



Empowering families with high-quality legal representation
Issue 5 – April 2026

A message from the Executive Director



I am delighted to take the helm of this new organization and deeply committed to realizing our mission:

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

Initially I am focused on identifying existing strong, effective programs serving children and parents to build meaningful connections with them. Lasting impact emerges from collaboration, not duplication. I am committed to learning from and partnering with those of you already doing this work well.

I would love to hear from you! Email me at wendys@getsunlight.org.

 [Get connected](#) for updates.

Resources — New + Newly Discovered

The End TPR Initiative

ABA Center on Children and the Law

 [Gatherings and Workshops Link](#)

 [Parent Know Your Rights Guides](#)

Family Defense In the News

 [ACF’s Program Improvement Plan Overhaul](#). ACF plans a pilot redesign of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

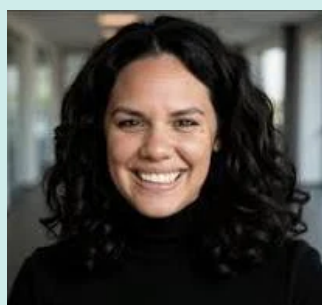
 [NYC's child welfare program](#). Three Months into His New Administration, Mamdani Restarts Search for NYC Children’s Services Commissioner.

 [California's foster care system](#) is buckling under the weight of an unexpected cost.

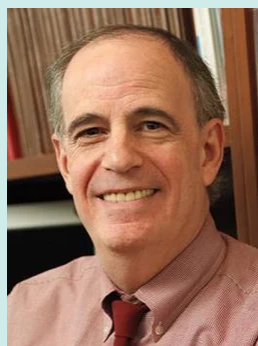
 [A Youth Advisory Board](#) is helping shape Oklahoma's child welfare system using personal experiences.

Listen In

 [Authority is Lived, Not Given](#): Valerie Frost's TEDxLakeAlfred 2026 on redefining credibility, leadership, and who gets to shape the systems that govern our lives.
[Watch and Listen](#)



 Marty Guggenheim is celebrated as an early founder of the parent defense movement.
[Watch and Listen](#)



Dates & Deadlines

Executive Director Position — New Mexico Office of Family Representation & Advocacy

OFRA | Application deadline May 1

 [Learn more and apply](#)

Multiple Positions – Dependency Advocacy Center, Santa Clara County

 [Learn more and apply](#)

2026 Conferences Snapshot

Apr 13-Jun 8: NACC Foundations of Child Welfare Law & Practice, weekly live or online training Apr 13-Jun 8: [Information](#)

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)

Jun 14–17: APHSA Nat'l Human Services Summit (Arlington, VA)

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

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

Oct 14–16: NACC Virtual (Virtual)

Do you have news, a podcast or event to share?

 wendys@getsunlight.org

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