

## **Intentions and Results**

*A Look Back on the Adoption and Safe Families Act*

## **Author Biographies**

**MaryLee Allen***The Impact of the Adoption and Safe Families Act on Family Connections for Children*

MaryLee Allen is Director of Child Welfare and Mental Health at the Children's Defense Fund. Ms. Allen's work focuses on improving policies and practices to better support families and address child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, foster care and adoption. Ms. Allen has played a leadership role in the development, passage and implementation of major child welfare and children's mental health reforms over the past two decades. She co-chairs, with the Child Welfare League of America, a coalition of national child welfare and mental health organizations and works closely with advocates and service providers across the country.

**Richard Barth***Adoption from Foster Care: A Chronicle of the Years after ASFA*

Professor Richard Barth has conducted significant research and written many articles on foster care and adoption based on three longitudinal studies and many other studies of adoption subsidies and post-adoption services. He has been a chaired professor at UC Berkeley and the University of North Carolina and now serves as Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland. He is a Senior Research Fellow at the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. He has won prizes for excellence from the University of Chicago, the University of Southern California, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Public Human Services Agency.

**Bill Bettencourt***The Impact of ASFA on Immigrant Children in the Child Welfare System*

Mr. Bettencourt has over 30 years of experience working in the social services field. He began his career as a Social Worker/Assistant Director for a parent-run community preschool. He worked for the city and county of San Francisco for 26 years and for the last 4 years, he has served as the director of child welfare. He was also a Program Officer with the Stuart Foundation. Bill serves on boards and committees of numerous local, state and national organizations. He is currently senior consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation Family to Family Initiative and is the national lead for the Family to Family Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality Strategy.

**Beth Davis-Pratt***The Impact of the Adoption and Safe Families Act on Family Connections for Children*

Beth Davis-Pratt is a Senior Staff Attorney on the Child Welfare and Mental Health Team at the Children's Defense Fund, and has been a Law Clerk in the Family Court in the District of Columbia and on the staff of the National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices.

**Barbara J. Friesen***Parents with a Mental Illness and Implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act*

Barbara Friesen, Ph.D., is director of the Research and Training on Family Support and Children's Mental Health (Portland State University, OR) and is the Co-Principal Investigator of Practice-Based Evidence: Building Effectiveness from the Ground Up. Recent efforts include the Center's Family Participation Project and Project SUCCEED: Improving Mental Health Services in Head Start. Dr. Friesen has authored publications on such mental health topics as

community practice, family-centered services, prevention, professional training, family support, family views of residential treatment, the concepts of recovery and resilience in children's mental health, and children's stigmatization of mental health problems in their peers. She was a presenter at the 1999 Surgeon General's Conference on Mental Health, and was the author of a briefing paper for the Subcommittee on Children and Families of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in 2002-2003.

**Sid Gardner**

*ASFA Twelve Years Later: The Issue of Substance Abuse*

Sid Gardner is President of Children and Family Futures and directed the Center for Collaboration for Children, at California State University at Fullerton. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and has served in local elective office in Connecticut.

**Philip M. Genty**

*Sometimes Good Intentions Yield Bad Results: ASFA's Effect on Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*

Philip M. Genty is a Clinical Professor at the Columbia Law School, where he heads a clinical program on advocacy for prisoners and their families. He has written about family law and issues affecting prisoners, with a particular focus on the rights of incarcerated parents.

**Olivia Golden**

*Framework Paper: The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)*

Olivia Golden, an institute fellow at the Urban Institute, is an expert in child and family programs at the federal, state, and local levels with a special interest in the way services are delivered on the front lines. Her career has combined research in these fields with senior leadership positions at the federal, state, and local levels. From 1993 to 2001, Dr. Golden served in two presidentially appointed positions within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, first as commissioner for children, youth, and families and then as assistant secretary for children and families. In these roles, she was responsible for over 60 programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, child care, child abuse and neglect, and (as assistant secretary) welfare reform, child support, and refugee resettlement programs. From 2001 to 2004, she was director of the Child and Family Services Agency of the District of Columbia, leading the agency out of federal court receivership. Her book *Reforming Child Welfare* is available from the Urban Institute Press in July 2009.

**Ernestine Gray**

*Judicial Viewpoints on ASFA*

Ernestine S. Gray has been a juvenile court judge in New Orleans, Louisiana since November 1984. Since 1999 she has been presiding over one of the sections in the Child Protection Division of the Court, hearing abuse and neglect cases, terminations of parental rights and adoptions. She has received national recognition for her work and speaks on the local, state and national levels on a variety of child welfare issues. She has served as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and is currently serving as President of the Board of Trustees of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

**Katharine Kaplan**

*Parents with a Mental Illness and Implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act*

Katharine Kaplan is Coordinator of the UPenn Collaborative on Community Integration of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities at the University of Pennsylvania. Katy is Co-Investigator of a study entitled, "Assessing the impact of an Internet-based parenting intervention for mothers with psychiatric disabilities: A randomized controlled trial."

**Arlene F. Lee**

*Sometimes Good Intentions Yield Bad Results: ASFA's Effect on Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*

Prior to joining the Center for the Study of Social Policy as a Senior Associate, Arlene Lee was the Executive Director of the Maryland Governor's Office for Children. Her background includes having represented children in child welfare and juvenile justice cases, as well as serving as the Director of the Federal Resource Center for Children Prisoners, a cooperative agreement between the Department of Justice and the Child Welfare League of America.

**Yali Lincroft**

Yali Lincroft is a child and family policy consultant with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family Initiative. She is the primary author of the Foundation's policy report "Undercounted, Underserved: Immigrant and Refugee Families in the Child Welfare System." Ms. Lincroft is the founder and a steering committee member of the Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN), a coalition of leading child welfare organizations focused on the intersection of immigration and child welfare.

**Jennifer Macomber**

*Framework Paper: The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)*

*The Impact of ASFA on the Permanency and Independence for Youth in Foster Care*

Jennifer Macomber is a Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute. Her expertise is in the study of policies, programs, and service systems to support vulnerable children and families, particularly those involved in the child protection system.

**John Mattingly**

*"Twenty" Years With the Adoption and Safe Families Act*

John Mattingly has been Commissioner of New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) since 2004. Commissioner Mattingly has a long professional history in child welfare. He was Director of Human Service Reforms at the Annie E. Casey Foundation where he designed and managed the *Family to Family* foster care initiative. He also served for six years as Executive Director of Lucas County Children's Services, the public child welfare agency serving Toledo, Ohio.

**Nora McCarthy**

Editor for *"You have to Get It Together": ASFA's Impact on Parents and Families and*

*"I Want to Hold on to Them": ASFA's Impact on Teens*

Nora McCarthy is the director of Rise, a nonprofit that trains parents to write about their experiences with the child welfare system in order to support parents and parent advocacy and guide child welfare practitioners and policymakers in becoming more responsive to the families and

communities they serve. Nora founded Rise in 2005. Previously, she edited Represent, a magazine by and for youth in foster care, and New Youth Connections, a newspaper by and for New York City public high school students, both published by Youth Communication. She has reported on youth and child welfare for Newsday, City Limits and Child Welfare Watch.

Contributing Authors to *“You have to Get It Together”*: *ASFA’s Impact on Parents and Families*:

Lynne Miller, Jeanette Vega, Jackie Crisp, Lawrence Pratt, Deborah McCabe, Paulette Nelson, Bertha Marquez, Youshell Williams and Tracey Carter

Contributing Authors to *“I Want to Hold On to Them”*: *ASFA’s Impact on Teens*:

Manny Sanchez, Natasha Santos, Pauline Gordon, Tamara (name has been changed), Akeema (name has been changed), Natalie Kozakiewicz, Jessica Wiggs, Wunika Hicks, Eric Green and Erica Harrigan

### **Lynne Miller**

*“You Have to Get it Together”*: *ASFA’s Impact on Parents and Families*

Lynne Miller is a reunified parent of 13 years. She helped create the parent advocate program at the agency where her son was placed and worked there as a Parent Advocate until 2008. In 2001, Lynne was one of the first recipients of the Child Welfare Fund's 'Family Unity Awards' and in 2008 received one of the first 'Road to Success Scholarships' from the Child Welfare Fund and Child Welfare Organizing Project. She is on the Editorial Board to Rise Magazine and continues to be a contributing writer while working toward her degree in Social Work.

### **Joanne Nicholson**

*Parents with a Mental Illness and Implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act*

Joanne Nicholson, Ph.D., is a clinical and research psychologist, and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). She directs the Child and Family Research Core of the UMMS Center for Mental Health Services Research. Dr. Nicholson has established an active program of research on parents with mental illnesses and their families, in partnership with people in recovery. She is the lead author of *Parenting Well When You’re Depressed*, the first guide for parents with mental illnesses, written in partnership with parents with mental illnesses. In 2006, she received the Armin Loeb Award from the U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association for her significant career contribution to research in psychiatric rehabilitation. Dr. Nicholson has been a William T. Grant Foundation Distinguished Fellow, and is currently a NIDRR Switzer Distinguished Research Fellow.

### **Martha Raimon**

*Sometimes Good Intentions Yield Bad Results: ASFA’s Effect on Incarcerated Parents and Their Children*

Martha L. Raimon, Esq. is a Senior Associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy where she is a member of the team responsible for monitoring performance of child welfare systems operating under class action. For seven years Martha directed the Incarcerated Mothers Law Project at the Women’s Prison Association, which assists incarcerated and formerly incarcerated mothers in understanding their legal rights and responsibilities to their children. She is a co-editor of *Interrupted Life: The Experiences of Women in Prison in the United States*, University of California Press, due to be released in Fall 2009.

**Phyllis Solomon**

*Parents with a Mental Illness and Implementation of the Adoption and Safe Families Act*

Phyllis Solomon, Ph.D., is a Professor in the School of Social Policy & Practice and Professor of Social Work in Psychiatry at the Center for Mental Health Policy & Services Research, Medical School, University of Pennsylvania. . She has extensively published on topics related to psychiatric rehabilitation, mental health services for adults with severe mental illness and their families, consumer provided services, and the intersection of mental health and criminal justice. She has authored, co-authored or co-edited well over 100 articles, book chapters, and books, the most recent being *Principles and Practice of Psychiatric Rehabilitation*.

**Cassie Statuto Bevan**

*Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA): No Second Chances?*

Dr. Cassie Statuto Bevan is a Lecturer and the Internship Coordinator at the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a Fellow at the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research in Philadelphia as well as a Board Member of the Rio Bend Foster Care Community in Houston. After twenty years of service on the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the Committee on Ways and Means and the International Relations Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, Dr. Bevan retired as the Senior Policy Advisor to the House Majority Leader. As a consultant, Dr. Bevan continues to be involved in the drafting and advocacy of child protection legislation at the federal level.

**Nancy Young**

*ASFA Twelve Years Later: The Issue of Substance Abuse*

Dr. Nancy Young is Executive Director of Children and Family Futures and serves as Director of the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. She has been involved in numerous projects related to alcohol and other drug issues in the welfare and child welfare systems and is a former NIDA fellow. Over the past several years, Dr. Young has worked as a consultant to over 30 states and regional offices on prevention and treatment issues for those families in the public welfare systems afflicted by substance abuse.

