

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE



"Our children are our legacy.
How we treat them, and
what we leave for them,
is the proper measure of the
worth of our institutions and of us."

Prof. Robert C. Fellmeth
Executive Director



University of San Diego
SCHOOL OF LAW

Children's Advocacy Institute
University of San Diego School of Law
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110

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Children's Advocacy Institute

The Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) was founded in 1989 as part of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego (USD) School of Law. CAI's mission is to improve the health, safety, development, and well-being of children. CAI advocates in the legislature to make the law, in the courts to interpret the law, before administrative agencies to implement the law, and before the public to educate Californians on the status of children.

CAI strives to educate policymakers about the needs of children—about their needs for economic security, adequate nutrition, health care, education, quality child care, and protection from abuse, neglect, and injury. Our goal is to ensure that children's interests are represented effectively whenever and wherever government makes policy and budget decisions.

Robert C. Fellmeth, J.D., CAI's Executive Director, is the Price Professor of Public Interest Law at the USD School of Law and founder of both CAI and the Center for Public Interest Law. Professor Fellmeth has 30 years of experience as a public interest law litigator, teacher, and scholar.



CAI Advocacy Highlights

Legislation

- Kids' Plates Law, offering vanity plates to finance California's Child Health and Safety Fund and related child care reforms
- Bicycle Helmet Law, requiring helmets for kids under 18
- Competent Counsel for Children, setting standards for lawyers who represent children
- Child Support Collection Law, requiring the Franchise Tax Board to collect child support in six pilot counties, now rolled out to 57 counties
- Publication of the *Children's Legislative Report Card*, an annual document which presents California legislators' votes on child-friendly bills

Litigation

- *Barrow, et al. v. Department of Health Services* enforced a state statute requiring DHS to adopt public playground safety regulations
- In *Troxel v. Granville*, on behalf of the National Association of Counsel for Children, CAI, as counsel of record, helped draft an *amicus curiae* brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, advocating the Court's first recognition of a child's constitutional right to a parent, paralleling the oft-recognized adult right to parent
- *CTA v. Huff* helped protect \$355 million in high-priority child development programs

Budget Advocacy

- Annual publication of the *California Children's Budget*, an in-depth analysis of past and proposed state spending on children's programs

Regulatory Advocacy

- Publication of the *Children's Regulatory Law Reporter*, describing child-related rulemaking proposals by state agencies and providing an analysis of the resulting impact on children

CAI Academic Program

As part of the University of San Diego School of Law, CAI's academic program includes courses and clinical training of USD law students in child advocacy. CAI's academic program consists of two parts. First, the substantive course **Child Rights and Remedies** covers a variety of issues, such as tort issues relevant to children, principles in dependency and delinquency law, and current constitutional issues affecting children's rights.

Second, students who have completed or are taking Child Rights and Remedies are eligible to take **Child Advocacy Clinic**, one of the few law school programs in the nation that offers law students experience in representing children and working on policy issues vital to children's interests.

Child Advocacy Clinic offers two opportunities: (1) placement in the Dependency Section of the Public Defender's Office, assisting attorneys in the representation of minors in dependency court (the "Dependency Clinic"); or (2) work on policy or advocacy projects with CAI professional staff or leading professionals in the community (the "Policy Clinic").



Contact CAI

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Other CAI Activities

Children's Advocates Roundtable

Established by CAI in 1990, the Roundtable is an affiliation of 175 statewide, regional, and local children's policy organizations, representing over twenty issue disciplines. The Roundtable, which is convened and chaired by CAI, provides a setting for child advocates to share resources, information, and knowledge; strategize on behalf of children; educate each other about the issues and legislation affecting children and youth; prioritize issues to minimize infighting over limited state resources historically budgeted for children's programs; and collaborate on joint projects that promote the interests of children and families.

Information Clearinghouse on Children

By serving as a research service for journalists, scholars, and public officials, the Clearinghouse stimulates more extensive and accurate public discussion on a range of issues affecting the health and well-being of California's children.

CAI Publications

CAI publishes the following documents: *California Children's Budget*, *Children's Regulatory Law Reporter*, *Children's Legislative Report Card*, *CAI Annual Report*, *CAI NewsNotes*, and *Child Advocates Roundtable FAXBlasts*. CAI publications have received national acclaim; for example, the National Association of Child Advocates has recognized that "the Children's Advocacy Institute's [*California Children's Budget*] remains the most thorough and well-researched document nationwide." All CAI publications are available free of charge and are accessible on CAI's website (www.sandiego.edu/childreissues).

Lawyers for Kids

Established by CAI in 1996, Lawyers for Kids are attorneys, law students, and others in the legal community who use their talents and resources as advocates to promote the health, safety, and well-being of children; assist CAI's policy advocacy program; work with CAI staff on impact litigation by offering expertise in drafting *amicus curiae* briefs; and make an annual membership contribution to benefit CAI's work, enabling CAI's professional staff to continue efforts to improve the health and welfare of our state's kids.

CAI Council for Children

The CAI Council for Children serves as the advisory board to the Children's Advocacy Institute. Its members include:

Thomas A. Papageorge, J.D. *Council Chair, Head Deputy District Attorney, Consumer Protection Division, Los Angeles District Attorney's Office*

Martin D. Fern, J.D. *Partner, Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP*

Birt Harvey, M.D. *Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus, Stanford University*

Louise Horvitz, M.S.W., Psy.D.

Honorable Leon S. Kaplan, J.D. *Los Angeles Superior Court*

Paul A. Peterson, J.D. *of counsel to Peterson & Price, Lawyers; founding Chair of the CAI Board of Advisors*

Gary F. Redenbacher, J.D. *Attorney at Law*

Gary A. Richwald, M.D., M.P.H.

Blair L. Sadler *President and Chief Executive Officer, Children's Hospital and Health Center*

Gloria P. Samson *Principal, Castle Park High School*

Alan E. Shumacher, M.D., F.A.A.P. *Retired neonatologist; Past President of the Medical Board of California; President of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States*

Owen Smith *President, Anzalone & Associates*

CAI Staff

Robert C. Fellmeth, J.D. *Executive Director*

Julie D'Angelo Fellmeth, J.D. *CPIL Administrative Director*

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 CAI's Advocacy Program
 CAI's Academic Program
 CAI's Regulatory Law Reporter
 Lawyers for Kids

• Please send me more information on:
 I would like to make a contribution to CAI of \$ _____
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thank you