



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

Resources for Unaccompanied Children

**November 21, 2024
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

This program will provide an overview of issues related to unaccompanied children and the resources available to them through the Department of Children and Families. The presenters will discuss the significance of this legal designation, the arrival of unaccompanied children, the sponsor placement process, and the role of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The presenters will also detail the services available through DCF's contract with International Social Services, and the roles of the DCF Immigration Legal Specialist and International Social Services Liaison.

Eligibility

This program is only open to Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General in the DCF practice group and DCF agency attorneys invited to attend.

Faculty

Georgiana Romero Ochoa, Esq. is the Immigration Legal Specialist in the Department of Children and Families' Office of Legal Affairs. She supports DCF staff by providing education on immigration matters and developing partnerships with stakeholders in the immigration field. Ms. Romero Ochoa also assists in the development and implementation of immigration related department policies and practices that aid staff in effectively and efficiently serving immigrant clients. Prior to joining DCF, Ms. Romero-Ochoa handled the defense of civil cases as in-house counsel and represented individuals in immigration court as an attorney in a private law firm. She holds an undergraduate degree from Drew University and a J.D. from Vermont Law School.

Alba Hernandez is the Immigration and International Service Specialist for New Jersey's Department of Children and Families (DCF). She provides a range of services through the Office of Legal Affairs within DCF's Interstate Unit. Her responsibilities include coordinating with

Immigration Legal Specialists, acting as a liaison between DCF and International Social Services-USA, handling ICPC referrals to Puerto Rico, managing outgoing Hague adoption requests, and facilitating the repatriation of unaccompanied minors while maintaining communication with foreign consulates and embassies. Mrs. Hernandez previously served as an Interstate Liaison in DCF's Interstate Unit and as a Family Service Specialist in Permanency and Adoption. She graduated from Georgian Court University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, while also completing the Baccalaureate in Child Welfare Education Program through Stockton University. She earned a certificate in Violence Against Women from Rutgers University's Center on Violence Against Women and Children and recently graduated from the Minority Professional Leadership Program through Adopt US Kids.

Renee P. Evelyn is an Adoption Field Support Specialist with the Office of Adoption Operations, where she oversees adoption practices and processes at several local offices. She specializes in supervision, data accuracy, and family planning and is committed to supporting permanency for youth throughout the State. Ms. Evelyn earned an undergraduate degree from the College of New Jersey, a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University and recently completed the Minority Professional Leadership Development Program through Adopt US Kids.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.5 hours of total CLE credit. Of these, 0.0 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism.

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Registration

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.