



The Center for Children, Law & Policy at the University of Houston Law Center,
and **Generation to Generation: Shaping Children's Futures**

co-convene

Zealous Advocacy: Helping Youth and Attorneys Become Better Advocates

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference is designed to help juvenile defense attorneys be
stronger advocates for youth in conflict with the law.

Friday, January 31, 2025 - Saturday, February 1, 2025

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Central

John M. O'Quinn Law Building

Danny M. Sheena Courtroom
Foundation Room | Reception
4170 Martin Luther King Blvd
Houston, TX 77204-6060

Approved for 15 hours of Texas MCLE, of which 3 hours are ethics.

This course has been approved by the Texas Board of Legal
Specialization for certification and recertification continuing legal
education requirements for attorneys and paralegals in the following
specialty fields: Criminal Law (15 hours) and Juvenile Law (15 hours).



Agenda

Friday, Jan. 31, 2025

8:00 - 8:30 AM

Breakfast

8:30 - 8:45 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45 - 11:00 AM
(2.25 hours)

Taking Ideas from Other Systems to Improve Our Own: Children In Conflict With the Law In Wales

Dr. Anthony Charles

Associate Professor, Swansea University

11:00 - 12:15 PM

(1.25 hours; .5 ethics)

Implementing New Ideas

Henry Gonzales

Executive Director, Harris County Juvenile Probation

Ellen Marrus

Professor Emerita

Director, Center for Children, Law & Policy

University of Houston Law Center

Director, Generation to Generation

Dr. Malikah Marrus

M.S.W. Program Director, University of Nevada, Reno

Lunch and Networking

New Immigration Policies: What Consequences For Our Youth

J. Anna Cabot

Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs

Director, UHLC Immigration Clinic

University of Houston Law Center

Demystifying School-Based Disability Services For Justice-Involved Youth

Karmel Willis

Disability Rights Texas

Recognizing Trauma and Other Mental Health Issues and Helping Your Clients

Dr. Dashiell J. Geyen

Ed.D., M.P.H., Clinical Research & Practice Associates

2:00 - 3:30 PM

(1.5 hour)

3:30 - 5:00 PM

(1.5 hours; .5 ethics)



Agenda | Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025

8:30 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast/Networking
9:00 - 10:30 AM (1.5 hours)	How the Welsh Improved the Justice System for Children in Conflict With the Law Dr. Anthony Charles Associate Professor, Swansea University
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (1.5 hours; .5 ethics)	Moving Towards Change – Collaborative Representation Ellen Marrus Dr. Malikah Marrus M.S.W. Program Director, University of Nevada, Reno
12:00 - 12:30 PM	Lunch and Networking
12:30 - 2:00 PM (1.5 hours; .5 ethics)	Education Justice: Using Your Skills as a Defense Attorney to Advocate for your Clients at School Sarah Bebe Disability Rights Texas
2:00 - 3:00 PM (1 hour; .5 ethics)	Using Client Voices Ellen Marrus Professor Emerita Director, Center for Children, Law & Policy University of Houston Law Center Director, Generation to Generation
3:00 - 4:30 PM (1.5 hours)	Dr. Malikah Marrus M.S.W. Program Director, University of Nevada, Reno
4:30 - 5:00 PM (.5 hour)	Rifqa Sa'Aadat B.A., M.A. Criminal Justice, University of Colorado
	Street Law
	Rifqa Sa'Aadat B.A., M.A. Criminal Justice, University of Colorado
	Going Forward and Wrap Up
	Ellen Marrus Professor Emerita Director, Center for Children, Law & Policy University of Houston Law Center Director, Generation to Generation

Total hours of CLE for the two days – 15 hours including 3 hours of ethics.

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BIOGRAPHIES



SARAH BEEBE

*Supervising Attorney
Disability Rights Texas*

Sarah Beebe is a supervising attorney for the Juvenile Probation Education Advocacy Program at Disability Rights Texas. She has dedicated her career to advocating for the rights of students with disabilities in Texas. Before entering law school, Bebe was a social worker who served children with disabilities in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. After graduating from law school, Bebe joined Disability Rights Texas, first as an Equal Justice Works Fellow and later transitioning to the role of staff attorney practicing exclusively in the area of special education law.

Bebe became the supervising attorney of the Juvenile Probation Education Advocacy Program in 2015. In this role, she supervises a team of Education Specialists and Attorneys who provide education advocacy services to justice-involved youth, as well as technical assistance and advice to individuals working for and with the juvenile justice system. Bebe is also the lead for the Harris County Juvenile Justice School Reentry Workgroup – a consortium of community stakeholders invested in eliminating the barriers to successful school reentry for justice-involved youth following their release from justice facilities and disciplinary education programs. Bebe was also recently appointed to the Harris County Racial and Ethnic Equity Committee, a standing committee of the Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

BIOGRAPHIES



J. ANNA CABOT

*Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs
Director, UHLC Immigration Clinic
University of Houston Law Center*

J. Anna Cabot is the Assistant Dean for Clinical Education and directs the Immigration Clinic at the UH Law Center. Prior to coming to UH, Cabot was the Practitioner in Residence in the Gender Justice Clinic at the American

University Washington College of Law. There she taught and supervised students representing clients with cases spanning immigration, housing, family law, domestic violence protection, wills, and name-and-gender change. Additionally, from 2014 to 2018, Cabot was the William Davis Clinical Teaching Fellow at the University of Connecticut School of Law, teaching in the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic.

Cabot's research interests include the intersections of gender and cultural difference with global migration, immigration laws, and international law, and crisis-responsive clinical pedagogy. Most recently, she wrote a chapter for a book discussing expert country conditions testimony in fear-of-return immigration claims: *Understanding the Legal Framework for Asylum: A Guide for Expert Witnesses in Practicing Asylum: A Handbook on Expert Witnesses in Latin American Domestic Violence, LGBTI, and Mother/Child Cases* (Kimberly Gaudermann ed.) (forthcoming).

In addition to teaching, Cabot has experience practicing immigration law. She was a senior staff attorney at the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies (CGRS). In that position, she conducted appellate litigation before the U.S. Courts of Appeal and the Board of Immigration Appeals, worked on litigation teams challenging immigration policies in the US District Courts, and represented clients in asylum cases involving gender-based and gang-based violence.

Cabot also served the managing attorney as Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, Texas. She represented clients in a wide variety of immigration claims in immigration court, before the Board of Immigration Appeals, and before the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). Prior to her work at the border, Cabot was the legal services coordinator at Asylum Access Refugee Solutions in Tanzania.

Cabot received her J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law in 2009 and her B.A. from Amherst College in 2003. She graduated from college with a degree in physics and received a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Chennai, India.

BIOGRAPHIES



DR. ANTHONY CHARLES

*Associate Professor
Swansea University*

Dr. Anthony Charles is an associate professor of Youth Justice and Children's Rights at Swansea University's Department of Criminology, Sociology and Social Policy. He is also Joint academic lead for the Children's Legal Centre Wales, a co-director of the Observatory on Human Rights

of Children and a member of the UK, Ireland and Jersey Rights Respecting Expert Group for Youth Justice. Charles' research interests currently focus on embedding rights-based co-production methodologies with children and young people, so that they can influence public policy and in understanding and promoting prevention and diversion processes in youth justice.



DR. DASHIEL J. GEYEN

*Ed.D., M.P.H.,
Clinical Research & Practice Associates*

Dr. Dashiel J. Geyen is a behavioral scientist and a clinical practitioner. He is licensed and board certified for clinical practice, supervision and healthcare leadership in the state of Texas. Geyen has written and published articles in journals, books, and monographs. He has served on

hospital staff and the faculty at the collegiate level.

Geyen earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in psychology from Lamar University and completed graduate degrees from Texas Southern University and the University of Texas-Houston. He was the recipient of an executive education award and post- doctoral fellowships at Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institutes of Health.

BIOGRAPHIES



HENRY GONZALES

Executive Director

Chief Juvenile Probationary Officer

Harris County Juvenile Probation

Henry Gonzales has dedicated his career to the field of juvenile justice for the past thirty-five years. From the beginning as a volunteer mentor to his current role as executive director and chief juvenile probation officer (CJPO) of Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, (HCJPD) Gonzales' professional life reflects decades of commitment to young people, families, communities in contact with the juvenile justice system.

An ardent proponent of juvenile justice transformation, Gonzales works closely with the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a partner in their Deep End Reform and Probation Transformation initiatives aimed at shifting juvenile probation into an intervention that promotes positive outcomes for youth. As a member of Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice, Gonzales collaborates with current and former youth correctional administrators to help shift juvenile justice culture toward embracing a vision focused on youth, family, and community-centered solutions as an alternative to incarceration and punitive sanction practices. Gonzales also serves on the Executive Steering Committee of My Brother's Keeper Houston (MBK). MBK Houston works on identifying pivotal, life-success milestones from a young person's path to adulthood while seeking to uncover roadblocks to success resulting from involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Gonzales serves on various boards and advisory committees including the University of Houston Downtown School of Public Service where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees and teaches in an adjunct capacity. He also participates in professional certification programs with The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University.

BIOGRAPHIES



ELLEN MARRUS

Professor Emerita

Director, Center for Children, Law & Policy

University of Houston Law Center

Director, Generation to Generation

Ellen Marrus is the Professor of Law, emerita at the University of Houston Law Center. Upon her active retirement, she founded and is directing Generation to Generation, a nonprofit designed to improve the lives of young people locally, nationally, and internationally. She came to UHLC in 1995 after serving as a public defender in California where she represented youth in delinquency and child welfare proceedings. Marrus directed the clinical programs at UHLC, including child advocacy clinics. She also taught Juvenile Law, Children and the Law, Professional Responsibility, and Criminal Procedure. She started the Street Law program at UHLC and expanded it to not only reach high school students enrolled in local schools, but also to serve youth in conflict with the law. Professor Marrus concentrates her scholarship in the areas of children's rights, juvenile law, race, and professionalism; with a focus on representing children's express interests and the intersection of juvenile justice with race and gender. She has presented at various conferences on these topics in the United States and internationally. In addition to numerous law review articles, she has written a casebook entitled *Children and Juvenile Justice* 3ed. and co-edited *Rights, Race, and Reform 50 Years Of Child Advocacy In The Juvenile Justice System*, and *Children, Sexuality and The Law*. Marrus received her J.D. from the University of San Francisco and her LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.



DR. MALIKAH MARRUS

M.S.W. Program Director

University of Nevada, Reno

Malikah Marrus is an associate professor of social work and director of the M.S.W. program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Prior to moving to Reno, Marrus was the practicum director at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Prior to that she taught social work and was director of Field Education at Hood College and taught at Missouri State University. She teaches human rights, introduction to social work, juvenile justice, forensic social work, and child abuse and neglect. She teaches her students to work collaboratively with other professionals. Prior to teaching, she was a research fellow and social worker for the Southwest Juvenile Defender Center. In this role she worked as part of the team with local attorneys representing youth in delinquency and abuse and neglect cases. Marrus' research concentrates on juvenile justice, child welfare, collaboration between professionals, race, gender, antisemitism, and ethics. She presents on these topics at conferences nationally and internationally. Marrus received her B.A. in history with honors from Fisk University and her M.S.W. from University of Houston's Graduate College of Social Work in 2003 where she was a Hartford AGIFT Fellow. She received her D.S.W. from the University of Southern California in 2021.

BIOGRAPHIES



RIFQA SA'AADAT

B.A., M.A. *Criminal Justice*
University of Colorado

Rifqa Sa'Aadat received her B.A. and M.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado. As a result of her experiences and work with youth, she recognizes the importance for children having their voices and concerns heard. She has helped develop a Street Law program for youth in conflict with the law, and although her current employment has taken her in a different direction, she is still committed to helping youth have their voices heard and helping youth and their families navigate the complex legal system.



KARMEL WILLIS

Supervising Attorney
Social Justice Coordinator
Disability Rights Texas

Karmel Willis was hired in 2020 as a special projects attorney with the Education Team at Disability Rights Texas (DRTx). Much of her work focused on the negative impact of policing in schools, especially on children of color and children with disabilities. She transferred to the staff attorney role on the Juvenile Probation Education Advocacy Team in 2022. In that role, she provided legal and technical support services to justice-involved youth, their families, and probation officers. She addressed the educational and behavioral needs of these students through the provision of appropriate special education or 504 services.

In October 2024, Willis became supervising attorney of the Community Justice Workers Project. This project will establish a community justice worker system to provide legal assistance to underserved communities in Texas. Additionally, Willis serves as the social justice coordinator for DRTx. In this capacity, she leads agency efforts in addressing intersectional legal issues that arise in our cases and serves as facilitator of the Social Justice Taskforce. Prior to joining the team at Disability Rights Texas, she was the vice president and managing attorney at the Montgomery County Women's Center providing legal advice and representation to victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault in family law matters. She holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Mississippi.



**GENERATION TO
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SHAPING CHILDREN'S FUTURES

The University of Houston Law Center is part of a Carnegie-designated
Tier One public research university and an EEO/AA institution.