

# State of Delaware Office of the Child Advocate

# Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2009
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009



## Office of the Child Advocate Annual Report

State of Delaware

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The Honorable Jack Markell Governor

Tania M. Culley, Esquire Child Advocate

Safeguarding the welfare of Delaware's children through educational advocacy, system reform, public awareness, training, and legal representation of children as set forth in 29 Del. C., Ch. 90A

#### Office of the Child Advocate

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## Office of the Child Advocate Annual Report

State of Delaware

Fiscal Year 2009 July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

## **Executive Summary**

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is mandated to coordinate efforts on behalf of children, work with advocacy groups, promote system reform, recommend changes in law, procedure and policy necessary to enhance the protection of Delaware's children, and to implement and coordinate a program providing legal representation on behalf of Delaware's dependent, neglected, and abused children.

OCA accomplishes its charge to represent children through four Deputy Child Advocates (DCAs), a substantial and evolving pool of volunteer attorneys, and strong partnerships with the child-serving agencies in Delaware. In Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09), OCA received 610 appropriate referrals and made 326 attorney appointments to children, 90% of whom were in the legal custody of the Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families (DSCYF or the Children's Department). At the conclusion of FY09, 520 dependent, neglected, and/or abused children were actively receiving legal representation, while 898 children were represented by OCA during this timeframe. Remarkably, at the close of FY09, only 2% of the children in the legal custody of DSCYF were unrepresented due to the combined efforts of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program, independently appointed attorneys, OCA's roster of over 420 volunteer attorneys, and more than 10,370 hours of direct legal representation by OCA staff.

In addition to the resources devoted to providing legal services to Delaware's abused, neglected, and dependent children, OCA ensured thorough reviews of and recommendations for change regarding child welfare policies and procedures impacting children in Delaware. For instance, Delaware's Child Advocate, Tania M. Culley, Esq., offered recommendations to the Governor's Children's Department Transition Team as the new administration formulated their strategy for addressing prevalent issues facing children and their families in the First State.

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Additionally, OCA continued to foster and formalize its partnership with CASA and the Division of Family Services (DFS) through quarterly meetings and the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the three entities regarding the joint database of children in the legal custody of DSCYF. The critical need for data upon which the child welfare system can rely to inform decision-making was also recognized by OCA as it continued to enter and fine-tune data into its Policy Concerns database and its Compilation of Delaware's Child Protection Issues and Recommendations from Child Abuse/Neglect Death and Near Death Case Reviews.

As trends in recommendations have been identified, OCA has played a considerable role in committees and workgroups to identify solutions to the challenges facing Delaware's child welfare system. FY09 was no different. OCA staff was integral to the work of Delaware's Kids Lobby, the Child Protection Accountability Commission's (CPAC) Mental and Behavioral Health Services to Children in and Adopted out of Foster Care Subcommittee, and several workgroups dedicated to improving services for youth aging out of foster care. In addition, OCA drafted and supported five pieces of legislation in FY09 all aimed at improving outcomes for children and youth in Delaware.

Outcomes for abused, neglected, and/or dependent children were also positively impacted by the many generous donations OCA received from both individuals and community organizations. Holiday gifts were provided to numerous OCA clients and monies were donated to provide OCA clients with life experiences they may not otherwise have had. OCA is extremely grateful to all of the individuals and organizations that support the children served by OCA. The assistance of these entities, combined with the vast and varied support OCA has enjoyed since its inception, is critical as OCA strives to fulfill its mission to safeguard the welfare of Delaware's children through educational advocacy, system reform, public awareness, training, and legal representation of children.



#### **Legal Representation**



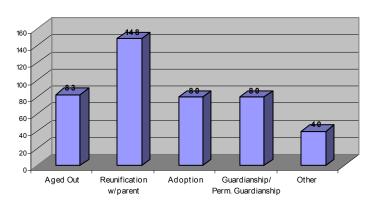
OCA volunteer attorneys contributed over 5,900 hours to cases closed in FY09.

The Office of the Child Advocate is mandated to provide legal services to the most indigent of Delaware's population – dependent, neglected, and abused children – and accomplishes this charge through its four Deputy Child Advocates (DCAs) and over 420 volunteer attorneys throughout the state. OCA also partners with the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) to ensure that all children in the custody of the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families (DSCYF) receive representation.

OCA received 610 appropriate referrals in FY09. Through its DCAs and volunteers, OCA was able to make 326 attorney appointments to children during the course of the fiscal year. The majority of those appointments (90%) were for children in the custody of DSCYF. The remaining 10% were for children who were the subject of dependency/neglect proceedings in Family Court.

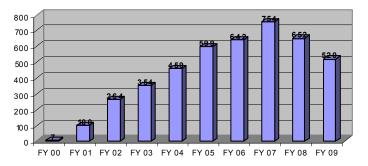
During the fiscal year, OCA closed 458 cases to which an attorney had been assigned. 27 of those were cases involving dependency/neglect proceedings or parent custody disputes that were resolved. The remaining 431 involved children in DSCYF custody; those cases closed with a variety of outcomes (see Chart I).

Chart 1. Children in DFS Custody - Outcomes of Closed Cases FY09



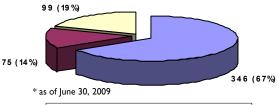
At the end of FY09, 520 dependent, neglected, and/or abused children were actively receiving legal representation through OCA (see Chart 2). OCA DCAs were representing 141 (27%) of those children, while volunteer attorneys represented the remaining 379 (73%). Of those 520 children, 489 (94%) were in the custody of the Children's Department, twenty-six (5%) were the subject of dependency/neglect proceedings within the Family Court., and 5 (1%) were the subject of parent custody disputes. Throughout all of FY09, OCA represented a total of 898 children.

Chart 2. Children Actively Represented at the End of the Fiscal Year



The largest concentration of children being actively represented by OCA at the end of FY09 was in New Castle County. OCA was representing 346 children in New Castle County as of June 30, 2009, compared to 75 in Kent County and 99 in Sussex County (see Chart 3). OCA DCAs were representing 59% of the total downstate cases and 11% of the New Castle County cases as of June 30, 2009.

Chart 3. Distribution of Children Represented by OCA\* by County



■ New Castle County ■ Kent County ■ Sussex County

## **Legal Representation (Continued)**

By the end of Fiscal Year 2009, OCA had received 336 referrals to which attorneys were not assigned. This number includes 10 cases that were still pending disposition by OCA as of June 30, 2009. Two cases were appropriate for OCA representation but were closed due to low resources. One hundred twenty-nine referrals had no pending litigation, no apparent dependency, neglect, or abuse issues, or were resolved in court during the OCA disposition phase. An additional 20 cases required OCA intervention in the form of policy reviews, which were completed by OCA's Family Crisis Therapists. The remaining 170 cases were handled by the CASA program.

In FY09, an unprecedented percentage of children in DSCYF custody received representation either through OCA or CASA, and only a very small percentage went unrepresented. This was due to a number of factors, including OCA's growing volunteer pool, targeted recruitment efforts resulting in an unprecedented number of CASA volunteers, and a decline in the number of children in DSCYF custody. As of June 30, 2009, 807 children were in the custody of DSCYF, a 16% decline from FY08. Only 2% (19) of those children were unrepresented by the end of FY09, compared to 5% (45) at the end of FY08. OCA was providing legal representation to 489 children, CASA was providing advocates for 296 children, and 3 children were appointed attorneys independently by the Family Court (see Chart 4).

During FY09, OCA staff devoted over 10,370 hours to providing direct legal representation to dependent, neglected, and/or abused children, and another 1,040 hours supporting and training the volunteer attorneys who represent these children.

OCA held 12 Nuts and Bolts trainings throughout the state during FY09, in order to train 55 new attorneys in the legal representation of children. A number of veteran volunteer attorneys also attended these training sessions, in order to learn about updates to the child protection system and to refresh their understanding of their roles as guardians ad litem and their duties to their child clients. Forty-four attorneys took their first OCA case during FY09, while a total of 399 volunteer attorneys actively represented children through OCA during that timeframe.

In addition, 63 veteran volunteers achieved 5 years of volunteering for OCA during FY09, bringing the total number of attorneys who have reached this milestone to 185.

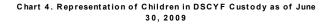
At the end of FY09, OCA boasted a volunteer roster of over 420 attorneys.

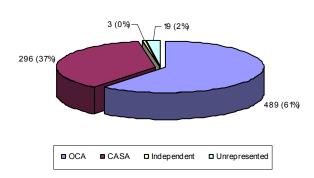


OCA Training Hosts

During FY09, the following law firms hosted OCA Nuts and Bolts trainings:

- Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz
- Curley & Rodriguez,
   II C
- Morris James LLP
- Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP
- Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP
- Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.
- Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice
- Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor







### Child Welfare Policy & Legislative Advocacy



"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

~ Frederick Douglass

OCA is mandated, pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 9005A(2), to periodically review all relevant child welfare policies and procedures with a view toward expanding the rights of children. OCA is also to recommend changes in procedures for investigating and overseeing the welfare of children. 29 Del. C. § 9005A (4). In FY09, OCA staff spent more than 305 hours on efforts involving child protection policy and procedure, and an additional 660 hours on such efforts while fulfilling their duties as staff to the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC).

As a new administration was ushered into Delaware in FY09, Tania Culley, Delaware's Child Advocate, ensured that children's voices were heard and their needs taken into consideration by presenting to the Governor's Children's Department Transition Team. During her presentation, Ms. Culley addressed what she believed to be the most critical issues facing the new DSCYF administration, how the fiscal climate impacted those issues, and what service gaps exist in our child protection system. She also offered suggestions for addressing these issues, declaring that the state's fiscal climate and the change in administration presented real opportunities for serving children and their families differently.

OCA continued working in partnership with CASA and DFS to maintain the comprehensive joint database (OCA/CASA database) of children in DSCYF custody. The statistics that were generated monthly and the regular maintenance and quality assurance of the OCA/CASA database enabled system partners to ensure that no child was being overlooked or going without representation unnecessarily. OCA, CASA, and DFS formalized their commitment to the attainment of legal representation for all children in DSCYF custody through the use of the OCA/CASA database by executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlined each agency's responsibilities regarding the database. The three agencies also agreed to continue meeting on an annual basis to assess the progress toward the attainment of legal representation for all children in DSCYF custody and to discuss ideas and policies that may help Delaware achieve that goal.

OCA staff members also met quarterly with DFS staff to improve multi-disciplinary collaboration and communication on such issues as caseloads, case decisions, training, and system successes and challenges. The two agencies worked together to provide training to DFS front-line workers on permanency options for children in foster care, and to assess the feasibility of providing subsidies to families who opt to file for guardianship or permanent guardianship of children in foster care. Both of these endeavors were aimed at helping children achieve timely permanency and not languish in foster care unnecessarily.

In addition to maintaining the OCA/CASA database, OCA also continued to enter policy concerns from child abuse/ neglect case reviews into its Child Protection Policy Concerns database, and worked on restructuring the database in order to more readily identify trends in Delaware's child protection practice. OCA will use this database to address areas of concern and provide documentation to support those positions for which it advocates.

Another compilation of child protection concerns and recommendations for change is OCA's "Compilation of Delaware's Child Protection Issues and Recommendations from Child Abuse/Neglect Death and Near Death Case Reviews," a document that lists every public recommendation that was derived from a child death or near death due to abuse and/or neglect, from March of 1997 through June of 2009. OCA staff worked diligently throughout FY09 to update this document, transferring the nearly 100 page document into a more user-friendly spreadsheet, into which information regarding progress toward accomplishing recommendations and implementing changes can be easily entered and tracked. Ultimately, OCA plans to make this document available to system partners via the internet, so that information can be updated by each partner agency and issues can be timely addressed. This tracking system has been used to inform both CPAC and the Child Death, Near Death, & Stillbirth Commission (CDNDSC) as to priority areas for focus and improvement.

OCA staff members enthusiastically took part in the first meetings of Delaware's Kids Lobby, an initiative of the Delaware Children's Campaign that began in FY09. The Kids' Lobby brought together child advocates and policy makers during the weeks that the Delaware Legislature was in session to discuss such things as successful advocacy techniques, pending and proposed legislation relating to children, and child-serving agencies' budget concerns. The goal of the Kids' Lobby is to be able to respond quickly, collectively and thoughtfully to legislative issues, budget cuts, and policy concerns that directly affect Delaware's children.

## Child Welfare Policy & Legislative Advocacy (Continued)

OCA staff were integral in the development of the CPAC Mental and Behavioral Health Services to Children in and Adopted out of Foster Care Subcommittee's final report, which made numerous recommendations for reform of the current policies and practices surrounding the delivery of mental health services to children in and adopted out of foster care. System partners began addressing some of these recommendations during FY09, and will continue that work over the next several years.

A remaining high priority for OCA in FY09 was work related to youth aging out of foster care. OCA staff were active members of several workgroups dedicated to improving services for these youth, including CPAC's Extended Jurisdiction Subcommittee and DSCYF's Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) Workgroup. These groups focus on such issues as employment, independent living, housing, and other issues that relate to the substantial needs of older youth in foster care.

As an offshoot of the APPLA Workgroup, DFS and OCA staff worked together to create a housing group that began the difficult process of fashioning solutions to the housing crisis facing youth aging out of foster care. They began by developing a training curriculum for youth aging out to educate them on their rights and responsibilities as good tenants. They then started reaching out to the real estate community to explain the benefits of having youth so trained as well as the challenges these youth face once they are out on their own. The group continues to work toward implementation of the training and to garner additional support in the real estate community. In addition, they began to explore the possibility of creating a carve-out in the landlord tenant code and a plan for tax incentives for landlords, to entice real estate professionals and owners to take a chance on renting to these transitional youth. The group looks forward to continued work in these areas in the years to come.

OCA staff also relied on the APPLA Workgroup as a forum to address concerns about the misuse of personal information of youth in care. Unfortunately, youth in foster care sometimes fall victim to family members and others who seek their own personal gain by using birth dates and social security numbers inappropriately, creating undeserved bad credit for the unsuspecting youth. New policy developed as a result of this workgroup will seek to ensure that all youth exiting care will benefit from having free credit reports run prior to leaving foster care and the opportunity for assistance in correcting any discrepancies, helping to ensure that youth aging out of foster care can do so without the additional burden of having poor credit.

OCA had a busy legislative season in FY09. Senate Bill 34, which made changes to the termination of parental rights statute pertaining to children abandoned by, almost killed, or killed by their parents, was OCA's primary legislative focus for FY09. It expanded the abandonment age from 6 months old to 6 years old, when children are left in circumstances that place them at substantial risk of injury or death. It also allows termination of parental rights, where the grounds can be proven, if a parent causes the death or near death of any child. The bill passed the General Assembly and was signed into law in May 2009.

Other legislation in which OCA was involved includes Senate Bill 55 and Senate Bill 84. SB 55 made it possible for guardians and permanent guardians of children to petition for termination of parental rights and adoption.

"While the overall process of shaping policy is often deliberative, many times it can be feverish. Specifically, at those times it is imperative that groups representing an issue be coordinated and responsive to the needs/concerns of legislators."

~ Former Delaware Children's Campaign Executive Director Rodney Brittingham, on the Kid's Lobby



SB 84 statutorily establishes *de facto* parent status in the State of Delaware by allowing the Family Court to consider evidence of a person's assumption of parental responsibilities and relationship with a child in determining the maternity and/or paternity of a child. Both of these bills were signed into law during FY09.

As staff to CPAC, OCA also had a hand in drafting and advocating for CPAC's primary legislative initiative, House Bill 104, which was signed into law near the end of FY09. HB 104 clarified the duties and powers of DSCYF when it holds custody of a child, and made changes to the law governing non-parent visitation with a child and what standards must be met in order for the Court to allow such visitation. The legislation also directed that all non-parents seeking custody of children apply for guardianship.

OCA staff also worked hard to assist CPAC in drafting a bill extending the jurisdiction of the Family Court over youth aging out of foster care. Senate Bill 113 was introduced just before the end of the legislative session, and OCA and CPAC look forward to its passage in FY10.





#### **Donations to OCA's Children**

As in years past, OCA received many generous donations from individuals and organizations in the community who seek to help OCA provide necessities, as well as life experiences, to the children OCA serves. These donations were primarily offered during the holiday season, when OCA opened its doors to its volunteer attorneys and invited them to "shop" for gifts for their child clients. Delaware's Melson-Arsht and Richard S. Rodney Inns of Court, the Eastpoint Community Church, Kohls Department Store of Dover, members of the Family Law section of the Delaware Bar, and other individuals provided new toys, clothes, and other items, as well as monetary contributions and gift cards.

In addition, many of OCA's clients were the beneficiaries of the generosity of several organizations across the state that provided gifts tailored for those children. The Christiana and Hockessin-Greenville Rotary Clubs, the 9th Airlift Squadron and the 436th Maintenance Operations Squadron of Dover Air Force Base, and the Orphan Care Coalition's 50 Churches-50 Children group each "adopted" some of OCA's neediest children, generously providing them with gifts and necessities beyond the traditional holiday gift.

These organizations worked with merchants such as JC Penney and Kohls department stores, which donated or significantly discounted some of the gifts for the children, and also devoted employees to helping pick out the toys and clothes on the children's wish lists. The Christiana Rotary's efforts in FY09 received coverage from the News Journal. The Christiana Rotary Club has been "adopting" OCA clients for 5 years now, and this was the second year for the men and women of Dover Air Force Base. OCA looks forward to the continued partnerships with these organizations for the benefit of the children represented by OCA.

Also in FY09, Delaware's Bankruptcy Inn of Court again made a very generous monetary donation in the amount of \$2,000 for OCA to use throughout the year to help give children the opportunity to enjoy the life experiences that other children enjoy, such as prom and graduation, school pictures and yearbooks, summer camps, theater, music, and adventure parks.

This money, along with the remaining money from the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association donation in FY08,

helped to provide such experiences to several OCA clients throughout FY09. Three children were able to attend and have the necessary supplies for summer camp thanks to these funds. OCA was able to purchase a yearbook for a child to commemorate her first year of high school, and also used the funds to pay the college registration fee for a high school graduate. Another high school-aged client benefited from a series of tutoring sessions through the donations. These funds also supplemented other monetary and in-kind donations made by individuals in FY09 to help support the independent living of OCA clients who have aged out of foster care.

In addition to these monetary donations, children served by OCA also benefited from the generosity of a Sanford School teacher, Michelle Frosina, who contacted OCA in the spring of FY09 and expressed her interest in tutoring children in foster care during the summer. OCA worked diligently with its volunteer attorneys, DFS, and Michelle to establish a tutoring program and to identify appropriate children for the program. At the close of FY09, about 15 children ages 6-13 were served by Michelle's program. A special thanks is owed to Michelle Frosina and Rodney Brittingham, DFS' Deputy Director, for their vision and follow through regarding this program.

OCA is extremely grateful to all of the individuals and organizations that support the children served by OCA.







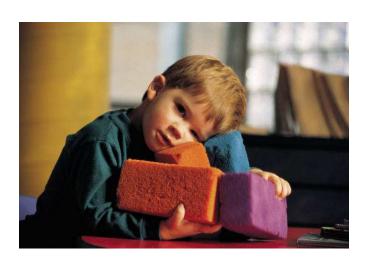












## In Memoriam





On October 15, 2008, the Office of the Child Advocate and the world lost a beautiful soul when Jessica Monique Smith was prematurely taken from us.

Having spent a number of years in foster care, Jessica knew all too well the hardships that life can bring even to those who are so undeserving of such strife, though you would never have known it given the magnitude of her smile. Jessica was a beautiful young woman who could light up a room with just a glimmer of that smile. And, she was both kind and compassionate when it came to sharing that smile with others.

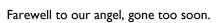


Jessica believed that it was her job to stand up for herself and others who couldn't stand alone. She never declined a request to speak to foster youth, offering the perspective of someone who shared their experience, and she inspired everyone around her to be their personal best. In a speech to members of the Delaware State Legislature, she praised those who had given her chance after chance through the years and encouraged us not to give up on the others like her.



Jessica was a proud graduate of Dover High School and attended Delaware State University. She never stopped dreaming and always worked extraordinarily hard to reach her goals.

Above and beyond all of her other accomplishments, endearing qualities and the many gifts she gave us however, we are left with the most cherished gift of all – Jessica's young son, Trent. The beauty of her spirit will forever remain with us in his bright eyes and that trademark smile.





By: Angela M. Fowler, Esquire



#### Office of the Child Advocate Annual Report

#### OCA extends its heartfelt thanks to the 399 volunteer attorneys who represented children during Fiscal Year 2009:

Derek Abbott Michael Abram Jon Abramczyk Barbara Alexander Thomas Allingham, II Susan Ament Jeremy Anderson Melony Anderson Iohn Andrade Fotini Antoniadis David Arndt Daniel Astin Mary Augustine Christine Azar John Balaguer Doreen Becker Jennifer Becnel-Guzzo Michael Bednash Sean Bellew Michelle Berkeley Rebecca Beste Robert Beste, III David Bever Shakuntla Bhaya Vincent Bifferato, Jr. Travis Bliss Danielle Blount Megan Bombick Michael Bonkowski Mary Boudart Curtis Bounds Jennifer Brady John F. Brady Sean Brennecke Lori Brewington Allyson Britton Lisa Zwally Brown Paul Brown Ryan Browning Gary Bryde Michele Sherretta Budicak Jennifer Burbine Nicholas Caggiano, Jr. David Carickhoff, Jr. Sara Carlson Shannon Carmean Richard Carroll Megan Ward Cascio Denis Casey Barry Cash Tabatha Castro Eileen Caulfield Teresa Cheek William Chipman, Jr. Joseph Cicero Delia Clark John A. Clark, III Miranda Clifton Michael Collins Patrick Collins Bernard Conaway Kelly Conlan Arthur Connolly, Jr. Todd Coomes Margaret Cooper Jason Cornell Michael Corrigan

Victoria Counihan Lydia Cox Kara Hammond Coyle Kristen Cramer Brian Crawford Laura Crockett Laurence Cronin Curtis Crowther David Culley Donna Culver Brian Cunningham **Edward Curley** Michael Custer James Dalle Pazze . Bart Dalton Steven Daniels George Danneman Danielle Davis Christine Dealy Catherine Dearlove Kim DeBonte Christine Demsey David Denham John X. Denney, Jr. Mark Desgrosseilliers Iill Di Sciullo Sarah DiLuzio Leslie Case DiPietro Tara DiRocco Nicole DiSalvo Kevin Dobson Sean Dolan Melissa Donimirski Keith Donovan John T. Dorsey Meghan Dougherty Shawn Dougherty W. Harding Drane, Jr. Thomas F. Driscoll, III lames Drnec Dale Dube Timothy Dudderar Mary Dugan **Bradley Eaby** Edward Eaton Jeremy Eicher Craig Eliassen Richard Ellis Margaret England Kenneth Enos Kelly Ensslin Elwood Eveland Sherry Fallon Amy Feeney David Felice Stephen Ferguson Islanda Finamore GianClaudio Finizio Erica N. Finnegan Erin Fitzgerald Matthew Fogg Edward Fornias, III Stuart Fullerton David Gagne Deborah Galonsky Meredith Gaudio Catherine Gaul

Frances Gauthier Kathleen Geiger Kelly Dunn Gelof Kristin Gibbons Glynis Gibson Andrew Golian Andrew Gonser William Gonser, Jr. Todd Goodman Susan Gordon Nancy Gorman Thomas Gorman Brian Gottesman Margaret Greecher James Green Robert Greenberg Daniel Griffith Christopher Griffiths Thomas Grimm Geoffrey Grivner Jillian Grob Mark Gundersen Kathleen Hadley Shauna Hagan Gerald Hager Patricia Hall Joseph Handlon Patricia Hannigan Jeanne Hanson Thomas Hanson, Jr. Edwin Harron Joyce Hayes Theresa Hayes Kevin Healy Christian Heesters Leslie Heilman James Higgins Suzanne Hill Adam Hiller Timothy Hitchings Michael Hochman Thomas Hodukavich Victoria Hoffman Thomas Horan Eric Howard Xiaojuan Huang Amy Huffman David Hutt Diane Ibrahim Frederick lobst Michael Isaacs Chun Jang Jennifer Jauffret David Jenkins Kathleen Jennings Clay Jester Erika Johnson Richard I.G. Jones, Jr. Dawn Jones Judy Jones Cory Kandestin Matthew Kaplan Jennifer Karpe Lee Kaufman William Kelleher Lynn Kelly

Felice Kerr

Eleanor Kiesel Shelley Kinsella Gretchen Knight Nicholas Kondraschow Edward Kosmowski Carl Kunz, III Peter Ladig Gregory Ladner William Lafferty Kathryn Laffey Mary Catherine Landis Tara Lattomus Kimberly Lawson Jonathan Layton Lewis Lazarus Brooke Leach Abigail LeGrow Timothy Lengkeek James Lennon Scott Leonhardt Neal Levitsky Elizabeth Lewis Susan List Paul Lockwood Gaston Loomis Zhun Lu Sean Lynn Lauren Maguire Andrea Malinowski Mark Maloney Kevin Mangan Margaret Manning Erin Mariani Michelle Marino Melanie George Marshall Timothy Martin William Martin, III Dennis Mason, II Janice Matier Michael Maxwell David McBride Deirdre McCartney Garvan McDaniel Michael McDermott Susanna McDonald Thomas McDonough Lexie Shelton McFassel Matthew McGuire Megan McIntyre John McLaughlin, Jr. Marci McNair Carolyn McNeice Bruce McNew Rakesh Mehta Reyner Meikle, Jr. Pamela Meitner Jennifer Mensinger Tammy Mercer Christopher Messa Stephen Milewski Kathleen Miller Tiphanie Miller Lisa Minutola Michael Modica Patricia Mongan Chaneta Brooks Montoban

Dana Spring Monzo

Sharon Morgan Richard Morse Mary Mulloy Francis Murphy, Jr. D. Fon Muttamara-Walker Katherine Neikirk Michael Nestor Ryan Newell Maria Newill Seth Niederman Maryellen Noreika Joshua Novak Stephen Nowak K. Tyler O'Connell Elizabeth Olsen Ionathan O'Neill Deirdre O'Shea Susan Over Maria Panichelli Jenness Parker John Parkins, Jr. Pamela Parks George Pazuniak Adam Perza Victoria Petrone Eifion Phillips Marc Phillips Sarah Pierce Tiffany Piland Francis Pileggi Tanya Pino Mary Ann Plankinton Ciro Poppiti, III Susan Poppiti Thomas Preston Cynthia Pruitt Ámy Quinlan Andrew Rahaim Sehr Rana Leigh-Anne Raport Vivian Rapposelli Richard Renck Sheldon Rennie Dana Reynolds Joseph Rhoades Helen Richards Matthew Rifino Courtney Riordan Michael Ripple David Ripsom Elizabeth Rodriguez **Bruce Rogers** Brian Rostocki Michael Rushe Helena Rychlicki Tamara Sampson Yvonne Takvorian Saville R. Judson Scaggs, Jr. Lisa Schmidt John J. Schreppler, II Pamela Scott Suzanne Seubert Dana Severance Thomas Shellenberger **Brian Shirey** James D. Shomper, Jr. J. Jackson Shrum

Sophia Siddiqui Daniel Silver Christian Singewald Nicholas Skiles Ariel Philip Sloan Deborah Spivak Leslie Spoltore Raj Srivatsan Lisa Stark Kristopher Starr Deneen Stewart Chad Stover Jonathan Strauss Frederick Strickland William Sudell, Jr. Renee Suglia John J. Sullivan, Jr. Karen Sullivan Scott Swenson Harry Tashjian, IV Amy Taylor James Taylor, Jr. **Gregory Taylor** John H. Taylor, III David Teklits Mary Thomas Catherine Thompson Seth Thompson Chad Toms Sara Toner Gary Traynor Melissa Troutner Anna Martina Tyreus Thomas Uebler Patricia Uhlenbrock William Ulrich Andrea Unterberger Robert Valihura, Jr. Patrick Vanderslice **Jennifer Veet** Karen Vicks Matthew Vigunas Michael Vild Kristi Vitola Nicole Walker Megan Walstrom Matthew Ward Michael Weidinger Gregory Werkheiser Benjamin Wetzel, III Holly Whitney Patricia Widdoss David H. Williams Dawn Williams Gregory B. Williams Evan Williford Megan Wischmeier Josiah Wolcott Christian Wright Davis Wright Laura Yiengst Daniel Young Kirsten Zeberkiewicz Virginia Zrake

Special recognition is required for the 63 attorneys who reached the milestone of volunteering for OCA for five years during Fiscal Year 2009:

Jon Abramczyk, Esquire Thomas J. Allingham II, Esquire Christine Azar, Esquire John Balaguer, Esquire Denis P. Casey, Esquire Joseph Cicero, Esquire Cynthia S. Collins, Esquire Bernard Conaway, Esquire Margaret Cooper, Esquire Jason Cornell, Esquire Victoria Watson Counihan, Esquire Brock Czeschin, Esquire John P. Daniello, Esquire Sarah DiLuzio, Esquire John T. Dorsey, Esquire Craig Eliassen, Esquire Margaret England, Esquire Catherine A. Gaul, Esquire

Todd Goodman, Esquire

Brian Gottesman, Esquire

Thomas Grimm, Esquire

James Green, Esquire

Vivian Houghton, Esquire Timothy Houseal, Esquire David Hutt, Esquire Frederick W. lobst, Esquire David Jenkins, Esquire Kathleen Jennings, Esquire Clay T. Jester, Esquire Dawn R. Jones, Esquire Brian Kasprzak, Esquire Shelley Kinsella, Esquire Peter Ladig, Esquire Gregory Ladner, Esquire William Lafferty, Esquire Lewis Lazarus, Esquire Timothy Lengkeek, Esquire Neal J. Levitsky, Esquire Stanley Macel, III, Esquire Lauren Maguire, Esquire David McBride, Esquire Deirdre O'Shea McCartney, Esquire Matthew B. McGuire, Esquire Megan McIntyre, Esquire

Stephen Milewski, Esquire Susan Over, Esquire James Parrett, Jr., Esquire Francis Pileggi, Esquire Susan Poppiti, Esquire Vincent Poppiti, Esquire Richard Renck, Esquire Sheldon Rennie, Esquire Bruce Rogers, Esquire John Schreppler II, Esquire Leslie Spoltore, Esquire Karen Sullivan, Esquire Patricia Uhlenbrock, Esquire Patrick E. Vanderslice, Esquire Nicole Walker, Esquire Patricia Widdoss, Esquire Dawn R. Williams, Esquire Gregory B. Williams, Esquire Charles Thomas Williams, III, Esquire Davis Wright, Esquire



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead



#### State of Delaware

Office of the Child Advocate

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http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate



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