Children's Law Center
Michelle Dhunjishah
Focus of “Children’s Law Centers”

- Abuse & Neglect
- Adoption
- Commercial & Sexual Exploitation
- Custody
- Disabilities
- Domestic Violence
- Education
- Immigration
- Juvenile Justice
Services Provided by “Children’s Law Centers”

- Convening Stakeholders
- Direct Representation
- Impact Litigation
- Policy Work
- Research
- Teaching/Training
- Technical Assistance
South Carolina

Advancing children’s law by strengthening public policy, increasing knowledge, and improving practice.
## Children Served in Foster Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>7,989</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>7,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>36,843</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>17,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>12,546</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>8,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>7,371</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>18,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>15,011</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>16,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>7,038</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>13,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>47,492</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>7,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>8,417</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau
Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)
Data as of June 2016
Available at: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption-fy15
Supporting & Strengthening South Carolina’s Foster Care System

- Bench-Bar Committee
- Children’s Justice Act Task Force
- Citizen Review Panel
- Court Liaisons
- Joint Citizens & Legislative Committee on Children
- Training
Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children

- Membership
- Goals
JCLCC Process

1. Research and Study
2. Annual Public Hearings
3. Developing Policy Priorities and Recommendations
4. Legislative Session

The process is cyclical, with each step leading back to the start.
- Supporting Children in Poverty
- Protecting Children from Abuse & Neglect
- Protecting Child Physical & Mental Well-Being
- Protecting Youth & Supporting Responsible Decision-Making
Public Policy Initiatives

- Kinship Care
- Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care
- Commercial & Sexual Exploitation of Children
Dum Spiro Spero

While I breathe I hope