

## **Advocacy for Low-Income Children with Disabilities in California 2018**

San Francisco, Live Webcast and [www.pli.edu](http://www.pli.edu),\* April 12, 2018

### **Why You Should Attend**

Attendees will receive the basic information needed to identify and represent low-income children in California with education, health care, and public benefits issues. After the workshop, attendees will be armed with knowledge of the basic substantive law regarding special education, discipline for students with disabilities, advocacy for foster youth, foster care benefits, CalWORKs, and SSI, that can be used to provide vital representation to a low-income child in California on a pro bono basis.

### **What You Will Learn**

- How to seek an assessment to determine if a child is eligible for special education and how to advocate for a strong Individualized Education Program (IEP) based on the unique needs of the child
- How to file for and succeed through the special education administrative hearing/due process, when a child's right to a free appropriate public education has been denied
- How school discipline practices are pushing more children in to the juvenile delinquency system through the "school to prison pipeline", and how trauma and unaddressed special education needs exacerbate these issues
- How to identify and advocate for the education rights of youth in foster care and on probation
- How to address special considerations in representing youth and transition aged adults in SSI advocacy
- What health entitlements and resources are available for pregnant and parenting youth
- What health entitlements and legal strategies are available for youth with mental health disabilities
- What to do when you are representing a youth with disability issues in juvenile court

### **Who Should Attend**

Any attorney interested in providing pro bono assistance to low-income children in California.

## **AGENDA**

9:00

### **Opening Remarks**

***Jill Rowland***

9:15

### **Special Education Eligibility & Advocacy**

- Requesting and reviewing education records
- Requesting a special education assessment: types and timelines
- Individualized Education Program: eligibility, goals, and services
- Signing the IEP

***Mayra Lira, Alaina Moonves-Leb, Jill Rowland***

10:15

### **Due Process:**

- Drafting and filing the complaint
- Basics of motion practice
- Resolution session and mediation
- Prehearing steps
- Hearing
- Post-hearing options

***Mayra Lira, Alaina Moonves-Leb, Jill Rowland***

11:15 Networking Break

11:30

### **School to Prison Pipeline, Education Rights of Foster Youth**

- School to Prison Pipeline
  - What, Why, & How?
  - How to break the cycle
- Education Rights of Foster Youth
  - How trauma impacts education
  - School stability
  - Helping foster youth graduate from high school
  - Enforcing foster youth education rights

***Mayra Lira, Alaina Moonves-Leb, Jill Rowland***

12:30 Lunch

1:45

### **Medicaid Advocacy with a Focus on Youth with Mental Health and Pregnancy/Parenting Needs**

- Community based mental health services through Medicaid / EPSDT
  - MST, TBS, ICM
  - Pathways to Well-Being Services
- Supports and entitlements for pregnant and parenting teens
- Other health issues

***Brian Blalock, Amy G. Chen***

2:45

### **SSI Advocacy for Youth and Transition Aged Adults**

- Advocacy for youth under 18 versus transition aged youth
- Age 18 redeterminations
- The overlap between special education and SSI advocacy (and how to read special education records for SSI cases)
- Special issues in SSI advocacy for court involved youth

***Brian Blalock, Dafna Gozani***

3:45 Networking Break

4:00

### **Advocacy for Court Involved Youth with Disabilities**

- Funding and supports for court involved youth with high level disabilities
  - Continuum of Care Reform - what has changed (and what has not)
  - Extended foster care and advocacy for older youth
- Court processes

***Brian Blalock, Sabrina Forte***

5:00 Adjourn

**Faculty:**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Brian Blalock**

Law + Policy Coordinator  
Tipping Point Community  
San Francisco, California

**Jill Rowland (via videoconference from the State Bar of CA offices in Los Angeles)**

Education Program Director  
Alliance for Children's Rights  
Los Angeles, California

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**Amy G. Chen (via videoconference from the State Bar of CA offices in Los Angeles)**

Staff Attorney  
National Health Law Program  
Los Angeles, California

**Dafna Gozani**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
Oakland, California

**Sabrina Forte**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
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**Mayra Lira (via videoconference from the State Bar of CA offices in Los Angeles)**

Supervising Staff Attorney, Children's Rights Project  
Public Counsel  
Los Angeles, California

**Alaina Moonves-Leb (via videoconference from the State Bar of CA  
offices in Los Angeles)**

Senior Staff Attorney, Statewide Education Rights

Alliance for Children's Rights

Los Angeles, California

**Program Attorney: Christina Thompson**