



DANI DIERCKS FARRELL, ESQ., MSW
P.O. BOX 40507 DENVER, CO 80204
303-887-8879
DANIDIERCKS@GMAIL.COM

LICENSING

Admission to Colorado State Bar, November 2010
CFI Certification training completed June 2013
Mental Health First Aide Certification April 2015
CFI HB 21-1228 training update completed, December 2021
Child Welfare Legal Specialist Certification, pending

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO

- Graduated December 2009
- Officer, Public Interest Law Group

Master of Social Work, University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude June 2009
- Child welfare concentration
- Phi Alpha National Honor Society
- Research and thesis: *Discrimination, Discretion, and Discrepancies in Delinquency*

Bachelor of Arts, University of Texas, Austin, TX

- Graduated Cum Laude May 2005
- Major: History and Sociology
- Minor: Social Work and Italian (Attended American University, Rome 2003)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Diercks Law, Owner/Attorney

Denver, CO November 2010 – Present

- Serve as Guardian *ad Litem* (GAL), Counsel for Youth (CFY) and educational surrogate on delinquency, dependency and neglect, adoption, youth in transition (YIT), underage marriage, specialty court (human trafficking and youth drug court) and truancy cases out of the Denver metro area Juvenile Courts and Domestic Courts
- Conduct investigations and report on family and individual social history and make recommendations regarding appropriate dispositions, services, placement,

parenting, reunification, life skills, resourcing, cultural considerations, funding, etc. for youth and families

- Represent youth as defense and advisory counsel in truancy filings, petition reviews, contempt citations, LAN privilege holder and valid court orders
- Draft numerous court reports, motions, responses and proposed orders
- Participate in educational, social service, adjudicatory, therapeutic, medical, immigration, legislative and legal staffings
- Mediate various case types from the position of the best interest of the child
- Serve as Child Legal Representative (CLR) in both private and state pay cases with specialties in adolescent and adult mental health, child brain development, domestic violence, infancy and child development, parental alienation, homelessness, cultural competence, teen pregnancy, human trafficking, grief and loss, compound trauma and educational rights
- Testify in various courts as an expert, and previously as a Child and Family Investigator

Legal Apprentice, Magistrate Philip Robert James

Denver, CO June 2009 – August 2010

- Conducted initial investigation into new delinquency, truancy, paternity and dependency and neglect cases in Denver Juvenile Court
- Edited and revised juvenile statute law for juvenilelaw.net
- Prepared court reports regarding all juvenile court case findings

Juvenile Court Liaison, Denver Department of Human Services

Denver, CO, August 2008 – June 2009

- Interviewed, reported, and represented families involved with DDHS
- Worked collaboratively with several local service providers to plan and implement youth case plans regarding education, therapy, health, extracurricular activities, housing, job skills, mentoring, etc.
- Certified in trainings regarding homeless youth, trauma response, multiculturalism, human trafficking, teen prostitution and team advocacy

Family Caseworker, Stride

Denver, CO, August 2007 – July 2008

- Managed a diverse caseload of self-sufficiency and transitional housing family clients with a permanency goal of remain home and reunification
- Practiced various family therapy methods including: cognitive behavioral (CBT), strengths based, systems based, narrative, psychodynamic, object relation, family functional (FFT) and multisystemic (MST)
- Trained in “Culture of Poverty”, the Triad Council on Early Childhood Development, Domestic Violence, Generational trauma and the “Cliff Effect”

Director of Community Outreach and Casework, Transition Resource Action Center

Dallas, TX, June 2005 – August 2006

- Trained in the adoption and foster care system, gang prevention program, and Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) life skills program for teens
- Managed over 100 volunteers/mentors and 100 youth clients in conjunction with Texas Protective Services to aid youth transitioning out of foster care system
- Public speaking for the benefit of awareness and fundraising

- Special event planning for over 10,000 foster and juvenile youth on a restricted budget

AFFILIATIONS

Arapahoe County Bar Association, Member
Bears & Blankets for Children, Legal Counsel
Cherry Creek School District Criminal Justice & Law Program, Chair
Colorado Juvenile Defender Center, Past Board Member
Courage Bear for Children of Deployed Soldiers, Co-Founder
Colorado Bar Association, Member
Creative Options, Denver truancy court committee member
Delta Delta Delta, Active Alum
Denver Kids, Inc., Young Professional Council Alum
National Association of Counsel for Children, Member
National Association of Social Workers, Member
Optimus Youth, Co-Founder
REST, Denver juvenile human trafficking problem solving court
Star Girlz Empowerment, Board Member
YFTC, Denver juvenile youth and family treatment problem solving court
U.S. Army 324th Psychological Operations Soldier Family Readiness Group, Co-Chair

SPEAKING & PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

Prosecuting Contempt of Court and Navigating the Child Support System
March 24, 2010 Lindsay Flanigan Court House Denver
Juvenile Law, Domestic Violence, and Ethics
March 22, 2013 Arapahoe Bar Association
Baby Steps: A Manual for Truant Teen Parents
August 1, 2013 Denver Juvenile Court
What's the Big IDEA: Understanding Education Law and Children's Rights
August 26, 2014 Denver Juvenile Court
March 13, 2015 Jim Covino Child Advocate of the Year award
OPPLA for New Attorney's: Permanency Planning
February 2, 2016 Office of the Child Representative
Tech Safety and Online Law
October 29, 2018 Cherry Creek School District
Super Lawyers 2024
Marquis Who's Who Top Lawyer 2024
Star Girlz Gold Star Community Award 2023-2024