

FY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING

30

YEARS

OF ADVOCACY

Children's Law Center, Inc.
1002 Russell Street
CIRCA 1869

If office is
closed please
call us and
we will locate
the right
→



OUR MISSION

Children's Law Center, Inc. (CLC), established in 1989, is a non-profit legal service center protecting the rights of children and youth to help them overcome barriers and transition into adulthood, better advocate for their needs, and successfully contribute to society. It provides individual legal advocacy to children and youth, and through public policy work, training and education, impact litigation, and juvenile defender support services, seeks to improve the systems that serve them. CLC offers services in both Kentucky and Ohio, and collaborates with other organizations within the region and nationally on a variety of topics.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Children's Law Center, Inc. celebrated 30 years of fulfilling this mission in March 2019. As a way to commemorate this milestone, CLC went through a rebranding process. In addition to the new logo, released in October 2019, CLC now has an icon and brand colors to ensure uniformity in publications and CLC materials.

CLC began the development of a new strategic plan in late 2019. As part of the planning process, interviews were conducted with key community stakeholders. When asked, the majority of those interviewed supported CLC dedicating more resources to systems change work. The planning also included updating the mission and statement of values, completing background work on revenue development, and re-examining infrastructure and board development.

1	Board Members and Staff
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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

1989

CLC is incorporated with the help of The Brighton Center.

1991

Doe v. Kanuf: CLC files lawsuit on behalf of youth in Kenton County jail.

1992

CLC moves from Brighton Center to its own quarters.

Education advocacy program begins at CLC.

1993

MK v. Wallace: CLC files lawsuit on behalf of incarcerated youth statewide

1994

Collaboration begins with NKU Chase Law School on Children's Law Clinic.

1996

Judgment in *Doe v. Knauf*: Kenton County closes juvenile wing.

1998

KDOE monitoring of jails begins with CLC intervention.

2000

CLC chosen as regional affiliate for American Bar Association National Juvenile Defender Center.

BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James R. Cummins

President

David Nienaber

Vice President

Alexandre Regina

Treasurer

J. David Bender

Secretary

Jennifer Anstaett

Jennifer Branch

Marcus Coleman

Judi Godsey

Olivia Keller

Carla Loon Leader

Jennifer T. Leonard

Brian Morris

Mikaela Patton

Rhonda Schechter

Lauren Wells

Michael Whiteman

2019-2020

2001

CLC registers to do business in Ohio.

National distribution of *Special Needs of Youth* publication on behalf of disabled students in juvenile justice system and *Schoolhouse Hype: Two Years Later* with Justice Policy Institute on Zero Tolerance.

2002

CLC Child Custody Pro Bono panel formed with American Bar Association grant.

CLC Partnership with Building Blocks for Youth with Youth Law Center.

2003

CLC Partnership with Legal Aid organizations.

Homeless & Immigration Project with NKU begins.

"Justice Cut Short" Assessment on indigent juvenile defense in Ohio with American Bar Association.

STAFF

2019-2020

Executive Director

Acena Beck

Managing Attorney

Amanda Mullins Bear

Director of Operations

Louise Sheard

Project Administrator

Ashley Booher

Development Director Emeritus

John Vissman

Staff Attorneys

Denise Durbin

Carrie Gilbert

Sarah Henry

Jonathan Lynn

J. Eric Rottinghaus

Howard Tankersley

Social Worker

Eric (Ricky) Rodenberg

NKU Chase Clinic Director

Amy Holbrook

NKU Chase Clinic Coordinator

Susanne Bookser

Youth in Transition Advocate

Jay Coleman

Contract Attorney

Vickie Arrowood

Intake Coordinator

Katelynn McDaniel

2004

J.P. v. Taft : CLC files lawsuit on behalf of youth in custody in Ohio.

CLC exposes abuse in girls facility at Scioto in Ohio.

S.H. v. Stickrath: CLC files Lawsuit against DYS as a result of abuse findings at Scioto.

2006

CLC's second office opens in Lexington, KY.

2007

J.J. v. Ohio: CLC files lawsuit challenging ODYS Release Authority

INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATION



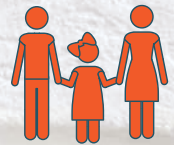
Juvenile Court Representation



Education Advocacy



Youth in Adult Court Representation



Family Court Representation

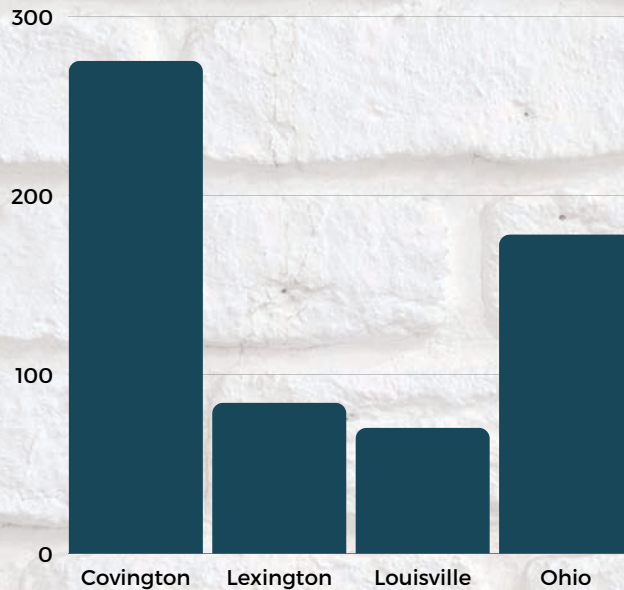


Youth in Transition



Crime Victim Advocacy

Cases by Geographic Area



Through a holistic approach to individual representation, CLC attorneys ensure that the fundamental rights of youth are upheld, while also working toward positive life outcomes that can improve economic stability, achieve mental and physical well-being, further education, and connect youth with their families and/or communities.

2008

Ohio Spotlight on Youth radio show regarding Juvenile Justice reforms

2010

CLC implements Ohio Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative project to improve detention advocacy

2011

NKU Chase Children's Law Center Clinic opens on third floor of CLC's Covington office.

CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED

FISCAL YEAR 2019

588

Clients served through quality legal representation

70%

% of clients who experienced positive legal outcomes.

27%

% of clients who experienced issues related to trauma

41%

% of clients who experienced issues related to poverty

Education
Advocacy
23%

Crime Victim
Advocacy
14%

Youth in
Transition
10%

Juvenile
Justice
2%

Homelessness
Advocacy
31%

Family Court
Representation
20%



CRIME VICTIM PROJECT

The Crime Victim Project provides legal services to youth victims of family, dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and a variety of other types of crimes. The primary goal of the Project is to provide legal services to youth who need assistance because of the crime committed against them. The Crime Victim Project is funded by the Victims of Crime Act.

TRAUMA INFORMED CUSTODY MEDIATION

In 2018, the Children's Law Center launched a pilot project called the Child Centered Mediation Program. This program is specifically designed to serve those who are unlikely to have counsel or, if they do have counsel, would be unlikely to be able to afford mediation. Its purpose is to provide mediation services to families involved in high conflict custody disputes with a specific focus on the child or children. It aims to reduce family conflict resulting from a custody dispute and the long term negative effects of that conflict on the health of the child. This project was funded by the Spaulding Foundation and the Northern Kentucky Bar Foundation.

2012

Youth in Adult Court Project in Ohio, *Falling Between the Cracks*, is published.

In their Own Words storytelling project about youth in adult prisons begins.

CLC partners with Indiana Public Defender Council to create annual Juvenile Defender Conference.

2013

Increased education advocacy in targeted Eastern Kentucky counties.

2014

Matthews v. Williams: CLC files lawsuit in federal court regarding probable cause practices in Hamilton County

CLC Youth in Transition Project begins

CLC works to help Implement Criminal Rule 25 to reduce waiver of counsel.

LEVERAGING NORTHERN KENTUCKY'S RESOURCES TO SUPPORT CHILD VICTIMS OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

In 2020, Children's Law Center (CLC), in conjunction with the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, launched a pilot project, the Opioid Project to specifically serve Northern Kentucky children impacted by substance abuse. The Opioid Project uses a multidisciplinary response by dedicating an attorney and a social worker who work collaboratively to provide holistic and trauma-informed services for children. Services include, but are not limited to, legal representation and community service coordination.

HOLISTIC AND EDUCATION LAW PROGRAM (HELP)

HELP is designed to provide legal counsel for youth experiencing poverty and homelessness to fill an existing gap for services in the area. Specific outcomes include school or college enrollment, employment, job training or assistance programs, graduation, GED, improved educational supports, grade promotion, and improvement in school attendance.

2015

S.R. v. Korzenborn: CLC files lawsuit challenging handcuffing of young children.

CLC's Stop Solitary for Ohio's Youth Campaign begins.

CLC implements Juvenile Justice Jeopardy game in Kentucky.

2017

CLC implements Juvenile Justice Jeopardy game in Ohio.

CLC Crime Victim Project begins.

CLC implements Pro se Custody Clinics in Campbell and Jessamine Counties.

Acena Beck becomes CLC's second Executive Director after Kim Tandy resigns.

2018

CLC Child Custody Mediation Project begins.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

NKU Chase Children's Law Center Clinic

The NKU Chase Children's Law Center Clinic serves as an educational model that allows law students to gain real-world experience representing young clients while being closely supervised by Chase Law professors Amy Halbrook and Susie Boosker. Once oriented to practice, students are assigned to actual cases.

Through participation in the Clinic, students develop skills necessary to the successful practice of law and are exposed to multiple perspectives on justice, fairness and morality. Each student, preparing to soon become a lawyer, is encouraged to reflect on attorneys' roles and ethical responsibilities.

The Clinic students, under the direct supervision of Professor Amy Halbrook & Susanne Bookser represented 31 clients.

NKU CHASE
COLLEGE OF LAW

The Children’s Law Center works with law students from Salmon P. Chase College of Law, the University of Kentucky Law School, and the University of Cincinnati Law School on fellowships and externships. Additionally, social work and criminal justice students from Northern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati, University of Kentucky, and Xavier University, along with students from various universities across the nation, have volunteered or completed internships through the Center. Social work students enhance CLC work in a variety of ways, from direct client assistance to coordinate community organizing and education for large scale legislative and policy reform.



2019

CLC celebrates 30th anniversary

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER ALL-ACCESS BLINK BASH

*Special thanks to Taft Stettinius & Hollister and BB Riverboats & Current Catering for sponsoring this event

THE FROG princess

MUSIC & LYRICS BY DAVID KISOR
BOOK BY JOSEPH McDONOUGH



VAN WINKLE BOURBON RAFFLE



Funders

Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts - Access to Justice Filing Fees

Victims of Crime Act

Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

Kentucky Colonels

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

WHAS Crusade for Children

Greater Cincinnati Foundation

P&G Fund

Schroth Family Trust

Jack J Smith Charitable Trust



United Way
of Greater Cincinnati



The Jack J. Smith, Jr. Charitable
Trust
Independent foundation



In memory of Lowell Schechter

Lowell Schechter passed away in December 2019. He was a long-time champion of the Children's Law Center. He served as a mentor to its founder, Kim Brooks Tandy, significantly contributing to the creation of CLC. In various capacities, he served on CLC's Board of Directors for many years until shortly before his death. He was the driving force behind the NKU Chase Children's Law Center Clinic, and the 3rd floor of CLC's building, where the Clinic is housed, is named in his honor. He was a tireless advocate for juvenile justice and children's rights issues. May we all be inspired by his dedication to public service.

In collaboration with his family, CLC established a Lowell Schechter Memorial Fund with the proceeds to be used to aid in making the CLC Covington office ADA compliant.

**Aaron Beck
Allen and Carol Lloyd
Amila Mukic
Amy Schechter
Arlene and Eric Gutwillig
Brenda Gatti
Carl Kaplan
Carla Leader
J. David Bender
Derek Ko
Elaine Shafer
Faye and Roger Schneier
Gil Porat
Ginny Hartman
Hyung-Joon Kim
hyunwoo Jo
Inhwan Kim
Jaclyn Brilling, Esq.
Jennifer Jolly-Ryan
Jennifer Mearns
ji nam
John Lieff
Judy Schechter
Julie Brook
Jungho Min**

**Justice Michelle Keller
Kathryn Reiss
Laurie Simon Goldman
Lois Borisch
Lois Fox
Loren Schechter
Louise Roselle
Lye Suk Lee
Margie & Art Shriberg
Michael Whiteman
Michelle Feld
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Pei Chien
Rebecca Shriberg
Roger Billings
Ruth Schwallie
Sunae Seo
Susan Grogan Faller
Susan Henry
SuWhang Chae
ugeun park
Yeongil Jang
YongJae Kim**