About Us

The ABA Center on Children and the Law ensures that those who work on children’s law matters have the resources and support they need to do their jobs at the highest level. We know the value of such support firsthand because the majority of our 15-person team worked on the frontlines as lawyers, social workers, and child welfare agency staff before coming to the ABA to make a difference in the children’s law field as a whole.

The ABA Center is a grant funded organization that manages a diverse portfolio of projects across the country supported by the federal government, state public agencies and courts, philanthropic foundations, and the ABA. All our projects in the children’s law field are unified by two complementary goals: to improve legal representation, and to improve the legal systems that impact children and families’ lives.

Our Approach

We achieve these goals through a set of approaches that emphasize collaboration and coalition building.

• First, the ABA Center works in individual communities across the country where it partners directly with state and local stakeholders – including courts, child welfare agencies, lawyers, tribes, schools, and legislators – to build the capacity of legal practices and systems that serve children well and to help change those that do not.

• Second, informed by that local engagement, and by our position within a 420,000-member professional association, the ABA Center collaborates with other national organizations to provide influential guidance on legal programs and policy reforms that affect child and family well-being on a national level.

• Third, the ABA Center serves as a centralized resource for the children’s law field by building professional networks, convening meetings and conferences, developing practice standards, analyzing case law and legislation, and creating training materials for attorneys, judges and advocates throughout the country.

Our Vision

In all three efforts – working with community stakeholders, advising on national policy, and providing centralized resources for the field – we have a shared vision that the law can and should serve as a powerful tool to promote children and families’ interests.

To learn more about our work and to connect with our networks in the children’s law field, please visit: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law.html