Margaret Flores-Begay, Honorable JC Robinson & Bianca Padilla

**Room:** Salon ABC

### 2015: Developments in the Law of Abuse and Neglect

This session will review and provide an opportunity to discuss decisions of the New Mexico Court of Appeals and Supreme Court during 2015. Changes in the Children's Court Rules for 2016 and in the ICWA Guidelines will be touched on as well. The impact of these decisions and rule changes on abuse and neglect proceedings in New Mexico and on the parties, lawyers and judges involved in these proceedings will be explored. As usual, developments in the law will be explored, explained and criticized from the often conflicting perspective of an appellate lawyer who represents parents and an appellate lawyer who represents CYFD.

This year, our appellate courts have explored several important topics, including: (1) interpreting our Child Abuse Reporting Act to impose a duty to report on "every person" and limiting the application of evidentiary privileges; (2) defining "mental incapacity" and "mental disorder" and clarifying the relationship between § 32A-4-2(E)(2) (neglect based on the "faults or habits" of the parent)

Meet Angelique







Meet Nichelle

and § 32A-4-2(E)(4) (neglect based on mental incapacity or mental disorder); (3) exploring the role of CYFD in determining the foster care and adoptive placements of a child, even where the child is an Indian Child; and (4) applying the distinction adopted by our Supreme Court in *Grace H. between New Mexico's statutory abandonment provisions*. The cases, the new Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Child Welfare Act Guidelines, and the new Children's Court Rules will be available prior to the conference on the CLI's website. (Will repeat in Session III)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Rebecca Liggett, JD & Jane Yohalem, JD

**Room:** Salon FGH

### The Power of Language: Is It What You Say or How You Say It?

"You can mean what you say and say what you mean, but you don't have to say it mean." Do we know the power of our words? Do we know how to be strength based in our approach and in our written words? In our court reports? The session will be both lecture and activity driven so participants leave with intellectual and practical information.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 Ethics/ Professionalism*

**Presenter:** Cassandra Porter, JD

**Room:** Salon E

### Roundtable Discussion on Improving Foster Kid Access to Compensation Grants

Victim Compensation grants are available to assist foster children with expenses related to the abuse/neglect that they experienced. Many foster children, former foster children, and professionals who work with them do not know that this resource is available. This session will include a short presentation on Victim Compensation grants, what they are, how to apply for them, and how to access them, followed by a roundtable discussion on how agencies and providers can help current and former foster children better access this resource.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Frank Zubia & Po Chen

**Room:** Rendering Room

### Understanding the Past and Changing the Future: Historical Trauma and Native Peacemaking.

Historically, Native Americans have been traumatized by federal policies such as allotment and termination. Sadly, the effects of those policies have created what has been defined as historical trauma, resulting in an alarming rate of unemployment, suicide, and substance abuse in Indian country today. In an attempt to solve these problems, laws and policies were implemented that failed to consider how tribal kinship models and powerful extended familial relationships could solve many of the problems they face. Peacemaking/family conferencing is the way we incorporate those strong kinship connections to create a stronger community for our children that aims to end the cycle of trauma and create healing for a family. This interactive peacemaking workshop will introduce key concepts of Native peacemaking as an alternative to dispute resolution through court adjudication. Peacemaking is a collaborative process that builds consensus through respectful, open dialogue, reflective listening, and empathy. Peacemaking is conducted through a talking circle and talking object, which encourages thoughtful discussion and facilitates an equal

balance of speaking time for each participant. Peacemaking frequently involves members of the extended family, as well as elders. This session will allow people to engage in a mock peacemaking with assigned roles to act out, including family members, social workers, and other community members. Through the mock peacemaking workshop participants will learn how to lead a peacemaking, as well as the value that peacemaking brings to resolving [custodial] conflicts in a holistic therapeutic spirit.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Honorable Cheryl Fairbanks, E.J. John, John Martin & Diego Urbina

**Room:** Franciscan

### Working with Non-Offending Parents in Child Sexual Abuse Cases

This session addresses family engagement and the importance of empathy in respecting and empowering families to protect their children. Any member of the team that has contact with non-offending parents will benefit by attending and may walk away with a new perspective on what the parents we deal with are going through. Participants will gain a framework for empathy for non-offending parents, an understanding of the dynamics and types of non-offending parent, and learn how to have a consistent approach in dealing with non-offending parents.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 Ethics/ Professionalism*

**Presenter:** Dan Powers, LCSW

**Room:** Salon E

## Workshop Session IV

**THURSDAY, 1:30 P.M.—3:00 P.M.**

### 2015: Developments in the Law of Abuse and Neglect

This session will review and provide an opportunity to discuss decisions of the New Mexico appellate courts from 2015. Changes in the Children's Court Rules for 2016 and in the ICWA Guidelines will be touched on as well. The impact of these decisions and rule

changes on abuse and neglect proceedings in New Mexico and on the parties, lawyers and judges involved in these proceedings will be explored. As usual, developments in the law will be explored, explained and criticized from the often conflicting perspective of an appellate lawyer who represents parents and an appellate lawyer who represents CYFD. This year, our appellate courts have explored several important topics, including: (1) interpreting our Child Abuse Reporting Act to impose a duty to report on "every person" and limiting the application of evidentiary privileges; (2) defining "mental incapacity" and "mental disorder" and clarifying the relationship between § 32A-4-2(E)(2) (neglect based on the "faults or habits" of the parent) and § 32A-4-2(E)(4) (neglect based on mental incapacity or mental disorder); (3) exploring the role of CYFD in determining the foster care and adoptive placements of a child, even where the child is an Indian Child; and (4) applying the distinction adopted by our Supreme Court in *Grace H.* between New Mexico's statutory abandonment provisions. The cases, the new Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Child Welfare Act Guidelines, and the new Children's Court Rules will be available prior to the conference on the CLI's website. (Repeat from Session III).

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Rebecca Liggett, JD & Jane Yohalem, JD

**Room:** Salon FGH

### Family Involvement in Juvenile Justice- The Pennsylvania Model

Judges, administrators, front line staff, family and community leaders will have an opportunity to learn specifics of the Pennsylvania and nationwide efforts to support family involvement in juvenile justice. Since 2005, the presenter has headed a group of juvenile justice and family leaders which is focused on family involvement in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. In 2013, New Mexico juvenile justice leaders participated in a national invitational to explore adaptation of this curriculum by other states. Session participants will learn

about the development of the PA products, and how they have been adopted and evaluated. Through review and discussion, they will experience these products' tools and activities, as well as strategize on how to incorporate and adapt the materials to support New Mexico's efforts to enhance family involvement and family voice in their child's juvenile justice experience. (Will repeat in Session VI)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Wendy Luckenbill

**Room:** Salon ABC

### A Practical Approach to Recognizing, Evaluating and Responding to Domestic Violence in Decisions Involving Parents and Children

Research confirms what experienced practitioners know: child custody and placement decisions often happen in legal processes without adequate regard for peoples' real life experience of domestic violence. This session introduces a structured approach to decision making in domestic violence related determinations regarding children that centralizes the experience of battered parents and their children. It

focuses on identifying domestic violence through systematic and universal screening; understanding the full nature and context of abuse; connecting abuse and its related harms to standards for decision making; and accounting for the context and implications of abuse in ultimate decisions and actions. The session will also acquaint participants with a suite of practice guides designed to help them implement the recommended decision making approach with opportunities to apply the practice guides during the session.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Nancy Ver Steegh, JD & Laura Bassein, JD

**Room:** Salon D

### Walking In Our Shoes to Better Outcomes

Come join our Youth Advocates, VIP and LUVYA Members in collaboration to create better outcomes for foster youth.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 Ethics/*

*Professionalism*

**Presenters:** New Mexico Youth from LUVYANM & VIP Leaders

**Room:** Franciscan

### Wraparound: This is Not Business as Usual

For many years New Mexico has struggled to find new and better ways to serve children, youth and families with complex needs. There has been general agreement that separating youth from families and placing them in residential settings is not always the best solution, but we have lacked realistic options for managing high acuity in a family- and community-centered way. Increasingly across the country High-Fidelity Wraparound is seen as a proactive response to this concern. Wraparound is an intensive, holistic, culturally responsive method of engaging with individuals and families with complex needs so that they can live in their homes and communities and realize their hopes and dreams. The process engages youth and families in team-driven participatory plans of care that utilize their strengths and the strengths of their community, team members and their culture. There is significant evidence



Meet Louis



that Wraparound, when done correctly, significantly increases the possibility of more positive outcomes. CYFD is making an increasing commitment to this practice and is beginning to make the service available through highly trained facilitators. The session will give an overview of the theory and practice of Wraparound, the underlying values that support this evidence-based practice, and the outcomes that can be expected. Participants will be briefed on what it means (for the youth, the family and you) if your client (or their child) is referred to and engaged in Wraparound; what the child, youth and family experience; how cultural assets can be leveraged, and how you might you be involved - on a child and family team, as an advocate, as a judge reviewing a Wraparound-developed plan of care, etc.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Steve Johnson, LPCC, LMSW & Bryce Pittenger, LPCC

**Room:** Salon E

## Workshop Session V

**THURSDAY, 3:30 P.M.-5:00 P.M.**

### Children's Court Mediation, Illuminated

The Children's Court Mediation Program (CCMP) has operated statewide for 15 years to support positive outcomes for the children that are at the heart of abuse and neglect cases. The CCMP mediates at every stage of an abuse and neglect case, from investigations to family reunification or termination of parental rights and the consideration of agreements for open adoption. The Program's mediators routinely seek to invite meaningful discussion between families in crisis and an array of professionals that families encounter when navigating the complex worlds of both the court and child welfare systems. In this presentation, CCMP Coordinators will first introduce the Program and then a panel will openly share and discuss the thoughts, concerns, hidden agendas and interests that arise during a children's court mediation. The panel will

Meet Mariah



include a Program Mediator, and a Protective Services Worker, a Children's Court Attorney, a Respondent Attorney, a Guardian ad Litem, a CASA, Foster Parents and Adoptive Parents. The panel will discuss participant roles, explain the process and outcome(s), and describe how to best address issues as they arise during mediation. Advanced mediation skills and techniques will also be shared to assist in resolving interpersonal conflict by providing equal opportunities for all participants, supporting the sharing of difficult topics, facilitating discussions between parties in conflict, encouraging active listening, maintaining an unbiased position, and existing in a conflict without being confrontational. Anyone who works with families in conflict, or who is interested in resolutions for child abuse and neglect cases, will benefit from the presentation.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 Ethics/*

*Professionalism*

**Presenters:** Elizabeth Jeffreys, JD, Susan Laughlin, Dr. Nancy Garcia Tafoya, Kim Montgomery, Catherine Begay, JD, Kelly P. O'Neil, JD, Kay Ohmberger, Brenda Montoya, LSW, David Montoya, LSW, Jennifer Munson, JD, Aaron Salas, LCSW, Megan Walsh, LCSW & Brandie White

**Room:** Salon ABC

## Getting a Job: What Foster Youth Can and Can't Do, and When They Can, Some Tips on How To Do It

New Mexico's child welfare system is trying to do better at preparing foster youth for the real world of adulthood. A big part of that preparation involves opportunities to work in the community. However, foster youth often run into roadblocks when they decide they want to get a job. This session will address the regulatory and practical roadblocks that youth may encounter and provide information to foster youth and their advocates about the process of getting a job, tips about job applications and interviews, and resources for finding job opportunities. The primary intended audience for this session is youth who are in foster care or have recently aged out, as well as the professional who works with them such as treatment providers, attorneys, social workers and CASAs. The session may also be of interest to JPOs and others working with youth in the juvenile justice system.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Arturo Fierro, MSW & Liz McGrath, JD  
**Room:** Fireplace Room



Meet Darion

## Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a large-scale global problem. It ranks as the third largest criminal enterprise, behind drug and firearm distribution, generating an estimated profit of \$32 billion a year. Victims can be exploited for either labor or sexual acts. Every year, an estimated 300,000 children in the US become victims of commercial sexual exploitation. These victims remain largely unidentified. One of the largest barriers to rescue is the inability/unwillingness of victims to self-identify. This means that professional identification of victims may be the only hope for removal from the industry. Many people have a misunderstanding of what human trafficking entails, believing that victims must be physically moved from one location to another. It is imperative that professionals have a clear understanding of what human trafficking is, who constitutes a victim, and how to recognize exploited individuals, so that appropriate intervention can be initiated.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Shalon M. Nienow, MD, FAAP  
**Room:** Franciscan

## I am Me: Understanding the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality and Identity

Being a young person comes with immense challenges from bullying and school to finding themselves and becoming confident with their place in the world. Our youth come to us with not just one identity, but layers or intersections of identity. Some of these identities, like gender and sexual orientation, come with additional challenges caused by societal discrimination, harassment and bias. These challenges increase the risks for these youth to a critical level. "I am Me: Understanding the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality and Identity" is a training film that explores concepts, terminology and challenges that our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) young people face. This session will show the film, and then engage participants in meaningful discussion of tangible ways adults can be



supportive and welcoming to the LGBTQ+ young people they serve. Participants will also be provided with information about how to host a showing of this training video in their own community or organization. (Repeat from Session I)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 Ethics/ Professionalism*

**Presenters:** Jenn Jeverson, MS & Suzanne Pearlman

**Room:** Salon E

### The Impact of Childhood Trauma and Working with At-Risk Youth

This interactive session will address a number of topics relating to understanding childhood trauma as well as developing best practices for working with at-risk youth. We will examine how family dysfunction, social disorganization, cultural deviance and exposure to violence can impact childhood development and behavior, create childhood trauma, causes child PTSD, increase violent behavior, and contribute to school failure, increase the likelihood of gang membership, and actually affect brain maturation. We will develop specific strategies to address negative childhood influences and experiences, and examine the theory of a cognitive shift to

promote positive behavioral change. Childhood trauma continues to be a major contributing factor that impacts at-risk youth. We need to first understand the effects of childhood trauma when working with at-risk youth in order to improve childhood outcomes, break the cycle of perpetual family dysfunction, and reduce their overrepresentations in our juvenile justice system. (Will repeat in Session VI)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Vanessa Dixon, MA

**Room:** Salon D

### The Social Roots and Outcomes of Adverse Childhood Experiences

The way a culture nurtures and manages its children determines to a large degree the ongoing health, vitality, creativity and productivity of a society as it moves into the future. On the other hand, abusive and neglectful child rearing practices directly underlie future social levels of criminality and substance abuse, which in turn escalate the cost of public services to treat and contain these conditions. Antisocial and criminal behaviors can be reduced to their fundamental components of impulsivity, poor attachment, impaired empathic capacity and the use of aggression as a problem solving strategy, all of which are developmental failures largely produced by early childhood neglect and abuse. A wide range of research literature now strongly supports the undeniable but still controversial conclusion that nearly the same negative effects result from child corporal punishment as are caused by physical abuse. We will review the results of a recent study of the adverse childhood experiences of delinquent children in the custody of New Mexico Juvenile Justice. We will also discuss the full body of literature and opinion on the topic of child corporal punishment, and provide child discipline alternatives that are both more successful and also do not cause long term adverse consequences. Similar practices are applicable and long overdue in schools, juvenile correctional facilities and psychiatric treatment programs.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Dr. George Davis, Dr. Andy Hsi & Yael Cannon, JD

**Room:** Salon FGH



## Workshop Session VI

FRIDAY, 8:30 A.M.-10:00 A.M.

### Family Involvement in Juvenile Justice-The Pennsylvania Model

Judges, administrators, front line staff, family and community leaders will have an opportunity to learn specifics of the Pennsylvania and nationwide efforts to support family involvement in juvenile justice. Since 2005, the presenter has headed a group of juvenile justice and family leaders which is focused on family involvement in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. In 2013, New Mexico juvenile justice leaders participated in a national invitational to explore adaptation of this curriculum by other states. Session participants will learn about the development of the PA products, and how they have been adopted and evaluated. Through review and discussion, they will experience these product's tools and activities, as well as strategize on how to incorporate and adapt the materials to support the New Mexico's efforts to enhance family involvement and family voice in their child's juvenile justice experience. (Repeat from Session IV)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Wendy Luckenbill

**Room:** Salon D

### The Impact of Childhood Trauma and Working with At-Risk Youth

This interactive session will address a number of topics relating to understanding childhood trauma as well as developing best practices for working with at-risk youth. We will examine how family dysfunction, social disorganization, cultural deviance and exposure to violence can impact childhood development and behavior, create childhood trauma, causes child PTSD, increase violent behavior, and contribute to school failure, increase the likelihood of gang membership, and actually affect brain maturation. We will develop specific strategies to address negative childhood

influences and experiences, and examine the theory of a cognitive shift to promote positive behavioral change. Childhood trauma continues to be a major contributing factor that impacts at-risk youth. We need to first understand the effects of childhood trauma when working with at-risk youth in order to improve childhood outcomes, break the cycle of perpetual family dysfunction, and reduce their overrepresentations in our juvenile justice system. (Repeat from Session V)

*SW CEUs: 1.5 Cultural, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenter:** Vanessa Dixon, MA

**Room:** Salon ABC

### Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline: Transforming Delinquency Involvement into Education Advocacy

Too many students with disabilities receive discipline in school, including suspensions and expulsions, when the root problem is access to a high quality education. Many disabilities go undetected despite the requirements of federal law. Up to 85 percent of youth in juvenile detention facilities have disabilities that make them eligible for special education services, yet only 37 percent receive these services while in school. Students of color face disproportionate discipline in our system. All of these trends are unacceptable. This session explains a model in which students who touch the juvenile justice system are referred to and screened for special education services. The project's goal is to transform moments of crisis into moments of advocacy. The presentation will engage participants in group discussions and ask them to reflect on their own experiences with disability and the school and delinquency systems. It will cover the basic tenets of special education law as it relates to school discipline, will challenge our assumptions about young learners, and will attempt to destigmatize disability. Participants will learn how to recognize warning signs of invisible and undiagnosed disability and gain advocacy tools they can use on behalf of young people. The

presentation will make limited use of didactic materials. Instead, it will engage participants and ask them to reflect on their own practice and expertise.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Matthew Bernstein, JD, Joan Curtiss & Julia Petrucelli, JD

**Room:** Franciscan

### The Link: Are Animals Part of the Picture? Working Together to Support the Whole Family

This session addresses the effect of domestic abuse on families with companion animals. We will discuss how animal abuse often intersects with child abuse and domestic violence, identify warning signs of increased risk for the whole family, and learn about resources available for victims and advocates. "The Link" between animal abuse and other forms of family violence is no surprise; it has been extensively researched and well-documented for many years. Today, more agencies and organizations, including CYFD, the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV), and several domestic violence shelters, are addressing the needs of families with companion animals. This session will offer an overview of The Link and the real implications for both people and animals in child welfare and domestic violence cases. As advocates, counselors, and caseworkers, what can we do, for instance, about a child witnessing violence in her home and then acting out against the family pet? What resources are available for a family with a beloved dog or cat they are afraid to leave behind but can't take with them to shelter? This session will provide practical tools for assessing the critical needs of a family at risk and potential responses to a variety of situations involving the welfare of children, adults, and animals affected by abusive behavior. Programs and resources will be presented.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 General*

**Presenters:** Sharon Jonas & Shana Aldahl, LSW

**Room:** Salon FGH



### Transforming Trauma - How To Do This Work and Stay Sane

This session addresses the concept of Trauma Stewardship based on the idea that a deeper understanding of trauma exposure and the tools for navigating systems will enable people to do their work more sustainably. The session is designed to: raise awareness of, and respond to the cumulative toll on those who are exposed to the suffering, hardship, crises, or trauma of humans, other living beings or the planet itself; help others develop a deeper understanding of trauma exposure and the tools for reconciling this so folks can do their work sustainably and teach people in a broad base of fields how to create a sustainable individual and collective culture.

*SW CEUs: 1.5 General, CLEs: 1.5 Ethics/*

*Professionalism*

**Presenter:** Laura van Dernoot Lipsky

**Room:** Salon E



## Conference Speakers

**Shana Aldahl** is a Licensed Social Worker in New Mexico and the Special Projects Coordinator for the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence, managing both the Animal Protection Project and the Children's Capacity Building Project. Shana has worked in the field of domestic violence for nearly ten years in various capacities to include managing a domestic violence shelter, providing crisis intervention services to survivors of domestic violence in both a hospital and a substance abuse detox center, and facilitating trainings to both advocates and medical professionals. Shana is dedicated to empowering Survivors by working towards eliminating systematic barriers and expanding domestic violence services within the state. Shana believes that all living creatures have the right to a life free from violence and abuse.

**Matthew Bernstein** is a Staff Attorney at Pegasus Legal Services for Children. He represents children in abuse/neglect and special education cases, and focuses on stopping the school to prison pipeline. He graduated with honors from the University of New Mexico School of Law. He holds a Master's Degree in United States History from UNM, where his thesis focused on race relations and education, and a Level II New Mexico teacher's license. Prior to attending law school, Matthew taught English, history, and economics at Amy Biehl High School in downtown Albuquerque.

**Mary Bissell** is an attorney, child and family policy expert and founding partner of ChildFocus. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center where she teaches a class on advocacy for public interest lawyers. Mary was formerly a Fellow at the New America Foundation, a non-partisan public policy institute that brings new voices and ideas to America's public discourse. She also served as a senior staff attorney and lobbyist at the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), where she focused on poverty, child welfare, substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health policy issues. Mary is a graduate of Yale College and the Georgetown University Law Center.

**Catherine Begay** is an attorney with her own law firm who has dedicated her career to working with families in crisis. She received her BA and law degree from the University of New Mexico.

**Denicia Cadena** is a queer Chican@ born and raised in Mesilla, New Mexico. Denicia is the Policy & Cultural Strategy Director of Young Women United (YWU), an organization that leads community organizing and policy efforts by and for young women of color in New Mexico. Denicia leads the design and implementation of YWU's change making strategies. She works to make sure

the voices and expertise of those most impacted by an issue are centered in decision making spaces. She also leads YWU's cultural strategies so that our efforts reflect the lived experiences of our communities. Denicia has deep experience working on issues of reproductive justice, racial justice, and queer justice. Denicia holds a BA in History with a concentration in Diaspora Studies from Amherst College.

**Yael Zakai Cannon** is an Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where she teaches in the Community Lawyering Clinic, a medical-legal partnership with the UNM Health Sciences Center, in which law students represent children and families in a variety of different poverty law matters. Prof. Cannon serves as the Co-Chair of the John Paul Taylor Taskforce, created by the New Mexico legislature to focus on the prevention of child maltreatment and the development of an early childhood system of care, and was appointed by the New Mexico Supreme Court to serve on the Children's Court Rules Committee. She previously taught at American University's Washington College of Law and worked as a Senior Attorney with the Health Access Project at The Children's Law Center in Washington, D.C., where she represented parents and caregivers in a variety of poverty law cases through a medical-legal collaborative with Children's National Medical Center. Cannon graduated with distinction from Stanford Law School and summa cum laude from the University of Maryland with BA degrees in History and African American Studies. Her research focuses on the ways in which the law can help to ensure better outcomes for vulnerable children.

**Glen Casel** has been an advocate for the children in Florida for more than 20 years. He currently serves as the President/CEO of Community Based Care (CBC) of Central Florida, the lead foster care and related services agency in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties. He has served as the Chair for the Florida Coalition for Children's Board of Directors and the Seminole County Children's Cabinet. Before coming to CBC of Central Florida, he was a Vice President at The Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) for almost five years, an agency providing a full array of services to children in need. Glen previously worked for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for 10 years, including serving as the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Program Office Supervisor and as the District Program Manager for Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Brevard Counties; his responsibilities included child welfare, mental health and substance abuse as well as other DCF programs. Glen has multiple local, state and federal recognitions, including the Orlando Business Journal's (OBJ) 40 under 40, and the DCF Secretary's Partnership Award. Glen is the co-author of Developing Outcome Strategies in Children's Mental Health, Florida's Use of Accountable Innovation, Paul H. Brookes Publishing 2001. Glen is a graduate of the



University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree in Health Services Administration. Glen makes his home in Central Florida with his wife, where they raised three children.

**Po Chen** is the Executive Director of Youth Heartline, a non-profit advocacy and service organization based in Taos, New Mexico serving children and their families.

**Joan Curtiss** is a Senior Advocate at Disability Rights New Mexico. After securing her Master's Degree in Special Education and working as a graduate assistant at UNM, she worked for several years at one of New Mexico's state institutions as a teacher for those students with the most severe complex disabilities and helped create a curriculum to meet this population's needs. For 30 years she has worked for Disability Rights New Mexico. Her areas of interest include special education, youth with serious mental illness, developmental disabilities, and Medicaid. Recently she has been working on a grant with Pegasus and DRNM on the school-prison pipeline called the Education Justice Project.

**George Davis** is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist who currently serves as the Director of Psychiatry for the New Mexico Department of Children, Youth and Families Department. He previously served on faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine as Residency Director, Division Director and Vice Chair of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and continues to teach and supervise there on a limited basis as adjunct faculty. In addition to his University and state service, Dr. Davis previously worked for five years at the Indian Health Service, providing care for several of the Pueblos and tribal hospitals and clinics in New Mexico. He became a Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy in 2011. His primary areas of interest are delinquency as an outcome of early neglect and abuse, extreme behavior disorders in young children, psychopharmacology, and systems of care for severely disabled and underserved populations.

**Vanessa E. Dixon**, MA has over twenty years of experience in both policing and academia. Beginning her career as a police officer in the City of Lowell, MA, from 1994. In 2004 Ms. Dixon transitioned to a teaching career serving as a Professor of Criminal Justice at Middlesex Community College and attained tenure in 2010. Professor Dixon holds a level III instructor certification from the State of California P.O.S.T. as an Academy Instructor, Domestic Violence Advocate and in Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence from the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Currently, Ms. Dixon is a Lecturer of Sociology and Criminal Justice at California State University, Long Beach. She also consults with various police and probation departments, and educational institutions, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, Orange County School District

the Los Angeles Police Department and the Las Vegas Police Department, the New Haven Connecticut Police Department and the Standard Training for Corrections of California. Vanessa Dixon has a dual Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from American International College and a Master of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Anna Maria College.

**Cheryl D. Fairbanks** is Of Counsel at the firm of Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP and Tribal Justice with the Inter Tribal Court of Appeals for Nevada. Ms. Fairbanks specializes in Indian law; her practice concentrates in the areas of Indian Law, State-Tribal Relations, Indian Gaming, Tribal Courts, Mediation, Family, School, and Educational Law. Ms. Fairbanks obtained her BA from Fort Lewis College in 1969 and her JD in 1987 from the University of New Mexico. Prior to her law career, Ms. Fairbanks served as a teacher for the Albuquerque Public Schools and Zia Day School, and as an Administrator for Acomita Day School and the Santa Fe Indian School. She was instrumental in establishing the Indian Child Welfare Desk, New Mexico Office of Indian Tourism, the University of New Mexico Indian Law Clinic, and the passage of the New Mexico Indian Arts and Crafts Act. Ms. Fairbanks' professional associations include the State Bar of New Mexico (Member, Indian Law Section; Co-Director, CLE); Federal Bar Association; New Mexico Indian Bar Association (past President); National American Indian Court Judges Association; Family Court Judge, Santa Clara Pueblo, 1992-1994; Chief Justice Yavapai Apache, 1995 - 2005; Associate Justice, Saginaw Band of Chippewa Indians; Member, New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution. Ms. Fairbanks is Tlingit-Tsimpshian and was born in Ketchikan, Alaska. She is currently the clinical instructor for the Southwest Indian Law Clinic at the University of New Mexico School of Law.



Meet Thomas

## THE 23RD ANNUAL Children's Law Institute

**Arturo Fierro** is a graduate of the University of New Mexico. He has a Master's in Social Work and a Master's in Art Education from the University of New Mexico. Arturo spent nine years in the Army with one deployment to Iraq where he acquired a combat badge. While participating in the UNM Service Corps, Arturo provided mental health services to inmates at Central New Mexico Corrections Department. He also interned with the National Association of Social Work New Mexico chapter where he led the Student Legislative Advocacy Day in 2013. Arturo is currently the Education Coordinator at New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks.

**Margaret Flores-Begay** is a native of Silver City, New Mexico. Margaret obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Criminal Justice and her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership/ Counseling at Western New Mexico University. For the past 12 years, Margaret has served as an adjunct professor at WNMU. Margaret has 16 years of experience in the juvenile justice system previously working as a Probation Officer. Margaret currently works for the Sixth Judicial District Adult Drug Court Program in Grant and Hidalgo Counties. She has been instrumental in developing and initiating numerous prevention, early diversion and intervention programs during her tenure at Juvenile Probation/Children, Youth and Families Department. Margaret is married and has four daughters. Margaret currently serves on the NMADCP Board. Margaret along with Judge J.C. Robinson created the JJAC continuum board in Grant County. The creation of the JJAC continuum board was completed through communication, collaboration, and working relationships with the local schools, social service agencies, as well with local city and county officials.

**Tara Ford** is the cofounder of Pegasus Legal Services for Children, a nonprofit law firm serving children and their families in New Mexico. Tara has been involved in children's legal issues for over twenty years. Before going to law school, she worked with children and families at Peanut Butter and Jelly Therapeutic Pre-School, an intensive interactive parenting program. She continued her focus on issues related to children, families and poverty while attending Stanford Law School, 1990-1993, including working with families whose children needed special education services in East Palo Alto. Tara has focused her career on issues impacting children, including special education, health care, mental health care and child welfare.

**Deborah Fowler** is the Executive Director of Texas Appleseed. An attorney experienced in public policy, Deborah is a nationally recognized expert in school discipline and juvenile justice issues, having authored three major reports on the school-to-prison pipeline in Texas. She also authored a first-of-its-kind handbook for attorneys representing defendants who have an intellectual disability. She received the 2011 Excellence in Public Interest Award for her contributions to public interest law. She also received the 2011 Ma'at Justice

Award for the State Bar Women and the Law Section — given to individuals who actively address the needs and issues affecting women in the legal profession and in the community. Prior to assuming the Executive Director's position, Deborah served as Texas Appleseed's Deputy Director. She also has extensive experience working with the judiciary, both as a judicial clerk and supervising attorney. Deborah holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Tulane University and a Juris Doctor from Lewis & Clark College's Northwestern School of Law.

**Nancy Garcia Tafoya** is the Southern Regional Coordinator for the Children's Court Mediation Program. Dr. Garcia Tafoya has four years of domestic mediation facilitation in the 3rd Judicial District and served as the coordinator of an access to justice component in a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Rule of Law Project in Mexico from 2007 to 2010. Within the project, she directed alternative justice programs in five Mexican states which included establishment of mediation centers; development and implementation of training programs in mediation, conciliation, and restorative justice; and provided support for building capacity in rural indigenous communities to incorporate traditional conflict resolution approaches with the rule of law. Nancy has a doctorate in curriculum and instruction, is a practicing anthropologist and received her training in basic mediation and family law mediation from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

**Tom Hall** is a graduate of Purdue University and Arizona State University. He holds a Masters Degree in Social Work. Tom was trained to work with youth who have caused sexual harm by Joann Schladales in 1998; he is currently in training on Risk Screenings of intellectually disabled individuals with Jim Haveen. Tom now serves as the Lead Clinical Social Worker in the Bernalillo Youth Services Center, but formerly served at Sequoyah Adolescent Treatment Center, from 1996 to 2013. He has been a clinical member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers since 1998. From 2008 through 2013, he served as a member of the New Mexico Sex Offender Management Board. Tom co-authored the New Mexico Standards for assessment and treatment of youth who have caused sexual harm.

**Shadi Houshyar** serves as the Vice President for Child Welfare Policy at First Focus Campaign for Children. She has experience working with families involved in the child welfare system and is particularly interested in identifying opportunities to address the health and behavioral health challenges of children and youth impacted by the child welfare system. Shadi is also Director of the State Policy Advocacy & Reform Center (SPARC), a national resource center for statebased advocates, which aims to improve outcomes for children and families involved with the child welfare system by building the capacity of and connections between state child welfare advocates. Shadi oversees a growing network of statebased child welfare advocates participating in SPARC.



**Andrew Hsi**, MD, MPH, director of the Health Sciences Institute for Resilience, Health, and Justice, is a professor and general pediatrician at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. He has developed systems of care, specifically the FOCUS and Milagro Programs, for children and families affected by prenatal alcohol and drug exposure. His work builds systems of care as secondary prevention models to reduce further Adverse Childhood Experiences in the lives of infants and children. Through the work of the teams he's led, the programs have provided intensive home based early intervention and a family focused medical home in the greater Albuquerque area for 26 years. With faculty from the UNM Law Clinic, in 1996 he helped found one of the first medical legal alliances in the country, bringing law students together with families served by the FOCUS Program. A project currently underway will examine a possible family focused medical home model to address the global needs of youth discharged from the Youth Services Center in Bernalillo County.

**Elizabeth Jeffreys** oversees the statewide operations of the Children's Court Mediation Program and serves as staff for the New Mexico Supreme Court's Statewide ADR Commission. Ms. Jeffreys started in her position as Statewide ADR Coordinator with the Administrative Office of the Courts in March of 2015. Prior to assuming the Statewide ADR Coordinator position, she served as in-house counsel for the Human Services Department on various administrative, civil and policy matters. She also served on the New Mexico Governor's Alternative Dispute Resolution Council. As the Human Services Department's ADR Coordinator, she surveyed, assessed, and reported on the use of ADR within all divisions. Ms. Jeffreys obtained both a juris doctor (law) degree and a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Mexico, and obtained her undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University.

**Jenn Jeverson**, M.S., of Prevention at Play, LLC, provides custom-designed consultation, trainings and programs to both youth and adults on topics such as community building, bullying, substance abuse, suicide, mental health, safe schools and sexual and gender identities. She is a strong advocate for policies and programs that create safer school environments for all students, especially those most marginalized.

**E.J. John**, *Juris Doctor Candidate*, UNM School of Law, was raised in the Vanderwagen/Gallup, New Mexico area and is a proud member of the Navajo Nation born into the Salt Water Clan. Currently pursuing a law degree at the University of New Mexico, E.J. began his academic journey at the University of New Mexico-Gallup where he received his associate's degree in information technology (IT). E.J. then matriculated to the University of New Mexico's main campus to pursue a degree in political science and a minor in Navajo. During his studies at UNM, E.J. was awarded the Fred Harris Congressional Internship and

served in the office of Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of his internship, E.J. returned to New Mexico and successfully earned his Bachelor's Degree and enrolled in law school in the fall of 2013. While in law school, E.J. has served as Secretary of the Native American Law Students Association (2014-2015) and as Citations Editor of the Tribal Law Journal. E.J. is currently exploring all professional possibilities after law school and looks forward to one day returning home to the Navajo Nation and serving his people. He is a huge fan of the NFL's Denver Broncos and the NBA's Salt Lake City Jazz.

**Steve Johnson** is the Executive Director of New Day Youth and Family Services, a non-profit agency that has been serving at-risk youth and their families for 39 years. Steve is also a statewide trainer and coach for New Mexico Wraparound CARES. Previously Steve has worked for 30 years at both the local and state level to develop and transform the state's behavioral health system. Steve is a Licensed Clinical Counselor and a Licensed Social Worker. Steve's professional focus has been on the holistic issues facing troubled youth and their families, including both clinical and systemic issues. He is a strong advocate for keeping young people safe while surrounding them with healthy families and supportive communities. He believes in working collaboratively with other agencies to create an integrated system that is effective and meaningful.

**Sharon Jonas** is the Program Manager for Animal Protection of New Mexico's (APNM) Companion Animal Rescue Effort (CARE), a partnership program with the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV) and the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department. Sharon manages the CARE Network of Safe Havens, including local agencies, businesses, and individuals who provide safe temporary housing, veterinary care, and other services for the animals of domestic violence victims. Sharon facilitates training for law enforcement, social service agencies, and others on The Link Between Animal Cruelty and Other Forms of Violence and Investigating Animal Cruelty. She has been with APNM for six years and previously worked for animal and environmental advocacy organizations in Washington, D.C. and San Diego, CA. A former volunteer with the American Red Cross, Sharon managed emergency response services for human shelters during Hurricane Katrina and the 2007 California wildfires and, currently, she coordinates preparedness and response efforts for animal-related needs during wildfires and other disasters. APNM is a statewide non-profit organization with a wide range of programs that challenge animal cruelty and advocate for more humane treatment of all animals. Ms. Jonas is also a Certified Yoga Instructor and teaches yoga in Albuquerque.

## THE 23RD ANNUAL Children's Law Institute

**Susan Laughlin** is the Northern Regional Coordinator of the Children's Court Mediation Program. Ms. Laughlin has over seventeen years of experience in conflict resolution management providing services as a professional mediator, facilitator, trainer and coach. She has over 500 total hours of formal training in workplace/EEO mediation, advanced facilitation, health care ethics, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and land use facilitation. She's conducted mediations for the U.S. Postal Service REDRESS Program, the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration, the N.M. Special Education Bureau, and the state courts of New Mexico. In addition, she serves as an alternative dispute resolution advisor to FEMA and serves on the Statewide ADR Commission pursuant to her appointment by the N.M. Supreme Court.

**Rebecca J. Liggett** graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1986. Ms. Liggett started her legal career practicing water law, first working for the state of Kansas and then for the federal government with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Ms. Liggett has been practicing as a Children's Court Attorney with the Children, Youth and Families Department since 1996. Ms. Liggett has represented CYFD in Children's Court in various counties throughout New Mexico. For the past eleven years, Ms. Liggett has been the Department's lead appellate attorney. Ms. Liggett is a past Chair of the Children's Law Section and is an NACC certified child welfare law specialist.

**Wendy Luckenbill** has emerged as a national leader in the effort to enhance family involvement in juvenile justice through her work with Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. In 2005, Pennsylvania was chosen as the first John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Models for Change state. As part of this work, in 2007, Ms. Luckenbill was asked to lead a group to address family involvement in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. She convened a group of juvenile justice and family advocacy leaders who committed to development of a strategic process to address the issue. This process resulted in several seminal products which have inspired subsequent work across many states and nationally.

**Glenn E. Martin** is the Founder of JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA), an organization dedicated to cutting the US correctional population in half by 2030. JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform. Glenn is a national leader and criminal justice reform advocate who spent six years in NYS prisons. Prior to founding JLUSA, Glenn served for seven years as VP of Public Affairs at The Fortune Society, and six years as Co-Director of the National HIRE Network at the Legal Action Center. Glenn is Co-Founder of the Education from the Inside Out Coalition, a 2014 Echoing Green Fellow, a 2012 America's Leaders of Change National Urban Fellow, and a member of the governing boards of the College

and Community Fellowship, Prisoners' Legal Services, the Petey Greene Program, the Reset Foundation, the New York Foundation, and California Partnership for Safe Communities. Glenn also serves on Governor Cuomo's Reentry and Reintegration Council, the advisory board of the Vera Institute's Public Health and Mass Incarceration Initiative, the National Network for Safe Communities and the Executive Session on Community Corrections at Harvard University. Glenn regularly contributes his expertise to national news outlets such as MSNBC, Fox News, CNN, Al Jazeera and CSPAN.

**John (Jeremy) Martin** *Juris Doctor Candidate*, UNM School of Law, was born and raised in Albuquerque before attending college at the University of Chicago. After college he worked for a start-up LED lighting company in Los Angeles, California. Jeremy decided that he wanted to return to New Mexico to become involved in the legal world, and enrolled at the University of New Mexico School of Law. Jeremy is currently in his third and final year of law school and has interests in Indian Law, Water Law, and natural resource and environmental issues.

**Christina (Renee) Martinez** is an independently licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a Masters of Science in Child, Marriage and Family Therapy. Renee has multiple roles in her practice, all with a primary focus on family systems, youth who sexually offend, trauma and suicidal ideation in adolescents. Currently, Renee is the supervisor for the Multisystemic Therapy for Youth with Problem Sexual Behaviors (MSTPSB) for Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties, the MST Supervisor for classic MST in Santa Fe County, and a supervisor for a program providing suicide assessments to youth in the Albuquerque Public Schools. MSTPSB is an evidenced based, intensive home and community based family therapy program focused on working with youth who sexually offend. Renee is certified through the National Association of Forensic Counselors, which includes training in the use of psychometrics is the assessment of sexual offenders.

**Liz McGrath** is Executive Director of Pegasus Legal Services for Children. She is a graduate of Hampshire College and UNM School of Law. Ms. McGrath has spent her career working on behalf of children and youth, and advocating for policy changes that benefit children, youth and their caregivers. She developed Pegasus' programs to serve grandparents raising grandchildren, young parents, and homeless and runaway youth. She has taught at UNM School of Law as an adjunct professor, and has presented to youth, their care givers, and others who work on behalf of children around the state of New Mexico.

**Joe Mirabal** graduated from the University of New Mexico with a BA in Criminology and Psychology. He began working with CYFD in 2000 as a Juvenile Corrections Officer and was selected to work in the Sandia Program with Juveniles having been committed



to the Department with Problem Sexual Behaviors. Joe advanced to a supervisory position in the same unit. In 2003 Joe transferred to Juvenile Probation and Parole with CYFD. While at Probation Joe held a number of specialized caseloads including "SNAP" Say No to Abusive Power (Domestic Violence Crimes), and "APPS" Adolescent Perpetrators Probation Service (Problem Sexual Behaviors or PSB). In 2012 Joe began work with Southwest Family Guidance Center. Joe is currently a Multisystemic Therapist on the "PSB" team. Throughout his professional career Joe has worked parttime at the UNM Children's Psychiatric Hospital, was a "Big Brother" with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of New Mexico, was a licensed Treatment Foster Care Provider, and is currently a Family Living Provider for adults with Developmental Disabilities, and a certified Roots of Empathy instructor. Joe is a co-facilitator of "APSHY." Joe has presented in a number of venues on PSB.

**Kim Montgomery** is a mediator for the Children's Court Mediation Program. She has more than 20 years of experience as a mediator, facilitator, and trainer. She conducts mediations for Abuse and Neglect, Special Education Bureau, and Domestic Matters in the 2nd and 13th Judicial Districts. In addition she has served as an interim Northern Regional Coordinator and as a trainer for the Program. She facilitates meetings for non-profits and businesses. She serves on the State Bar ADR Committee and is a board member of the New Mexico Mediators Association.



**Brenda Montoya** is a licensed Social Worker and a licensed School Counselor with a BA and MA from New Mexico Highlands University. Brenda was a foster parent for CYFD for 6 years and adopted two children through that process. She is currently employed by the Bernalillo Public Schools as a Middle School Counselor. In addition, she has 15 years of child welfare experience from working for CYFD's Protective Services Division.

**David Montoya** was a foster parent for the Children Youth and Families Department for 6 years and adopted two children through that process. As a Program Training Manager for NMSU (Albuquerque Center), he trains child protective service workers and adoptive and foster parents, and coordinates training projects for the Children Youth and Families Department. He is a licensed social worker with a BA from NM Highlands University. In 2011, he retired after 23 years with the Children Youth and Families Department, Protective Services Division as a Social Worker, Supervisor, Regional Manager, and Deputy Director.

**Jennifer Munson** is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children. As a GAL in the Third Judicial District, Jen participates in mediations after a legal case has been filed and counsel has been appointed for all parties. This includes mediations prior to the ten day custody hearing, as part of the Pre-Adjudicatory hearing, prior to the Permanency hearing, and prior to the Termination of Parental Rights hearing. She received her JD from the UNM School of Law, and has served as a Guardian ad Litem for over 22 years, representing the best interests of the children.

**Shalon Nienow** MD, FAAP is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. She has a dual appointment: working with the Child Abuse Response Team (CART) and serving as medical director of Para Los Ninos. CART provides medical evaluations of children who are alleged victim of physical abuse or neglect, and Para Los Ninos provides medical evaluations of children who are alleged victims of sexual abuse/assault. Dr. Nienow frequently serves as an expert witness in civil and criminal legal proceedings related to child maltreatment. Additional professional activities include memberships on the Bernalillo County Domestic Child Sex Trafficking Task Force, the Child Abuse and Neglect Panel for the New Mexico Child Fatality Review, the New Mexico Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, as well as participation in the Bernalillo, Valencia and Sandoval Counties Multidisciplinary Review Teams. Dr. Nienow has conducted research in patterns of disclosure in child sexual abuse as well as methods for testing for sexually transmitted infections in children. Areas of professional interest include human trafficking, starvation and torture, mechanisms of injury, disclosure patterns and STIs.

## THE 23RD ANNUAL Children's Law Institute

**Kay Ohmberger** has mediated children's court cases since the Children's Court Mediation Program's inception in 2000. She is also in her 19th year of service as a CASA volunteer with NM Kids Matter. She serves on the NM State Bar's ADR Committee, and has worked with the Victim/Offender mediation program, the Parent/Teen mediation program and LAMPS (Lawyers Assisting in Mediation Programs in Schools). In addition, Ms. Ohmberger taught elementary school students for 21 years, and for 7 years was a Consultant to Mediation In Schools (MIS) for the Albuquerque Public Schools.

**Kelly P. O'Neil** is in her 5th year as a children's court attorney for the CYFD. She has participated in approximately 100 mediations for her children's court cases. She has a BA (1999) and JD (2007) from the University of Tulsa.

**Bianca Padilla** is a Juvenile Probation Officer and Program Coordinator with the Sixth Judicial District. She received her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from New Mexico State University and has spent her professional career helping juveniles both as a volunteer working with autistic children and as an employee of the State of New Mexico working with at-risk youth. Having lived most of her life in Las Cruces, in 2010 she decided to explore a more rural area of the state by moving to Silver City, located on the edge of the Gila Wilderness. Since working with the Children, Youth and Families Department, Bianca has successfully built on the vision of the Juvenile Probation Office to implement alternative youth programming in Grant County. Her creativity has resulted, in part, in expanded education opportunities for suspended and expelled students, providing them an avenue by which they can maintain core credits and improve their grades and attendance. Following this model program has been directly linked to a reduction in juvenile delinquency. Bianca's high energy and deep passion for working with at-risk juveniles resonates with both youth and adults alike. When time allows, Bianca Padilla and her fiancé enjoy traveling, spending time with close friends, and spoiling their two Yorkies. She is currently working on acquiring funding to expand next year's youth programs and hosting the New Mexico Juvenile Justice Continuum Services' statewide.

**Suzanne Pearlman** is the Community Outreach, Communications and Training Manager for the Children, Youth and Families Department, Children's Behavioral Health Division. In addition, she serves as Project Director for both the Communities of Care Expansion grant and NM Aware Mental Health First Aid grant. For the past nine years she has worked in New Mexico on community development and organizing around mental and behavioral health initiatives. Her background also includes work with youth through AmeriCorps programs, service learning and training.

**Conrad F. Perea** has served as Magistrate Judge for Doña Ana Magistrate Court since 2010. Born and raised in New Mexico, Judge Perea is a graduate of Gadsden High School and New Mexico State University. He began his career serving in law enforcement as a police officer for the Las Cruces Police Department acquiring 20 years of experience. During his time as a police officer he had the opportunity to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy, which he completed in March of 1992. He served as a non-attorney Doña Ana Magistrate Judge from 1999-2001. Judge Perea then went on to graduate from the University of Denver, Strum College of Law in 2004, receiving his license to practice law in New Mexico in 2005. As an attorney he was a prosecutor for the Third and Thirteenth Judicial Districts of New Mexico; he also practiced as a Guardian ad Litem. Throughout his career Judge Perea has been a trainer and teacher in various capacities for law enforcement and the judiciary all across New Mexico and even in Central America. In addition to maintaining a judgeship, he currently teaches Criminal Law at New Mexico State University-DACC.

**Julia Petrucelli** is a Staff Attorney at Disability Rights New Mexico and primarily works in the area of special education law. She graduated from the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., in 2013 and began working at DRNM in November 2014. Julia enjoys working with students



Meet Sonny Ellis



receiving special education services who are facing expulsions and disciplinary actions and advocates for access to educational programming for these students. She is currently working with Pegasus on the Education Justice Project.

**Bryce Pittenger** has a BA in psychology from Rollins College and a MA in Counseling from Southwestern College. She is currently an independently licensed Counselor in the state of New Mexico. She has developed specialties in working with youth who have caused sexual harm and the Wraparound approach. Ms. Pittenger has worked with abused and neglected children, youth, and their families in a variety of settings: private practice, community based agency work, Albuquerque Public Schools, Treatment Foster Care, Residential Treatment, Transitional Living Services, Core Service Agency (Clinical Director), and CYFD Juvenile Justice Services (Deputy Director of Behavioral Health for Juvenile Justice Services, Field). She is currently a Wraparound trainer for the State and CoChair of Alliance to Prevent Sexual Harm by Youth (APSHY). Ms. Pittenger coauthored the New Mexico Standards for assessment and treatment of youth who have caused sexual harm.

**Jennifer Pokempner** joined Juvenile Law Center in 2001 as a Skadden Fellow. She had previously served as a law clerk to the Honorable Andre M. Davis, District Court of Maryland. She coauthored with Professor Dorothy Roberts of the Northwestern School of Law an article entitled "Poverty, Welfare, and the Meaning of Disability," which appeared in the Spring 2001 issue of the Ohio State Law Review. Ms. Pokempner has worked extensively with children in Baltimore, including at the Harlem Park Middle School, and for organizations such as Teach Baltimore. Prior to attending law school, Jenny worked as a paralegal in the child advocacy unit at the Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore City. As a law student, Jenny worked for Community Legal Services and Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia. Ms. Pokempner is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and University of Pennsylvania Law School. At Juvenile Law Center, Jenny focuses on issues relating to teenagers and young adults who are in foster care and are transitioning out of the child welfare system. Jenny is also working on increasing the supports available for homeless teenagers.

**Cassandra Porter** graduated magna cum laude from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee with a BS in Political Science in 1995, and she received her law degree from Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis in 1998. She joined Indiana Department of Child Services in 2005 as the Permanency Manager and was promoted in June 2009 to the Assistant Deputy Director of Staff Development. In that role, she oversaw all areas of training for all 2,000 DCS staff and 5,000 foster parents. In November 2012, she left DCS to become the Executive Director of SAFY of Indiana, Inc. where she was responsible for the treatment and care of nearly 1,000 youth and families throughout the state, and for the fiscal and contractual viability of all Indiana programs

and services. She oversaw SAFY's clinical and business operations within the state, promoting and expanding the organization's quality continuum of care model and evidence-based practices. Cassandra left SAFY in July 2014 to focus solely on Favorite Part of My Day which she gave birth to in November 2012. "Favorite Part of My Day" is a dinnertime tradition in the Porter family. When you can remember something that happened during the day, it was special, powerful and impactful - thus will be your experience after working with Favorite Part of My Day, LLC. It will be special, powerful and impactful.

**Dan Powers**, LCSW is a clinical social worker and currently serves as Senior Vice President and Clinical Director for Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County in Plano, Texas. He supervises a staff of 22 therapists and clinical interns providing no cost services to victims of child abuse and family violence as well as their non-offending family members. As Senior VP he is responsible for clinical operations and program development as well as directing the Advocacy Center's clinical internship and training program. Dan has over 25 years of experience working within the field of child abuse, sex offenders and family violence. He frequently testifies as an expert witness in state and federal courts. He has also testified on several occasions before Texas legislative committees. He is a member of the Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force. Dan has made numerous presentations at major national and regional conferences on the sexual victimization of children, sex offenders, and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse. He is best known for his spirited presentations on wellness and survival for child abuse and family violence professionals.

**JC Robinson** was elected as a District Court Judge in 2004 for the Sixth Judicial District Court. Currently he is the presiding Chief Judge. Prior to being elected, he was in private practice and served as district attorney for the Sixth Judicial District. In addition to a general docket, he is the Sixth Judicial District Water Law Judge. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona and his law degree from Arizona State University in 1973.

**Jennifer E. Romero** is an attorney at Pegasus Legal Services for Children, where she represents young parents in custody matters. Jennifer has been practicing law in New Mexico for the past 13 years. She is a 2002 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and a 1996 graduate of New Mexico Highlands University. Her practice has been primarily in the area of criminal defense. She was a public defender from 2003-2012 and an adjunct professor with the University of New Mexico School of Law's Criminal Law in Practice course from 2007-2011. Jennifer has also worked as a prosecutor and a staff attorney for the courts in the Thirteenth Judicial District.

## THE 23RD ANNUAL Children's Law Institute

**John J. Romero Jr.** serves in the Second Judicial District Court as Presiding Judge of the Children's Court Division. The cases before him include delinquency matters, child welfare and adoptions. Judge Romero is actively involved in his community's family violence prevention efforts and was recognized by the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence with the 2007 Spirit Advocacy Award. He presides over the Program for the Empowerment of Girls (PEG), an intensive multi-agency juvenile probation program for girls who have some type of violence in their history. He was born in Embudo, NM. Judge Romero completed undergraduate, graduate and law school at UNM. Judge Romero is former Co-Chair of the Children's Court Improvement Commission and is Chair of the NM Children's Court Judges Association. He was the first judge in the country to be recognized as a Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist by the ABA-accredited National Association of Counsel for Children. In 2014, Judge Romero received the New Mexico Voices for Children Alice King Public Service Award. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

**Aaron Salas** is a Licensed Master of Social Work with 14 years of experience in child welfare and public education systems in Southern Doña Ana County. He is a graduate of New Mexico State University. Currently he is a supervisor for CYFD in the Investigations unit with Child Protective Services, and he previously worked as a supervisor in the Permanency Planning Unit.

**Craig Sparks** is the Director of the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center which is a 78-bed juvenile detention center in Albuquerque. Mr. Sparks has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from UNM. He has worked in the juvenile justice field for 18 years and has also held positions of Director of Community Outreach and Behavioral Health Services at CYFD and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Bernalillo County.

**Grace Spulak** is a former Skadden Fellow and staff attorney at Pegasus Legal Services for Children. Ms. Spulak acts as guardian ad litem and youth attorney to children and youth in foster care, represents youth in emancipation cases, and works with homeless and runaway youth on a variety of issues. Ms. Spulak is also active in policy and legislative work related to children and youth throughout the state and has presented on legal rights for children and youth in a variety of settings, including rights to health care and mental health care. Ms. Spulak is certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children. She received her JD from Harvard Law School and was admitted to the New Mexico Bar in 2008.

**Gail Stewart** is a 1983 graduate of UNM School of Law. She is in private practice in Albuquerque with Steve Granberg and Laurel Nesbitt. Ms. Stewart's goal is to help ensure meaningful public education for students with

disabilities across the state of New Mexico. For the past decade, persistent exploration of federal and state law to represent students, parents, and school staff in disputes with the 89 local school districts, dozens of charter schools, and the New Mexico Public Education Department, has motivated her legal practice.

**James Sumrow** is a Certified Court Monitor in the 5th Judicial District for the Honorable Kea Riggs. After losing custody of his children in the throes of meth addiction when both of his children tested positive, James took life-changing steps that enabled his successful and enduring reunification with his children 8 years ago. He works with parents whose children are in states custody in order to give hope that they also can succeed. In June 2015 James was appointed to the New Mexico Children's Court Improvement Commission as a voting member by the New Mexico Supreme Court.

**Diego Urbina** *Juris Doctor Candidate*, UNM School of Law, was born and raised in Gallup, NM. After graduating from high school in 2005 he moved to Albuquerque to attend UNM. In the spring of 2009, Diego was awarded the Fred Harris Congressional Internship and served in the office of Congressman Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) in Washington D.C. During college, Diego spent his summers working as a camp counselor in Prescott, AZ for children with severe asthmatic and diabetic conditions and still considers this to be his most rewarding job to this day. In 2010, Diego graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in political science and relocated to Denver, CO where he worked as a paralegal in immigration law until his enrollment in law school in 2013. Upon completion of his legal studies in May of 2016, Diego plans to become a Commissioned Officer in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General and serve his country. Diego enjoys spending his free time working on his 1965 Chevy truck with his dad!

**Nancy Ver Steegh**, JD, MSW is a professor at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she teaches courses on family law, domestic violence, child protection, family mediation, and contracts. Her publications include articles exploring domestic violence in the context of child-related decision making and implications for processes such as mediation, collaborative law, court system triage, and establishment of child support. She is the coauthor of two family law texts, *Work of the Family Lawyer* and *Family Law: Examples & Explanations*, and she is a member of the board of editors of the *Family Court Review* and the *Family Law Quarterly*. Prof. Ver Steegh serves as a consultant to the Battered Women's Justice Project's National Child Custody Project. She is also the reporter for a task force drafting domestic violence-related guidelines to supplement the Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation. Professor Ver Steegh previously worked as a legal aid attorney



representing parents in child protection cases and concentrating on law reform in the areas of domestic violence, housing, public benefits, and civil rights. She has trained police, judges, prosecutors, and domestic violence professionals across the United States, Canada, and Turkey.

**Laura van Dernoot Lipsky** regularly spent nights volunteering in a homeless shelter when she was just 18. From there, she went on to work with survivors of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, acute trauma, and natural disasters. Over a decade ago Laura experienced what she calls a near-psychotic break. It was the result of years of witnessing and being intimately involved in trauma without tending to herself in the necessary ways. After that, she began a journey of inquiry into the lasting effects on individuals and groups of exposure to the suffering, hardship, crisis, or trauma experienced by humans, other living beings, or the planet itself. She offered her first version of a workshop on trauma stewardship to a group of public health workers in 1999. Recently, Laura turned her attention to the effects of trauma exposure on those doing frontline work in environmental and conservation movements throughout the world. As Laura was coming to the end of her time in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans, she returned home and with a tremendous amount of collaboration wrote and independently published *Trauma Stewardship* in 2007. In addition to traveling near and far as part of her efforts to support others in practicing trauma stewardship, Laura volunteers in the public schools and is the founder and director of Prescolar Alice Francis, a Spanish-language preschool that is guided by a curriculum in social and environmental justice. Laura lives in Seattle, Washington, holds a Master of Social Work Degree, is an associate producer of the award-winning film *A Lot Like You*, and was given a Yo! Mama award in recognition of her work as a community-activist mother.

**Peggy H. Walker** is a full time Juvenile Court Judge in Douglas County, Georgia having served fulltime since 1998 and part time as Associate and Judge Pro Tempore since 1990. She graduated from Georgia State University with a Master's Degree in Education and a Juris Doctorate of Law. She serves as Past President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and is entering her eleventh year on the Board of Directors. In her capacity with National Council, she is serving on STRYVE (Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere) Action Council, a national effort to end youth violence. She is graduate fellow of Zero To Three Class of 2005 and was a Senior Fellow at Emory University in 2008 where she edited a manual for judges and practitioners to promote preservation of families. She served six years on the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. Judge Walker was the Chair of the Commission for two years and led the effort to write the state plan to end domestic violence. The Georgia Commission on Family Violence recognized her efforts in the field of Domestic Violence with the Gender Justice Award in 2015.

**Megan Walsh** is the Director of the NM FIESTA Project. She has a BA in Family Studies and Human Services from UNM, and a MA in Social Work from New Mexico Highlands University. She is also the Director of Adoptions for La Familia. She's been a foster parent and she adopted two sons, so she has first-hand knowledge of the joys and challenges of open adoptions. She's passionate about her work and a strong advocate for families.

**Brandie White** is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Mesilla Valley CASA, Inc. in Doña Ana County. She has a Bachelor's of Social Work Degree from Arizona State University, and has been a social worker for almost ten years. Brandie has worked in many areas of child welfare, including adoption home studies, juvenile probation, group home supervisor, and home visiting. Brandie has been with CASA for almost four years, and is especially impressed at the level of dedication that CASA volunteers have in advocating for children in foster care.

**Jane B. Yohalem** is an appellate practice specialist in private practice in Santa Fe. She graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1975, and obtained an LLM from Georgetown University Law School in 1976. Ms. Yohalem worked for more than ten years for the Mental Health Law Project (now the Bazelon Center) litigating special education and disability rights cases. After moving to New Mexico, she practiced labor, employment and civil rights law with the law firm of Simon & Oppenheimer. She opened her own practice in 1996 specializing in appeals. Ms. Yohalem has represented clients in the New Mexico Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals and in the federal appellate courts in virtually every area of law. Her work in appellate practice has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America. She is a member of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. For 20 years, Ms. Yohalem has represented indigent parents in appeals from adjudications of abuse or neglect, termination of parental rights, and contested adoptions.

**Frank Zubia**, a native New Mexican, has served in various capacities in the criminal justice for the last 17 years in New Mexico and Texas. He began as a Victim Advocate for the 3rd Judicial District Attorney's Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico and after getting married and moving to El Paso, Texas he transitioned to a Probation Officer for El Paso County. While in El Paso, he furthered his experience by becoming the Director of Victim Advocates for the 34th Judicial District Attorney's Office. He later returned to his native New Mexico as the Director of Special Programs for the 3rd Judicial District Attorney's Office then as the Deputy Superintendent of Facilities for the J. Paul Taylor Center in Las Cruces. He currently serves as the Director of the New Mexico Crime Victim Reparation Commission in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a graduate from New Mexico State University and also has extensive training on victim issues and juvenile and adult offenders.





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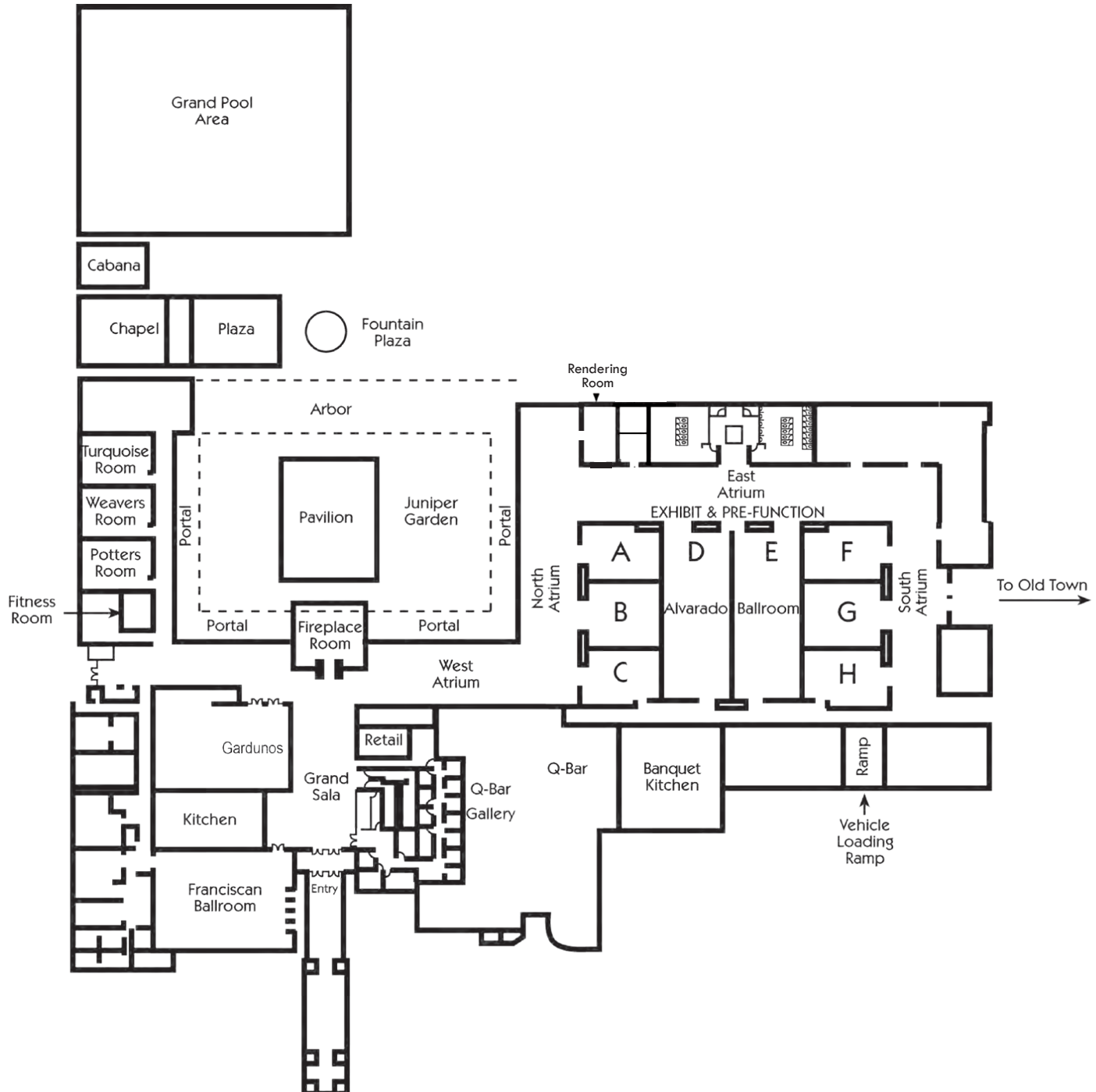
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2016

## HOTEL ABUQUERQUE MAP





# NOTES FOR EVALUATION

Keep notes here that you would like to remember to tell the conference planning committee about each workshop.