

## **Advocacy for Low-Income Children with Disabilities in California 2017**

San Francisco, Live Webcast and [www.pli.edu](http://www.pli.edu),\* April 13, 2017

### **Why You Should Attend**

Attend this program so that you can receive the basic information you need to identify and represent low-income children in California with education, health care, and public benefits issues. Learn the basic substantive law regarding special education, discipline for students with disabilities, advocacy for foster youth, foster care benefits, CalWORKs, and SSI, so you can take a pro bono case to assist a low-income child in California.

### **What You Will Learn**

- Holistic screening and development of a child's issues at initial intake
- Why Individualized Education Program (IEP) timelines and goals are important
- How to represent a student at a Manifestation Determination Meeting
- What to do if a school denies a student a right they are entitled to as a foster youth
- 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 if you are representing a youth with competency issues in juvenile court

### **Who Should Attend**

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

## **Program Schedule**

9:00

### **Program Overview & Introductions**

***Brian Blalock, Jill Rowland***

9:15

### **Issue Spotting: Essential Information to Gather When Working with a Potential Client**

- Information gathering techniques in an intake interview
- Red flags: what to look for and what to do when you find them
- Addressing time sensitive issues (e.g., statutes of limitations to watch for)
- Holistic screening: what to look for and how will it help your client

***Lauren Giardina, Jill Rowland, Danielle Tenner***

10:15

### **Special Education Advocacy**

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

***Lauren Giardina, Jill Rowland, Danielle Tenner***

11:15

*Networking Break*

11:30

### **Special Education Advocacy (Continued) and Education Rights of Foster Youth**

#### **I. Special Education Advocacy**

- Independent Educational Evaluations
- School discipline: Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) meetings

#### **II. Education Rights of Foster Youth**

- How trauma impacts education
- School stability
- Helping foster youth graduate from high school
- Enforcing foster youth education rights

***Lauren Giardina, Jill Rowland, Danielle Tenner***

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

**Sabrina Forte**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
Oakland, California

**Lauren Giardina** *(via videoconference from the State Bar of CA offices in Los Angeles)*

Associate Managing Attorney  
Disability Rights California  
San Diego, California

**Dafna Gozani**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
Oakland, California

**Danielle Tenner** *(via videoconference from the State Bar of CA offices in Los Angeles)*

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

**Program Attorney: Christina Thompson**