



Welcome to the Child Welfare Law Symposium!

The Office of Chief Public Defender is pleased to be able to present this exciting day of education for juvenile court practitioners and others interested in the welfare of Connecticut's children. Your day will kick off with a presentation from Amelia Franck Meyer, a nationally renowned expert on the impact of trauma on children. You will then be able to pick from a menu of timely and interesting workshops. Lunch will be provided in the UNH cafeteria, followed by a special award presentation in the Bucknall Theater. The CPTV documentary "The Color of Justice" (short form) will be shown and we will engage in a brief discussion about how implicit bias surrounding the diagnosis of children can follow a child well beyond the confines of a child welfare action. You can then select from another group of workshops. Public Defender Assigned Counsel are invited to a meeting at the end of the day.

We are so grateful to the many people and organizations that made this program possible. The US Department of Health and Human Services provides training money through the Court Improvement Project. Thank you to the Connecticut Judicial Branch for giving OCPD a grant from those funds to present the Symposium. The University of New Haven, Henry Lee School of Criminal Justice and the Tow Youth Justice Institute have graciously cosponsored this event and have provided the space and a great deal of technical assistance. The staff of the Tow Institute, including former Connecticut Child Advocate Jeanne Milstein will be presenting a workshop on their plans to assist with child welfare policy later this morning. The CTMirror has allowed us to reproduce a number of articles on trauma for your packets.

Many agencies helped plan this day. Thanks go out to the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Attorney General, Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Operations and CSSD, the Office of the Child Advocate and the Center for Children's Advocacy. Special acknowledgement must be given to Frances Wickstrom from OCPD-CP, who handled all the arrangements for the day. Finally, thank you to all of you, who have chosen to use your talents to ensure that every child in Connecticut has a chance to be happy, successful and loved. Your work is emotionally draining and sometimes seems thankless. Be assured that you are appreciated and that your efforts have an impact far beyond what happens in court.

Enjoy the day!

Christine Perra Rapillo  
Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection  
Office of Chief Public Defender



Tow Youth Justice Institute at the  
Henry Lee College of Criminal  
Justice