

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

[Elevating the Voting Rights of Youth: How California Can Ensure Voting Access in County Juvenile Facilities](#)

[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](#)

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

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.

**All staff work remotely, email preferred*

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL	PHONE
Jennifer Rodriguez	Executive Director	jrodriguez@ylc.org	(415) 413-4969
Brian Blalock	Senior Directing Attorney	bblalock@ylc.org	(415) 413-4124
Katie Bliss	Directing 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 Education	mjhart@ylc.org	(415) 694-7387
Ameil Kenkare	Staff Attorney	akenkare@ylc.org	(415) 413-4129
Marisa Lopez-Scott	Senior Attorney	mlopez@ylc.org	(415) 413-0171
Christopher Middleton	Equal Justice Works Fellow Sponsored by Baker McKenzie & Salesforce, Inc.	cmiddleton@ylc.org	(415) 413-4197
Jasmine Miller	Senior 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
Dylan Quigley	Staff Attorney	dquigley@ylc.org	(415) 413-4127
Will Radler	Director of Operations	wradler@ylc.org	(415) 413-4588
Natalie Reynolds	Administrative Manager	nreynolds@ylc.org	(415) 635-0617
Emily Satifka	California Registered Legal Aid Attorney	esatifka@ylc.org	(415) 635-0618
Kristina Tanner	Special Projects Coordinator	ktanner@ylc.org	(415) 413-4125