

Saturday, January 20, 2024
8:30 – 11:45 a.m.
Children’s Law Committee
3.0 MCLE Credit Hours,
Commission on CLE Course #: 240014
Room Location: Pavilion

Animis Opibusque Parati: Advocacy and Representation for South Carolina’s Children

To complement South Carolina’s state motto “*Animis Opibusque Parati*,” the Children’s Law Committee has a robust agenda to strengthen and enhance lawyers’ minds and resources as they provide legal advocacy and representation for children. Attendees will receive a legislative update provided by **Representative Jason Elliott**, who also has a law practice in Greenville. He will be co-presenting with attorney **Amanda Whittle**, State Child Advocate and Director of the Department of Children’s Advocacy, to provide an update regarding recent laws and pending bills concerning children. **Natalece Washington** is a Georgia native and will be joining us from the National Association of Counsel for Children. She has devoted her legal career to child welfare law, and she will provide national trends and research about counsel for children in foster care. **Amanda Hess** with Disability Rights South Carolina and **Jennifer Rainville** with S.C. Appleseed for Justice are South Carolina lawyers who include education law in their areas of practice. They will equip attendees to identify potential education issues and to access resources to address issues to benefit children. **Anna Maria Conner** is a Senior Attorney with Disability Rights South Carolina, and she will highlight legal advocacy for children with disabilities, specifically regarding Medicaid, waivers, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSTD) resources. **Tonnya Kohn** is South Carolina’s State Court Administrator and will lead the segment regarding the S.C. Courts Mental Health Initiative. Authorized by Chief Justice Donald W. Beatty in October of 2022, the S.C. Courts Mental Health Initiative is a “collaborative, statewide endeavor to improve the administration of justice for people affected by mental health issues.” This session will provide attendees with information about the status of the initiative which was designed to affect change through unprecedented statewide collaboration.

Agenda

- 8:30 – 8:35 a.m. **Introduction**

Amanda Whittle, J.D., CWLS
SC Department of Children’s Advocacy
Columbia, SC
- 8:35 – 9:10 a.m. **Legislative Update**

Rep. Jason Elliott
Jason Elliott Law
Greenville, SC
- 9:10 – 9:40 a.m. **Lawyers Make a Difference**

Natalece Washington, J.D., CWLS
National Association of Counsel for Children
Atlanta, GA

9:40 – 10:10 a.m. **When Good Kids Seem Bad: Spotting the Educational Needs of Students**

Jennifer Rainville
S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center
Columbia, SC

Amanda C. Hess
Disability Rights of South Carolina
Columbia, SC

10:10 – 10:40 a.m. **Medicaid and EPSDT: What Does That Offer South Carolina's Children**

Anna Maria Conner
Disability Rights South Carolina
Columbia, SC

10:40 – 10:55 a.m. **Break**

10:55 – 11: 45 a.m. **S.C. Courts Mental Health Initiative**

Tonnya K. Kohn
Judicial Branch Court Administration
Columbia, SC

Course Planner/Moderator: Amanda F. Whittle
S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy
Columbia, SC