



FAMILY DEFENSE COUNCIL

Family Defense Council Newsletter

Empowering Families with High Quality Legal Representation

Advancing technology and resources to support zealous, client-centered, multi-disciplinary advocacy for all children and families.

Issue #01 – December 2025

This is our first edition! We'd love your feedback, ideas and suggestions.

👉 Tell us what you'd like to see in future issues — content, formats, spotlights, opportunities, and more. [Email Valerie Frost](mailto:valerie@yourcaseplan.com).

FDC At A Glance

⚖️ Family Defense Council launched at November's NAPD Conference. ([press release](#))

🔗 [Get connected](#) for updates.

📢 Resources — New + Newly Discovered

Title IV-E Community of Practice (starts January)

- Meets bi-monthly, virtually
- Supports states and organizations in accessing and using IV-E funds

✉️ Contact [Allison Green](#) (NACC)

Movement for Family Power — Movement Map ([LIVE](#))

A tool to locate family defense organizations, legislative advocacy campaigns, coalitions for families, and activists.

Recap: OPT-In for Families Spotlight 💡

- Liz Wyner, Doris Duke Foundation
- Monthly [Preventive Legal Advocacy / Pre-Petition Cohort](#) meeting
- Builds support for families screened out of child-welfare investigations
- Highlights early legal representation as a potential missing piece

📺 Family Defense In the News

☀️ [Federal Executive Order for Foster and Transition-Aged Youth](#) New order directs modernization of child-welfare data systems and expands federal support for youth aging out of foster care.

🏠 [Minnesota Issues Transition-Planning Directive](#) New law requires court review of transition plans 90 days before a youth turns 18.

🔍 [Tampa Bay Lacks Guaranteed Counsel](#) Investigation finds most foster children in the region lack legal representation, and Florida does not guarantee counsel.

🛡️ [Early Representation As Prevention Strategy](#) Attorney at first CPS contact can reduce removals, prevent wrongful TPRs, and protect due process.

📢 Voices Shaping the Field

💻 [Monetizing Poverty](#)

Author: Vivek Sankaran

Calls for moral clarity: What if we used technology to actually help people?

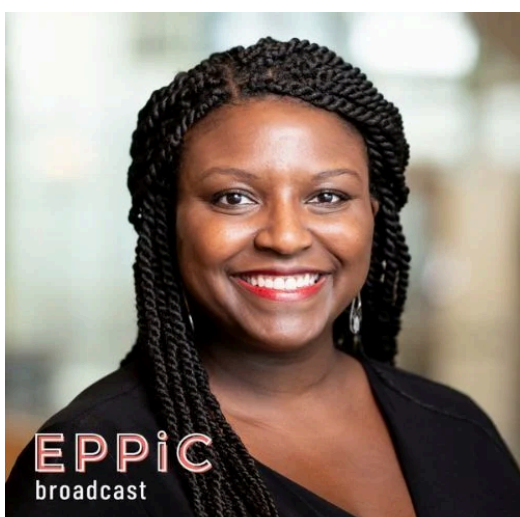


🎙️ Listen In

🏠 Uncovering Hidden Foster Care

Guest: Aubrey Edwards-Luce

[EPPiC Broadcast \(produced by the Parental Rights Foundation\)](#)



📅 Dates & Deadlines

Call for Proposals

Jan 23, 2026: NACC National Child Welfare Law Conference (Portland, OR + virtual)

2026 Conferences at a Glance

Jan 13–16: NLADA National Appellate Defender Training (Jackson, MS)

Jan 28–30: LSC Innovations in Tech Conference (San Antonio, TX)

Mar 15–18: NCJFCJ National Conference on Juvenile Justice (Minneapolis, MN)

Mar 19–20: NAPD Rise. Resist. Represent. (Virtual)

Apr 20–22: CWLA National Conference (Arlington, VA)

Apr 20–23: NAPD Changemakers Forum (Atlanta, GA)

May 6–8: Untethered 2026 (Washington, DC)

May 13–16: ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference (Charlotte, NC)

May 20: Partners for Justice (Baltimore, MD)

Jul 19–22: NCJFCJ Annual Conference (Nashville, TN)

Aug 11–14: NACC National (Portland, OR)

Oct 14–16: NACC Virtual (Online)

Want to contribute news, a podcast or an event? ✉️

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