

How can YLC support you as a direct service attorney?

Youth Law Center is a California State Bar **Qualified Support Center** and is here to assist with substantive expertise, legal training, technical assistance, and advocacy support.

Support Types

- **Trainings, workshops, workgroups, and outreach** Training on substantive areas of expertise and best practices, participation in local and statewide workgroups, and quarterly outreach and mailing regarding new resources available
- **Consultation, research, co-counseling, and technical assistance** Direct assistance to advocates in our areas of substantive expertise, including advocate support for proposed legislation, pleadings and amicus briefs, and individual and systemic issues
- **Resource materials, information services, and support** Development of trainings, toolkits, advocacy guides, fact sheets, policy bulletins and other resources, including co-authoring resources and trainings with other legal service providers

Areas of Expertise

Child welfare

Foster care conditions, placements, licensing standards, kinship care, permanency, and access to services

Juvenile justice & court records

Juvenile law and procedure, including competence to stand trial, dual-status youth, least-restrictive settings, access to services, alternatives to detention, probation/parole, transitions, reentry, conditions of confinement, and record sealing and confidentiality

Public benefits for court-involved youth

AFDC-FC including the Infant Supplement, Kin-GAP, CalWORKS, Adoption Assistance, SSI, and Regional Centers

Education for court-involved youth

Access, enrollment, rights of juvenile court-involved youth, school discipline, juvenile court schools, students with disabilities, educational equity, and access to postsecondary education

Health and mental health

Medi-Cal and EPSDT

These groups may need special consideration. YLC can help.

- Transition-age youth (TAY) <
- Pregnant and parenting youth <
- Homeless youth <
- Immigrant youth <

Areas of Expertise, cont'd

Housing issues affecting system-involved youth and their families

Foster care conditions, placements, licensing standards, kinship care, permanency, and access to services

Immigrant-related issues

Children in federal custody, special immigrant juvenile status, language, and culturally accessible programs and services

Fees, fines, and other juvenile court system-imposed costs

Support, restitution, supervision, records, treatment, and other services

Civil practice issues in child advocacy

Guardian ad litem and other representation issues for minors

Language access

Youth and families with limited English proficiency

Calling all Youth Advocates—Join YLC's Practice Support Networks

Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Civil Legal Practice Exchange

The TAY Civil Legal Practice Exchange is a group of civil legal advocates across California that convenes regularly to share resources, exchange technical assistance, develop referral pathways, and identify recurring issues related to the civil legal needs of transition-age young people. The Practice Exchange provides monthly webinars for advocates on a variety of TAY-specific topics including housing, access to services, and transition-planning among many others. We also host a monthly workshopping hour which offers a more interactive, collaborative space to brainstorm and problem-solve around recurring issues in TAY advocacy work across the state. Contact Marisa Lopez-Scott, Staff Attorney, at mlopez@ylc.org for more information or to join.

Pathways to Higher Education Practice Exchange

YLC's Pathways to Higher Education project advocates for expanded access to postsecondary education opportunities for young people who are or have been involved in the California juvenile justice system. The Pathways project reimagines higher education as an alternative to incarceration and a support system equipping youth to live in their community and find success. Youth Law Center advocacy staff are available to support QLSP attorneys and their currently or formerly systems-involved clients in accessing and succeeding in higher education. For more info, contact Katie Bliss, YLC's CA Higher Education Coordinator, at kbliss@ylc.org.

Recent YLC Resources

- [THP-NMD: An Advocacy Guide to Preventing Involuntary Exits](#)
- [College Is For Everyone! A California Financial Aid Guide for Youth with Juvenile Justice Involvement](#)
- [An Information Resource for Pregnant & Parenting Foster Youth in California](#)
- [Building Community Power in Youth Justice Reform: The Brown Act & Juvenile Justice Realignment in California](#)

About YLC

Youth Law Center (YLC) is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that has worked for four decades to transform foster care and juvenile justice systems across the nation so every child and youth can thrive. YLC's advocacy aims to ensure children and youth are not only protected from harm and dangerous conditions in systems but also receive the support, opportunities, and love they need to grow up healthy and happy. We pursue these goals through child-focused, research-informed advocacy strategies including litigation, policy reform, media advocacy, collaborative system-change projects, training and advice, and public education.

Contact Us - Key Staff

***All staff are working remotely—email preferred.**

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL	PHONE
› Jennifer Rodriguez	Executive Director	jrodriguez@ylc.org	(415) 413-4969
› Brian Blalock	Senior Staff Attorney	bblalock@ylc.org	(415) 413-4128
› Lauren Brady	Director of Legal Advocacy	lbrady@ylc.org	(415) 413-0169
› Meredith Desautels	Staff Attorney	mdesautels@ylc.org	(415) 413-4266
› Marisa Lopez-Scott	Staff Attorney	mlopez@ylc.org	(415) 413-0171
› Christopher Middleton	Legal Fellow	cmiddleton@ylc.org	(415) 413-4197
› Jasmine Miller	Staff Attorney	jmiller@ylc.org	(415) 413-0174
› Rachel Murphy	Staff Attorney (admitted only in IL)	rmurphy@ylc.org	(415) 413-4986
› Erin Palacios	Staff Attorney	epalacios@ylc.org	(415) 413-4127
› Jennifer Pokempner	Policy Director (admitted only in PA)	jpokempner@ylc.org	(415) 413-0172
› Will Radler	Operations Manager	wradler@ylc.org	(415) 413-4588
› Selina Weiss	Development & Comms Coordinator	sweiss@ylc.org	(415) 413-4129
› Madeleine Wykstra	Staff Attorney (admitted only in NY)	mwykstra@ylc.org	(415) 413-4125