

How can the Youth Law Center support you as a direct service attorney?

The Youth Law Center (YLC) is a California State Bar **Qualified Support Center** and can 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

These groups may need special consideration. YLC can help.

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

Areas of Expertise

Housing issues affecting system-involved youth

Homelessness and homelessness prevention; access to and discharges/evictions from transitional, subsidized, and other housing; and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers

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, EPSDT, CalAIM, Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS), and Wraparound

Areas of Expertise, cont'd

Immigrant-related issues

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

Fees, fines, juvenile court-imposed costs

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

Child welfare

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

Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Civil Legal Practice Exchange

The **TAY Civil Legal Practice Exchange** (TAY PX) is a practice support network for 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 (roughly ages 16-25). The TAY PX provides monthly training, bi-monthly workshops, bi-monthly office hours (a more interactive, collaborative space to brainstorm and problem-solve around recurring issues in TAY advocacy work across the state), a listserv, and a dedicated resource library. We've found that membership in the TAY PX is especially useful for newer attorneys and attorneys interested in learning more about the unique civil legal needs of transition-age young people. Contact Marisa Lopez-Scott, Senior Attorney, at mlopez@ylc.org for more information or to join.

Recent YLC Resources

[THP-NMD: An Advocacy Guide to Preventing Involuntary Exits](#)

[On the Threshold of Change: Forces that could transform future conditions for youth in Extended Foster Care \(EFC\)](#)

[Out of Sight, Out of Mind: How California's Education Data & Accountability Systems Fail Youth in Juvenile Court Schools](#)

[FAFSA Simplification Act: The Impacts on Youth With Experience in Foster Care and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#)

[Toolkit to Promote the Foster Youth to Independence \(FYI\) Program in California](#)

About YLC

Youth Law Center (YLC) is a nonprofit legal advocacy organization that has worked for over 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 impact litigation, policy reform, media advocacy, collaborative system-change projects, training and advice, and public education.

Contact Us

***All staff work remotely—email preferred.**

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL	PHONE
➤ Jennifer Rodriguez	Executive Director	jrodriguez@ylc.org	(415) 413-4969
➤ Tamar Alexanian	Staff Attorney	talexanian@ylc.org	(415) 635-0616
➤ Brian Blalock	Senior Directing Attorney	bblalock@ylc.org	(415) 413-4124
➤ Katie Bliss	Senior Advocate	kbliss@ylc.org	(415) 413-4128
➤ Lauren Brady	Managing Director	lbrady@ylc.org	(415) 413-0169
➤ Meredith Desautels	Directing Attorney	mdesautels@ylc.org	(415) 413-4266
➤ MJ Hart	Project Coordinator, Pathways to Higher Ed	mjhart@ylc.org	(415) 694-7387
➤ Marisa Lopez-Scott	Senior Attorney	mlopez@ylc.org	(415) 413-0171
➤ Christopher Middleton	Equal Justice Works Fellow <small>Sponsored by Baker McKenzie & Salesforce, Inc.</small>	cmiddleton@ylc.org	(415) 413-4197
➤ Jasmine Miller	Staff Attorney	jmiller@ylc.org	(415) 413-0174
➤ Rachel Murphy	Senior Attorney	rmurphy@ylc.org	(415) 413-4986
➤ Jennifer Pokempner	Senior Policy Director (admitted in PA only)	jpokempner@ylc.org	(415) 413-0172
➤ Will Radler	Director of Operations	wradler@ylc.org	(415) 413-4588
➤ Natalie Reynolds	Administrative Manager	nreynolds@ylc.org	(415) 635-0617
➤ Emily Satifka	Project Lead (admitted in NJ only)	esatifka@ylc.org	(415) 635-0618
➤ Selina Weiss	Development & Communications Coordinator	sweiss@ylc.org	(415) 413-4129
➤ Madeleine Wykstra	California Registered Legal Aid Attorney	mwykstra@ylc.org	(415) 413-4125