

ERIN L. LOVELL

EDUCATION

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Chicago, IL

Juris Doctor

May 2005

- Cum Laude
- *Associate Editor*, Law Review
- *Experiential Learning*: Federal Judicial Extern, Civil Legal Aid Extern, Public Defender Extern, Namibia/Botswana Seminar, Bluhm Legal Clinic

University of Notre Dame

South Bend, IN

Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Relations

May 2001

Concentrations in Peace Studies & the Hesburgh Program in Public Service

- Magna Cum Laude
- *Experiential Learning*: Urban Plunge, Appalachian Project, Summer Service Project

EXPERIENCE

Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC)

Seattle, WA

Special Counsel

June 2024 – December 2024

- Strategic thought partner and transition support for new Executive Director and Director of Finance.
- Manage LCYC's data systems and analytics to support finance management, program improvement, grant reporting, and LCYC's goal to effectively reach and serve BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ youth.

Founding Executive Director

June 2010 – May 2024

- Led collaborative program development, design, and launch, expanding LCYC programs, community and strategic partnerships, and geographic reach across multiple legal systems (civil legal aid, juvenile criminal legal, dependency, and immigration) and counties in Washington.
- Responsible for all administrative duties, including finances, taxes, human resources, contracts, grants management, strategic planning, private and public fund development, and Board support.
- Established canonical metrics and data analysis, incorporating data into LCYC's financial management, programmatic improvement, and systemic advocacy.
- Provided legal supervision to attorneys in dependency and other civil legal aid matters (2012-2017).
- Represented youth in dependency and other civil legal aid matters (2010–2014).

The Defender Association

Seattle, WA

Staff Attorney, Dependency Unit

October 2005 – October 2009

- Zealously advocated for parents and youth involved in the dependency system through court hearings, trials, negotiations, client meetings, and team staffings.
- Collaborated with social workers, treatment providers, educators, attorneys, and community-based housing and social service agencies to ensure clients are supported and their needs are met.

Bluhm Legal Clinic: Children and Family Justice Center

Chicago, IL

Clinic Student

January 2004 – May 2005

- Co-counseled a juvenile delinquency trial, supported post-conviction written advocacy and oral hearings, met with clients at the clinic, Cook County jail, IL and WI prisons with Professor Steve Drizin.
- Collaborated in writing an amicus brief for a child custody case involving a transgender father.

The Defender Association

Seattle, WA

Rule 9 Intern

June 2004 – August 2004

- Engaged in intensive trial advocacy training.
- Co-counseled misdemeanor trials.

Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center

Denver, CO

Equal Justice America Summer Fellow

June 2003 – August 2003

- Participated in home visits and observed court proceedings.
- Communicated regularly with clients, parents, foster parents, caseworkers, therapists and educators.

Uhlich Children's Home

Chicago, IL

Americorps Volunteer, Amate House

August 2001 – June 2002

- Created and led after-school computer workshops at a therapeutic group home for youth.
- Designed and taught computer classes at Uhlich Academy, a K-8 therapeutic day school.
- Lived in community with other volunteers with facilitated conversation and reflections on our experiences in relation to Catholic social teaching.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Washington Defender Association, Board Member

2012-2014

WSBA Juvenile Law Section, Co-Director, Dependency and Child Welfare Committee

2007-2011

Equal Justice Works, Board Member

2004-2006

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM AWARDS

National Association of Counsel for Children, Outstanding Children's Law Office Award (LCYC)

2024

YMCA of Greater Seattle, Hero Everyday Award

2024

Access to Justice Board and WSBA APEX Award, Norm Maleng Leadership Award

2019

American Bar Association Homeless Youth Legal Network Model Program Site (LCYC)

2017

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

Children's Law Office Guidebook: Best Practice Guidelines for Organizational Legal Representation of Children in Neglect, Abuse, and Dependency Cases (Kristin Pisani Jacques ed., 2nd ed, 2023) (contributor).

Homeless Youth Don't Realize How Much Legal Aid Can Help Them, Youth Today and Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (April 11, 2019).

How free legal services help young people overcome homelessness, Raikes Foundation Blog (June 16, 2017).

The Troubling Connection Between Juvenile Justice and Youth Homelessness, Giving Compass (December 7, 2017).

E. Mark Cummings & Erin L. Lovell, *Conflict, conflict resolution, and the children of Northern Ireland: Towards understanding the impact on children and families*. Kroc Institute Occasional Paper Series #21:OP:1. South Bend, Indiana: University of Notre Dame. The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies (2000).

Special Studies: “Couples and Kids” and “Me and My Family,” South Bend, IN (August 2000 – May 2001) Director, Dr. E. Mark Cummings; collected, entered and managed data, recruited families to participate, and transcribed taped visits for psychological studies regarding the effects of martial conflict on children and issues of attachment.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Lawsuit challenges ‘parents’ bill of rights’ passed by WA Legislature, The Seattle Times, May 23, 2024.

Washington State Lawmakers Consider Police Pursuit and Parents’ Rights Initiatives, King 5, February 28, 2024.

Who is responsible for WA’s homeless teens? Often, no one: The state offers few resources to support minors who have been kicked out of their homes or who run away, Youth Today, May 31, 2019.

Legal Advocacy for Trans and Gender-Diverse Youth (with Anya Morgan)

Presented a CLE on engaging transgender and gender-diverse youth with understanding and cultural humility. Reviewed the unique legal needs and challenges systems-involved transgender and gender-diverse youth face and provided tips and options for legal support. Gender Odyssey Conference, August 10, 2018.

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth (with multiple co-presenters)

Coordinated a half-day CLE for child welfare and homeless youth professionals focused on how to best support LGBTQIA+ youth. Presenters included LCYC, Gender Diversity, Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Lavendar Rights Project, Center for Children and Youth Justice, YouthCare, The Mockingbird Society, and Lambert House. March 2, 2018.

Empty Promises: Homeless Minors, Our Community’s Failure to Serve Them, and Hope for a Way Forward

Presented a CLE with LCYC team members and volunteers to share report findings and recommendations, paired with facilitated small group conversation to share reflections and identify future strategies. January 19, 2018.

Why Youth Run from Care—and What You Can Do About It (with Courtney Canova, Sherrie Flores, and Beth Yu Simpson)

Presented at a conference for judicial officers handling At-Risk Youth and Child In Need of Services matters in juvenile court. The aim was to improve judicial officers’ understanding of why youth may run from court ordered placement, what works to re-engage and support youth, alternatives to detaining youth, and how judicial officers can help prevent and respond to youth who are on the run. Court Improvement Training Academy Judicial Training, Pathways to Adulthood – Engaging Older Youth, December 8, 2017.

What Does Good Legal Representation Look Like for Children in Foster Care, and How Do We Measure It?

(with Rob Wyman and Gina Cumbo)

Presented LCYC's data on youth advocacy, such as contested shelter care hearings, frequency and types of motions affirmatively filed, and placement at case opening and closure. Discussed LCYC's approach to youth engagement, proactive advocacy, and low caseloads. Co-presenters highlighted the results of the QIC Best Practice Model of Child Representation, a project through the University of Michigan Law School that studied the model's application in Georgia and Washington. LCYC participated in the QIC Model cohort and study. Children's Justice Conference, May 3, 2016.

Youth Transition Planning (with Rob Wyman, Beth Yu Simpson, Fred Kingston, and Casey Hanauer)

Presented on the importance of early, proactive, and youth-centered transition planning to support youth exiting foster care. Provided guidance on the responsibilities and opportunities for youth advocates to best support their clients. Children's Justice Conference, May 11, 2015.

CASA/GALs and Attorneys for Children: Unique Roles and Collaboration (with Denise Redinger)

Presented an ethics CLE on the distinct roles and ethical responsibilities of attorneys for youth and of CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in dependency and termination proceedings. Provided examples of when collaboration may be advantageous for the youth and the importance of maintaining mutual respect when differences in position exist. Children's Justice Conference, May 13, 2014.