

**Kara R. Finck**  
**502 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 (718) 902-6812**

**EDUCATION**

**Columbia University School of Law**, New York, NY, *Juris Doctor* 2001

Honors: Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (1998-2001); Samuel I. Rosenman Academic Prize (May 2001);  
Sidley & Austin Public Interest Fellowship (Summer 2000); Human Rights Fellow (Summer 1999)

Activities: Executive Articles Editor, *Columbia Law Review*

**Columbia College**, New York, NY, *Bachelor of Arts* 1996

Honors: *Cum Laude* with Departmental Honors in Political Science

Harry S. Truman National Scholar (1995)

Solomon and Seymour Fisher Civil Liberties Summer Fellowship (1995)

**EXPERIENCE**

**University of Pennsylvania Law School, *Practice Associate Professor of Law* 4/12 to present**

Direct the Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic where law students and master level social work students represent adolescents in civil matters including dependency, immigration, and education issues. Teach the seminar component of the clinic addressing current issues in child advocacy from a range of disciplines including legal, medical, psychiatry and social work. Supervise externship students on their legal research in child welfare law. Represent Penn Law School as a Faculty Director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research.

**The Bronx Defenders, *Managing Attorney, Family Defense Practice* Bronx, NY 1/04 to 3/12**

Created holistic, team-based practice for representation of parents facing abuse and neglect cases in Bronx Family Court. Expanded practice from a small, grant funded project with two staff into the first institutional parent representation provider in Bronx Family Court, serving approximately 1,000 clients per year. Lead more than 30 attorneys, social workers, and parent advocates and supervise on direct services and substantive law. Coordinate concurrent representation of clients with criminal, civil and family law cases. Develop and facilitate special projects for advocates. Manage multi-million dollar city contract and multiple private grants for program services. Assist in the development of practice specific data systems, reports and evaluations. Participate in citywide taskforces and committees aimed at reforming the child welfare and Family Court systems. Meet regularly with stakeholders, including Family Court judges, other parent representation providers and ACS.

**Fordham University School of Law, *Adjunct Professor of Law* New York, NY 1/08 to present**

Co-taught "Interdisciplinary Responses to Child Abuse and Neglect," a seminar for Law School and School of Social Work students focusing on the intersection of law and social work in child welfare systems and services. Developed syllabus and taught "Interdisciplinary Externship Seminar" for the past two years focusing on ethics, substantive law and best practice in direct services for law students working in legal services office.

**The Door's Legal Services Center, *Skadden Fellow/Staff Attorney* New York, NY 9/02 – 1/04**

Represented young people in foster care who were planning for discharge from the child welfare system. Conducted legal rights trainings for young people in group homes and maternity shelters. Represented teen mothers whose children have been illegally removed from their care. Advocated for reforms in ACS's handling of undocumented youth in foster care, who were seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status relief.

**Honorable Reginald Lindsay, U.S. District Court, *Law Clerk* Boston, MA 8/01 – 8/02**

Wrote memoranda and drafted judicial opinions on motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss. Drafted jury instructions in federal civil and criminal trials.

**The Bronx Defenders, *Project Planner* Bronx, NY 9/97 – 7/98**

Coordinated outreach to local community and social service providers for new public defender organization in South Bronx. Created and developed the Criminal Justice Internship Program for Bronx high school students, an

art exchange program with local Bronx elementary schools, a brochure for clients explaining the criminal court process, an annual community reception, and a database of 200+ New York City social service agencies.

**The Vera Institute of Justice**

***Associate Planner***

**New York, NY**

**1/97 – 8/97**

Planned the Overlap Project addressing the needs of foster care adolescents involved in the juvenile justice system. Designed and oversaw a research study of the degree of foster children's representation at detention facilities. Conducted focus groups with child welfare caseworkers and young people in foster care. Surveyed group home staff and residents and supervised two law school interns conducting field research. Wrote a proposal for funding to the Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office.

***Project Assistant***

**New York, NY**

**5/96 – 12/96**

Developed a research design for the Family Court Improvement Study that evaluated the handling of abuse and neglect cases in five New York counties. Wrote an addendum to the *Family Court Improvement Project* report on the voluntary foster care placement system in New York City. Supervised five research interns and made presentations on Vera's youth projects to government and foundation representatives.

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS**

Faculty Director, Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania (2012)

Board of Directors, Member, Lutheran Settlement House (2013)

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Social Work and the Law*, co-author with Dr. Lyn K. Slater (Springer Publishing, NY) (forthcoming in 2011).

**PRESENTATIONS**

Co-presenter on "Best Practices in Advocating for Child Victims" of Trauma with Dr. Steve Berkowitz from the Penn Center for Youth and Family Trauma Response and Recovery, Field Center national conference, June 2013.

Panelist for "How Well Do Our Laws Protect Children?" as part of the University of Pennsylvania's Year of Proof Reading Project, Spring 2013.

Panelist on Resumption of Dependency Jurisdiction Best Practice and Challenges at the annual "Current Issues for Child Advocates" conference for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, April 2013.

Continuing Legal Education courses on representing parents in Article 10 proceedings, client counseling and advocacy skills, and the family law consequences of criminal cases.

Presentations on parental and youth rights in the child welfare and Family Court system organized by, among others, Highbridge Community Life Center, Child Welfare Organizing Project, foster care agencies, school boards, and community youth organizations.

Testimony to New York State Assembly on issues related to parents' rights in the child welfare and Family Court system in February 2006.

Speaker at "The Racial Geography of the Child Welfare System: Community Impact and Response" conference sponsored by Professor Dorothy Roberts of Fordham Law School in April 2006

Speaker at conference on child welfare and Family Courts sponsored by the New York State Family Court Judges Association in September 2006.

Panelist at the first ABA Conference on Parent Representation in Spring 2009 presenting on interdisciplinary representation for parents in child welfare and dependency proceedings.

Panelist at National Legal Aid and Defender Association annual conference in 2009 on integrating family law into traditional public defender offices.

Panelist at Applied Research Center's "Facing Race" national conference in 2008 on the intersection of the child welfare system and immigration policy.

Speaker at the Second Annual National Parent's Attorney Conference in July 2011 on the collateral consequences of family court and criminal court cases and the intersection on immigration, child welfare and the criminal justice system.