

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

## 75th Anniversary Timeline

Over the last 75 years, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has become the leader in policy development and continuing education opportunities for judges, attorneys, social workers, probation officers, court administrators and other juvenile and family court professionals. Issues of concern include child abuse and neglect, drug-exposed infants, foster care, custody disputes, school violence, alcohol and drug abuse, gangs, juvenile crime, domestic violence and other issues affecting juvenile and family courts, court personnel, educators and policy-makers.

**1937** The National Association of Juvenile Court Judges is founded on May 22 in Indianapolis as the first national judicial membership organization in the United States, with the premise that every family and child should have access to fair, equal, effective, and timely justice.

The Council's Executive Committee selects logo based on the painting "Tomorrow - symbolizing service of the Juvenile Court in directing children to better things," which hangs in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court in Cleveland, Ohio.

**1938** The first "Annual Conference" is held in Cleveland, Ohio

The Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act was passed with the essential purpose of keeping juveniles apart from adult criminals.

**1942** The organization name changes to the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges.

**1943** The Council submits multi-point program to U.S. Senate urging construction of adequate facilities for delinquent children, education programs for police officers, and federal responsibility for return of interstate runaways.

**1949** President Judge Gustav L. Schramm of Pittsburgh, Pa., establishes training programs for juvenile and family court judges and other court related personnel as a goal.

**1950** National Juvenile Court Foundation is chartered in Pittsburgh, Pa., as non-profit entity for financing research and educational activities relating to the work of juvenile courts.

**1953** The U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency was established to investigate the problem of juvenile delinquency.

**1959** The United Nations adopts the Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes that children need special legal protections because of their immaturity. The United States ratifies.

**1961** "Battered Child Syndrome," a term introduced by Dr. C. Henry Kempe to describe children who are abused by their caretakers, is recognized as a medical condition.

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**1962** The first child abuse reporting statutes were explored by the federal Department of Health, federal Department of Education, and the Children's Bureau.

**1967** In re Gault was a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision which affirmed the necessity of requiring juvenile courts to respect the due process of law rights of juveniles during their proceedings.

The state of Maine opens one of the first domestic violence shelters for battered women as part of the first organized movement against domestic violence in the United States.

**1968** Congress passed the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Control Act designed to encourage states to develop plans and programs that would work on a community level to discourage juvenile delinquency (a precursor to the extensive Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act that replaced it in 1974).

**1969** A grant from the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation and an invitation from the University of Nevada moves the Council's central office from Chicago to the UNR campus.

The Council establishes the National College of Juvenile Justice on the UNR campus and conducts the first two resident judicial education programs for juvenile court judges.

**1973** Through the leadership of Judge Maurice B. Cohill, Jr., the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) is established as the Council's research division in Pittsburgh, Pa., housed at the University of Pittsburgh Law School.

**1974** The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act created the following entities:

- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- The Runaway Youth Program, and
- The National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (NIJJDP)

In order to receive funds made available by the act, states were required to remove youth from "secure detention and correctional facilities," and separate juvenile delinquents from convicted adults.

Congress creates the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect designed to increase children's rights and reduce child neglect and abuse.

With support from LEAA (Law Enforcement Administration Act), the Council conducts core training of judges and other key juvenile justice professionals.

**1976** Judge Margaret Driscoll elected first female president of NCJFCJ.

Governor Michael Dukakis announced an Adoption Week in Massachusetts, the first major effort to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in foster care. The idea grew in popularity and spread nationwide.

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**1977** The Council is renamed the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) to reflect the increasing need to address family issues and to assist judges in family courts with training and technical assistance.

**1978** OJJDP funds the National Center for Juvenile Justice to establish and maintain the Juvenile Court Data Archive, collecting and analyzing automated data from juvenile courts nationwide.

The Indian Child Welfare Act was passed by the U.S. Congress and gives tribal governments a strong voice concerning child custody proceedings which involve Indian children, by allocating tribes exclusive jurisdiction over the case when the child resides on, or is domiciled on, the reservation, or when the child is a ward of the tribe; and concurrent, but presumptive, jurisdiction over non-reservation Native Americans' foster care placement proceedings.

**1979** NCJFCJ's Children in Placement Committee establishes the "Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)" name and assists in promoting CASA programs across the country.

**1980** Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act, P.L. 96-272 is enacted, establishing a program of adoption assistance, strengthening the program of foster care assistance for needy and dependent children, and improving the child welfare, social services, and aid to families with dependent children programs.

**1981** NCJFCJ obtains first federal grant to launch National CASA Association.

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Week is celebrated, which became an annual event.

**1984** Permanency Planning Task Forces are established in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to focus on improving court and systems handling of child abuse and neglect cases. Kickoff included national conference and White House event, which also focused on startup of the Missing and Exploited Children's Center, hosted by President Ronald Reagan.

First lady, Nancy Reagan, authors introduction to Volume 3 of Today's Delinquent featuring research on drugs.

President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week.

**1985** Technical Assistance Resource Center is developed, containing information on best practices, standards, and administrative procedures.

**1986** Masters in Judicial Studies Degree Program is begun through UNR in conjunction with the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies and The National Judicial College, later expanding to include a Doctorate degree in Judicial Studies.

**1987** The Domestic Violence Prevention Act permanently funded emergency shelters for victims through local Departments of Social Services.

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**1990** National Juvenile Justice Statistics and Systems Development Project is launched to improve juvenile justice statistics and decision making capabilities.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation began the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) project as a five-site demonstration project.

**1992** Victims of Child Abuse Act (P.L. 101-647) is passed to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.

**1993** State Court Improvement Program (CIP) created as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 - OBRA (P.L. 103-66), which among other things, provided Federal funds to State child welfare agencies and Tribes for preventive services and services to families at risk or in crisis.

**1994** The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) is passed as Title IV, sec. 40001-40703 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 HR 3355 and signed as Public Law 103-322, enhancing investigation and prosecution of violent crimes perpetrated against women, imposing automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted, and allowing civil redress in cases prosecutors chose to leave unprosecuted.

**1995** Child Victims Act Model Courts Project is established.

First juvenile drug court established (Kent & Newcastle Counties, Delaware, Jefferson City, Birmingham).

Under President Clinton, National Adoption Week was expanded to last the entire month of November.

**1996** A federal law is passed that prohibits anyone convicted of a domestic violence crime from owning a firearm.

**1997** Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) (P.L. 105-89) is enacted, creating timelines for moving children into permanent situations and also providing adoption bonuses for states.

The MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice publishes research on juvenile brain development showing that juveniles are less culpable for their crimes and less competent to stand trial by reason of adolescence.

**1999** Foster Care Independence Act (P.L. 106-169) is enacted, providing additional support to young people aging out of foster care.

**2000** Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act (P.L. 106-314) is enacted to improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts.

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**2001** Violence Against Women Act of 2000 merges with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 and several smaller bills (PL 106-386).

The Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act (P.L. 106-314) is passed, helping courts to achieve two primary goals: reduce the backlog of abuse and neglect cases; and expedite the flow of individual cases through the court system by automating case-tracking and data-collection systems.

NCJJ launches State Juvenile Justice Profiles website covering juvenile delinquency law and practice in the 50 states and Washington, DC.

**2002** A domestic violence victim's family was awarded monetary compensation, marking the first monetary award to a victim of domestic violence.

Judge Maurice B. Cohill, Jr. wins the Jefferson Award. It is considered the Nobel Prize of Volunteering.

**2003** The use of "Amber Alerts," a rapid-response network to help find kidnapped children, becomes a nationwide law. The wide-ranging package of child safety measures signed by President Bush also strengthens federal criminal penalties for child pornographers, sexual abusers and kidnapers.

NCJFCJ began working the Annie Casey Foundation to reach judges.

**2005** US Supreme Court upholds Roper v. Simmons, holding that the 8th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution forbid death penalty for juveniles.

NCJFCJ passes resolution supporting presumptively open hearings in juvenile and family courts, with discretion of the judge to close when necessary to serve the best interests of the child or family.

**2006** The Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402) is passed, providing an increased focus on the access to services for underserved populations.

Masters in Justice Management Degree Program is established in conjunction with UNR and the National Judicial College.

The first juvenile justice model court (formerly called juvenile delinquency model courts) is established in Pima County, Arizona.

**2008** The United Nations Secretary-General launches an unprecedented global campaign, UNiTE to End Violence against Women.

With support from Casey Family Programs and OJJDP, NCJFCJ launches the Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care initiative to reduce disproportionality and disparate treatment for children and families of color in the child welfare system.

Congress enacts the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, which includes significant provisions designed to increase children's access to permanent families through relative guardianship and adoption placement; and improvements to children's education and health care access.

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**2008** Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008 was introduced in the House of Representatives. The act requires certain standards and enforcement provisions to prevent child abuse and neglect in residential programs, and for other purposes. It passed the House on June 28, 2008.

**2009** The NCJFCJ adopts current vision and mission statements at the Mid-Winter Meeting in Reno, Nev.:

The VISION of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is for a society in which every family and child has access to fair, equal, effective and timely justice.

The MISSION of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is to provide all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice.

**2010** The United Nations Human Rights Council adopts Resolution 14/12 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

Congress reauthorizes and the President signs into law the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

NCJFCJ urges U.S. ratification of the Rights of the Child.

Former NCJFCJ President Judge Susan Carbon is confirmed as the next director of the Office on Violence Against Women in the U.S. Department of Justice.

At the Domestic Violence Awareness Month event at the White House, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden introduce NCJFCJ's new publication, Civil Protection Orders: A Guide for Improving Practice.

**2010** Congress designates February as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

NCJFCJ supports Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, including the repeal of the valid court order.

**2011** Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Pat Leahy and Senator Mike Crapo introduce bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

President Obama becomes the first President to proclaim January as National Stalking Awareness Month.

NCJFCJ passes resolutions in support of Tribal Courts as equal and parallel systems of justice in serving children and families, and in support of Tribal access to federal Court Improvement Project funds.

Congress appropriates funds for tribal Court Improvement Programs.

NCJFCJ's Multi-Court Collaboration initiative is renamed Project ONE, to reflect the following shared values: One family-one judge; No wrong door; and Equal access to coordinated justice.

National Public Radio (NPR) use NCJFCJ's publication titled Disproportionality Rates for Children of Color in Foster Care in its report on the high removal rate of Native American children in foster care in South Dakota.

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