

You Are Invited to Join YLC's 2025 Summer Seminars

>>> AT-A-GLANCE SEMINAR SCHEDULE <<<

All times listed below are Pacific

About YLC's Summer Seminars

Presented by Youth Law Center attorneys and advocates, this series covers a broad range of topics in child welfare, juvenile justice, and public interest law and is open to summer interns, clerks, and staff from California Qualified Legal Service Providers (QLSPs) and Support Centers. All are welcome to register and participate!

For more information, please contact Lauren Brady, Managing Director, at lbrady@ylc.org.



See pages 2 - 5 of this flyer for all session descriptions and presenter details.

- 6/2, 9:30-11:00 am - [Federal Advocacy Landscape](#)
- 6/3, 12:00-1:30 pm - [Housing for Systems-Involved Youth](#)
- 6/9, 11:00 am-12:30 pm - [Education Advocacy for Systems - Involved Youth](#)
- 6/16, 11:00 am-12:30pm - [Technology Access in Juvenile Justice Facilities](#)
- 6/18, 10:00-11:30 am - [Kinship Care](#)
- 6/26, 9:30-11:00 am - [Advancing Justice Through Legislation](#)
- 7/2, 10:00-11:30 am - [Making California's Foster Care Funding Work for Young People](#)
- 7/7, 10:00-11:30 am - [Civil Legal Aid for Systems-Involved Youth/TAY](#)
- 7/9, 11:30 am-1:00 pm - [The Advocates' Toolbox: Litigation, Legislation, Finance, and Systems Reform](#)
- 7/14, 11:00 am-12:30 pm - [Disability Rights & Systems Involved Youth](#)
- 7/16, 11:30 am-1:00 pm - [Pathways to Higher Education for Systems-Involved Youth](#)
- 7/22, 12:00-1:30 pm - [Civil Rights Litigation](#)

2025 SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES

All seminars are interactive and take place via Zoom; times shown are Pacific.

MONDAY, JUNE 2ND, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Federal Advocacy Landscape

Jenny Pokempner, Senior Policy Director (YLC)

Please join us to learn how federal child welfare law and policy impact our state and local systems. We will also explore current opportunities for federal advocacy.

[Click here to register.](#)

TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Housing for Systems - Involved Youth

Christopher Middleton, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Sponsored by Baker McKenzie & Salesforce, Inc.

Housing stability is critical to any young adult's transition to independence, and systems involved young people have particular entitlements to and face challenges in obtaining housing support and stability. Join Christopher Middleton to learn more about housing topics specific to systems-involved TAY and strategies available to advocates.

[Click here to register.](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 9TH, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Education Advocacy for Systems - Involved Youth

Dylan Quigley, Staff Attorney (YLC)

Youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems are significantly more likely to be pushed out of school than other youth. This training will provide an overview of the major educational legal issues facing systems involved youth and how advocates can use the law to reduce push out. We will focus on school discipline, special education, and foster-specific school stability protections.

[Click here to register.](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 16TH, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Technology Access in Juvenile Justice Facilities

Ameil Kenkare, Staff Attorney (YLC)

The session will focus on issues related to access to technology in juvenile justice facilities for social cohesion, family connection, and education access. We will look at the legal frameworks, including implementation of California's AB 2448, and best practices and concerning barriers based on a survey of juvenile justice policies and documents statewide. We will also spend some time looking at larger technology access issues for juvenile justice involved youth in the community.

[Click here to register.](#)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Kinship Care

Emily Satifka, California Registered Legal Aid Attorney (YLC)

This Kinship Care Seminar will discuss YLC's support for legal aid offices representing children and caregivers who are involved with kinship care placements. We will go over the various pathways to kinship care, and the unique challenges faced by both caregivers and children in these arrangements.

[Click here to register.](#)

THURSDAY JUNE 26TH, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Advancing Justice Through Legislation

Chantel Johnson-Crockrom, YLC Consultant (YLC)

Join Chantel Johnson-Crockrom, YLC Consultant, for this summer seminar on how to use legislative advocacy as a tool for systems change, including "how a bill becomes a law" as well as important historical budgetary and legislative trends. Also included is a crash course in legislative advocacy, how you can use your unique experiences to advocate on behalf of the populations you serve, and how to effectively partner with directly impacted people.

[Click here to register.](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Making California's Foster Care Funding Work for Young People

Brian Blalock, Senior Directing Attorney (YLC); Kristina Tanner, Special Projects Coordinator (YLC)

This session will look at efforts in California to make foster care funding work to help better support youth in the foster care system. We will focus on youth-driven efforts to fundamentally change the way foster care funding works in California, including youth engagement and leadership in the development of the state's new rates system, funding for extracurriculars, and support for a significant expansion in wraparound supports. We will also spend some time looking at other initiatives in the state's Medi-Cal system to support reimbursement for non-clinical services and what that can mean for both better supports for youth and for job programs for youth with lived experience.

[Click here to register.](#)

MONDAY, JULY 7TH, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Civil Legal Aid for Systems-Involved Youth/TAY

Marisa Lopez-Scott, Directing Attorney (YLC)

Join YLC Directing Attorney Marisa Lopez-Scott to learn more about common civil legal aid issues for youth impacted by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The presentation will cover best practices for working with TAY and effective advocacy strategies to ensure youth have access to housing, education, benefits, healthcare services, and more.

[Click here to register.](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

The Advocates' Toolbox; Litigation, Legislation, Finance, and Systems Reform

Brian Blalock, Senior Directing Attorney (YLC)

This session looks at different tools available to advocates to bring about systems change. Using real world examples, we will investigate the pros, cons, and consequences of using different tools for specific situations. We will discuss using public sector financing to empower youth and families, narrative to bring equity to kin and families, preventive litigation to stop harm, constructive litigation to rebuild systems, and more in the areas of youth homelessness, foster care, and juvenile justice reform. Special attention will be given to collaborating and partnering with young people on systems reform work regardless of the chosen tools.

[Click here to register.](#)

MONDAY, JULY 14TH, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Disability Rights & Systems-Involved Youth

Diane Smith Howard, Directing Advocate (YLC)

Children and youth with disabilities are disproportionately represented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. State and federal laws provide protections to them, but these are often out of reach due to structural barriers. In this session, attendees will learn what protections apply and how to assist youth to access program accommodations, modifications and to obtain necessary services.

[Click here to register.](#)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16TH, 11:30 AM- 1:00PM

Pathways to Higher Education for Systems-Involved Youth

Katie Bliss, Directing Advocate (YLC); MJ Hart, Project Coordinator, Pathways to Higher Education (YLC); Student Leaders from YLC's Pathways Scholars in Action

YLC's Pathways to Higher Education project has worked for years to improve opportunities for justice system-involved students to attend and succeed in community college and beyond. Join Katie Bliss, Directing Advocate, MJ Hart, Pathways to Higher Education Coordinator, and students from YLC's Scholars in Action cohort to learn more about this advocacy work.

[Click here to register.](#)

TUESDAY, JULY 22ND, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Civil Rights Litigation

Stuart Seaborn, Litigation Consultant

Join YLC Litigation Consultant Stuart Seaborn for this summer seminar session, which will cover practice tips for affirmative civil rights litigation and a primer covering the life cycle of a case, from investigation and outreach through all stages of litigation and remedy/settlement.

[Click here to register.](#)