

Maine Parental Rights Attorneys Association (MEPRAA)

Annual Meeting and Conference 2024

Friday, November 8, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Location: The Old Goat, 33 Main Street Richmond, Maine

AGENDA

[9:00-9:30] State of the Organization and updates on the Child Welfare System (Julian Richter, President of MEPRAA)

[9:30- 10:00] The Importance of Challenging the Family Regulation System (Presented by Vivek Sankaran, Clinical Professor, University of Michigan)

Vivek Sankaran is a clinical professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School, and advocates for the rights of children and parents involved in child welfare proceedings. His work focuses on improving outcomes for children in foster care by empowering their parents and strengthening decision-making processes in juvenile courts.

Sankaran directs both the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic, through which law students represent children and parents in trial and appellate proceedings. He has written numerous articles focused on improving the child welfare system and has litigated cases before the Michigan Supreme Court.

In addition, he conducts state and national trainings and works on child welfare initiatives with various national groups, including the American Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, and the National Center for State Courts.

After graduating from Michigan Law in 2001, Sankaran received a Skadden Fellowship to represent children at The Children's Law Center in Washington, DC, where he remained until 2005, when he joined the Law School faculty.

*In 2009, Sankaran founded the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, the first organization in the country to provide multidisciplinary legal assistance to families to prevent the unnecessary entry of children into foster care. In 2011, he was named Michigan's Parent Attorney of the Year. Most recently, Sankaran co-edited both the first national book for family defense lawyers and the third edition of *Child Welfare Law and Practice*, a widely recognized resource used by child welfare lawyers across the country.*

[10:00- 10:30] The Harm of Family Policing

(Presented by Dorothy Roberts, George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania)

Dorothy Roberts is the George A. Weiss University Professor of Law & Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, with joint appointments in the Departments of Africana Studies and Sociology and the Law School, where she is the inaugural Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights. She is also founding director of the Penn Program on Race, Science & Society.

Her path breaking work in law and public policy focuses on urgent social justice issues in reproductive justice, policing, family regulation, science, medicine, and bioethics. Her major books include Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty (Pantheon, 1997); Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare (Basic Books, 2001); Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century (The New Press, 2011); and Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World (Basic Books, 2022), as well as more than 100 articles and essays in books and journals, including “Race” in the 1619 Project book.

Her work has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Harvard Program in Ethics & the Professions, Stanford Center for the Comparative Study of Race & Ethnicity, and the Fulbright Program. Recent recognitions of her work include elections to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Philosophical Society, and National Academy of Medicine; Rutgers University Honorary Doctor of Laws degree; Society of Family Planning Lifetime Achievement Award; and American Psychiatric Association Solomon Carter Fuller Award.

[10:30- 10:45] Break

[10:45- 12:00] Vicarious Traumatization

(Presented by Teresa Valliere, LCSW)

Ms. Valliere is a licensed clinical social worker, addiction specialist and clinical supervisor. Following her personal interest in healing and wellness, she began pursuing a second career in 1990. She obtained a Bachelor of Social Work, with minor in religion and special focus on psychology at North Carolina State, and went on to complete a Master in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill specializing in adult mental health. Since 1997, Ms. Valliere has worked with adults with mental illness and addiction in a variety of settings - inpatient and outpatient. Along the way she pursued additional training in trauma treatment, relational therapy, domestic violence, anger management, chronic pain management, loss and grief, mindfulness based stress reduction, supervision and spirituality.

As a supervisor since 2000, she has been exploring and using models of relational management and navigating difficult conversations to enrich and strengthen working environments of professional helpers. In addition to providing direct service and supervision, Ms. Valliere is an

experienced trainer in addictions, mental health, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, group facilitation, Motivational Interviewing, and clinical supervision.

[12:00-12:30] Lunch

[12:30- 1:45] Educational Law in Protective Custody Cases

(Presented by Atlee Reilly, Esq., Disability Rights Maine)

Atlee Reilly serves as the managing attorney for DRM's Children's & Educational Advocacy program. He also handles cases related to assistive technology. He received his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School, his M.Ed. from Arizona State University, and his B.A. from Bowdoin College. Prior to becoming an attorney, Atlee was an elementary school teacher.

[1:45-3:00] Indian Child Welfare Act

(Presented by Angi Cavaliere, Senior Director Indian Child Welfare Public Policy & National Partnerships, Casey Family Services)

Angi Cavaliere is the Senior Director of Indian Child Welfare Public Policy & National Partnerships with Casey Family Services. Previously, she was the Supervising Staff Attorney for the Yurok Tribal Court. She is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Change & Development with a minor in First Nation's Studies from University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. She obtained her law degree accompanied by a fellowship in Children's Rights from Whittier Law School. After law school, Angi obtained a Master of Jurisprudence in Children's Law & Policy from Loyola Law School - Chicago. Having previously served as Minor's Counsel in the LA County ICWA Court, she moved north to work with the Yurok Tribal Court in the Spring of 2019. She continues her ICWA advocacy with the National Indian Justice Center where she trains tribal and state social workers and advocates on Dependency and ICWA. In January 2020, she was certified as a Child Welfare Legal Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children. Angi's believes in preserving our past by protecting our future.

[3:00- 4:00] Guardianships as an Alternative to CPS

(Presented by Deirdre Smith, Esq., Executive Director, Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project)

Deirdre M. Smith is the Executive Director of the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project. She is also Professor Emerita at the University of Maine School of Law. During her time as a full-time member of the Maine Law faculty from 2004-2023, she taught a range of courses, including Evidence, Remedies, Professional Responsibility, Disability Law Seminar, General Practice Clinic, and Lawyering Skills for Clinical Practice. She is highly regarded for her extensive scholarship, which has focused most recently on court systems, judicial ethics, minor guardianship, adoption, and kinship care. Professor Smith is a former Associate Dean of Experiential Education and served as Director of Maine Law's Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic for 18 years. Under her leadership, the Clinic expanded to include several new programs, including clinics addressing the legal needs of youth and immigrants. She was also the inaugural Director of the Public Interest and Social Justice Certificate program.

Professor Smith is a member of the American Law Institute, and a former Chair of the Professional Ethics Commission of the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar and the Maine Supreme Judicial Court's Advisory Committee on the Rules of Evidence. She has served on several judicial selection advisory committees for state and federal courts. She serves as consultant to the Maine Family Law Advisory Commission and the Pew Charitable Trusts Civil Legal System Modernization Project. She also works on reform initiatives to improve Maine's court system for family matters. She is a member of the Scholars Strategy Network.

[4:00- 4:30] Best Practices in CPS Defense
(Presented by David Case, 49th State Law)

Attorney David Case practices parent representation in the State of Alaska. He first came to Alaska in 2001 as a law clerk for the Superior Court. He was later a law clerk for the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC.

After moving back to Alaska in 2009, he worked for the Public Defender Agency, in Bethel in from 2009 to 2018, and Kenai from 2018 to 2021. David is a graduate of the National Criminal Defense College and the Trial Lawyers College. David has conducted trainings for the American Bar Association, the Alaska Association of Criminal Defender Lawyers, the Alaska Bar Association, the Alaska Public Defender Agency, the Office of Public Advocacy, and the King County (Washington) Department of Public Defense.

Besides Alaska, David is admitted in New York and Connecticut, and inactive in Maryland. He also has an LL.M. in taxation.

[4:30-4:45]

Certification of voting results for the Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) as well as the nine Board of Directors positions.

**** The Agenda is subject to minor scheduling changes, as needed****

CLE Credits (Attorneys) and CPE Credits (GALs) for ME are pending.

MCPDS credits (not payment) are pending

This is an in-person event. Sessions may be recorded for future watching but may not be eligible for CLE/CPE credit.

Registration:

Please send registrant's name, email address, Maine Bar number, and proof of payment of registration fee to: taylor@tkilgoreesq.com

Registration Fee: \$100 per person (includes lunch and MEPRAA Annual Dues)

Payment can be made to MEPRAA here: <https://tinyurl.com/MEPRAAPayment>