

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Children and the Law Colleagues,

Greetings and welcome to new, returning, and long-time members of the Section on Children and the Law! I hope this newsletter finds you having just finished a rewarding and successful academic year.

Our collective and individual work on behalf of children, both domestically and internationally, remains as urgent as ever. We explored a number of contemporary challenges for children at our Annual Meeting programming in San Diego last January. Our panel recognized that often, children’s unique interests are obscured within broader discussions around parental rights and interests or the status of families more generally. In contrast, our discussants focused squarely on the rights and interests of children in light of recent legal and political change in the United States. Continuing her work on legal estrangement, Monica Bell (Yale Law School) discussed recent qualitative work on Baltimore youth, unpunished violence, and aspirations. Nancy Dowd (University of Florida) presented her “New Deal for Children,” with a focus on “Developmental Equity” and early childhood. Kate Leone (Senior VP for Government Relations, Feeding America) described the current federal legislative landscape and considered the prospects for CHIP, DACA, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Cliff Rosky (Utah), winner of our Call for Papers, discussed his recent paper on anti-gay curriculum

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laws. Finally, David Thronson (Michigan State) presented on “The Weakest Link in the Chain,” focusing on so-called “chain migration” and other U.S. immigration policies affecting children and their families. It was a terrific program. We also sponsored joint programming with the Sections on Family and Juvenile Law and Aging and the Law on “Keeping Up with the Changing Face of the American Family.” Many thanks to outgoing Chair Rebecca Aviel, 2017 Officers Maryam Ahranjani and Julie McConnell, as well as our Executive Committee, for their work supporting this successful programming.

We are looking forward to our upcoming programming for the 2019 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Chair-elect Maryam Ahranjani has worked with Sacha Coupet and the Section on Poverty Law to organize a joint program on “Bridging the Gap: Perspectives on Poverty and its Impact on Childhood.” I encourage you to submit to our call for papers!

I recently received an updated roster of Section members and was struck by what a fantastic group of child advocates, scholars, and teachers are represented in our Membership. As we continue our critical work, I invite you to reflect on how we might increase the impact of our efforts as a Section, and how section leadership might better serve our members in their work for children. I hope you’ll reach out to me via email with your reflections and suggestions: mharbach@richmond.edu.

Finally, for those members who have achieved a new milestone in their academic careers this year – promotion, tenure, chair, administrative leadership, or retirement – please let us know so we can celebrate your achievements in our fall newsletter.

Best wishes for a productive, fun, and restful summer!

Meredith Johnson Harbach

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PUBLICATIONS, HONORS and PRESENTATIONS



Maryam Ahranjani, Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law: Prof. Ahranjani published one piece (*The Prisonization of America's Public Schools*, 45 Hofstra Law Rev. 4 (2017)) and has another one forthcoming (*Universities as "Sanctuaries"* in the Journal of College and University Law). She presented at the New Mexico Children's Law Institute in January about the educational rights of youth who identify as transgender and was the featured speaker at the National Marshall-Brennan High School Moot Court Competition in March.

James G. Dwyer, Arthur B. Hanson Professor of Law Marshall-Wythe School of Law College of William and Mary: Professor Dwyer has just published a new book with Routledge entitled *Liberal Child Welfare Policy and its Destruction of Black Lives*. This ground-breaking and controversial book is the first to provide a child-centered perspective on the subject by combining a wealth of social science information with sophisticated normative analysis to support novel reforms-to child protection law and practice, family law, and zoning- that would quickly end that cycle. For more information visit: www.routledge.com/9780815363279. 20% Discount Available - enter the code FLR40 at checkout*

Melanie B. Jacobs, Professor of Law, Senior Associate Dean Admissions & International Programs, Michigan State University College of Law: In May, MSU College of Law awarded Melanie with The Donald F. Campbell Outstanding Teaching Award. Melanie gave presentations concerning her work in progress reflecting on surrogacy's history and future on the 30th anniversary of *In Re the Matter of Baby M.* at the International Society of Law conference at the University of Minnesota in April. In June at the Law & Society conference in Toronto

Melanie participated in a roundtable discussion about the Feminists Judgments Projects forthcoming book, *Family Law Rewritten*, for which she is writing a commentary.

Julie McConnell: Clinical Professor of Law, University of Richmond School of Law: Professor McConnell was recognized in October as a Richmond YWCA Outstanding Woman in Education. She also co-edited the 2017-2018 editions of *Juvenile Justice Update* (with Adrienne Volenik), Edited *Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia*, 2017 (Metro. Richmond Women's Bar Ass'n, Feb. 2017); published *Capital Sentencing for Children in Virginia in the Wake of Miller v. Alabama and Montgomery v. Louisiana*, 21 Rich. Pub. Int. L. Rev. 47 (2017); published *30 Tips for Excellence in Juvenile Representation*, Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (VACDL) Virginia Champion (Jan. 2018); and co-edited the book, *Juvenile Law and Practice in Virginia*, (Angela Ciolfi & Julie McConnell, eds., March 2018)(including authoring or co-authoring the following chapters: *An Introduction to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court*; *The Disposition Hearing*; *Dispositional Alternatives*; *Post-Disposition Proceedings and Appeals*; *Psychiatric Commitment of Minors*; and *The Comprehensive Services Act, Petitions for Services, and Other Proceedings* in *Juvenile Law and Practice in Virginia*).

Professor McConnell also presented the "2017-18 Virginia Caselaw Update," at the 2018 Robert E. Shepherd Juvenile Law and Education Conference, Richmond, VA May 18, 2018; presented "30 Tips for Excellence in Juvenile Defense" at the Annual Indigent Defense Commission Public Defender Conference, Portsmouth, VA October 17, 2017; and also presented "Criminal Best Practices in Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court," for the Chesterfield Bench Bar Conference, Chesterfield, VA on September 20, 2017.

Charisa Smith, Assistant Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law: Professor Smith will become an Associate Professor at CUNY School of Law as of July 2018. Charisa also presented a paper entitled "Leaving More Children Behind: NYC's Special Education District 75" at the AALS Clinical Conference.

Jonathan Todres, Professor of Law, Georgia State University College of Law: Professor Todres spent the Spring 2018 semester as a Fulbright Scholar at

University College Cork in Ireland, where he co-taught an International Children's Rights course with Ursula Kilkelly and conducted research on children's rights, human rights education, and human rights in children's literature. He also published the following: "The Trump Effect, Children, and the Value of Human Rights Education" *Family Court Review*, 56(2): 331-343 (2018); "Violence, Exploitation, and the Rights of the Child." In *International Human Rights of Children* (Ursula Kilkelly & Ton Liefaard eds., Springer, 2018); and "Child Trafficking: Issues for Policy and Practice" *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics*, 46(1): 159-163 (2018) (with Jordan Greenbaum & Katherine Yun).

Robin Fretwell Wilson, Roger and Stephany Joslin Professor of Law, Director, Epstein Health Law and Policy Program, Director, Family Law and Policy Program, University of Illinois College of Law:

Professor Wilson has just published a new book, *The Contested Place of Religion in Family Law* (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/contested-place-of-religion-in-family-law/1AE22C76D155AEE6548587F77CE74740>) with Cambridge University Press. It features chapters by, among others, Professor Wilson, Brian Bix, Naomi Cahn, Rob Kar, John Witte, Bill Eskridge and many others. Professor June Carbone said of the book, "This book provides a comprehensive look at the tensions between equal rights and religious freedom. It examines not only the ongoing legislative and court battles over access to marriage, but further identifies the battles on the horizon over contraception, polygamy, circumcision, end of life decision-making, premarital agreements, divorce provisions about children's religious upbringing, vaccinations, corporal punishment and similar matters rarely included in other works on law, religion, and the family. It is an exceptionally rich and timely collection."

Professor Wilson also published, *Being Transgender in the Era of Trump: Compassion Should Pick Up Where Science Leaves Off*, 8 U.C. IRVINE LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2018).

She is currently directing the Tolerance Means Dialogues, a gift-supported effort to generate dialogue around deeply-contested questions in civil society directed to millennials. She is joined in that effort by prominent gay rights leaders, including Yale University Professor, William N. Eskridge, Jr. and Counsel to the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Shannon Minter, and sitting legislators.

Professor Wilson was also honored as one of the "150 for 150: Celebrating the Accomplishments of Women at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign" for its sesquicentennial celebration in 2018

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, EVENTS, and CALLS FOR PAPERS



2019 AALS Annual Meeting Section on Children and the Law Call for Papers

We encourage you to consider submitting a paper by **AUGUST 15** for our jointly sponsored session at the 2019 AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Bridging the Gap: Perspectives on Poverty and its Impact on Childhood

Poverty is a persistent, pernicious social problem in the United States. The population that is most affected by poverty because of political/legal anomie is children. In an effort to better understand the complex and interconnected aspects of children and poverty, the Sections on Poverty Law and Children and the Law will jointly host a session at the 2019 AALS Annual Conference exploring how children's lives are impacted by, among other poverty-related risks, instability of housing, child welfare and foster care, compromised physical and mental health, inability to access quality education, juvenile justice, and environmental justice.

Panelists will share their unique and cutting-edge scholarship and experiences in one or more of these areas related to children and poverty." Professor Luis Zayas, Dean of the Steve Hicks School of Social Work and the Robert Lee Sutherland Chair in Mental Health and Social Policy at the University of Texas – Austin, will help frame the discussion by talking about the children of immigrants, poverty, and stress. Between two and four additional speakers will be selected from this call for

papers. **The deadline for submission is Wednesday, August 15, 2018.** Papers and questions should be submitted to:

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Upcoming Conference:

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN ACADEMIA CONFERENCE

Advancing women professors, librarians, and clinicians in leadership positions in the academy. Thursday & Friday July 19-20, 2018, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, Georgia.

Featured Speakers:

Keynote Address: Dr. Libby V. Morris

Director, Institute of Higher Education; Zell B. Miller Distinguished Professor of Higher Education

Former interim Provost (2013-2014)

University of Georgia

Lunch Address: Kellye Testy

President and CEO

Law School Admission Council (LSAC)