

**Request for Program/Project Funding  
Oregon Judicial Department  
Juvenile Court Improvement Program**

**Program Title:** Juvenile Law Training Academy

**Date of Request:** June 4, 2019

**Supplemental Information in Support of Funding Request**

- 1. Please briefly describe the mission of your agency and the objectives and description of the project/program for which you are asking support. Please be sure to describe how this project or program aligns with our vision and goals.**

JCIP has supported the Juvenile Law Training Academy (JLTA) in the past to provide high quality multidisciplinary training for juvenile law practitioners and our child welfare stakeholder partners. This request will allow JCIP and JLTA to continue our partnership for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Juvenile Law Training Academy.

Our partnership started in 2003 when representatives of a number of stakeholder groups concerned about the quality of representation in juvenile dependency cases began meeting to discuss the creation of additional educational opportunities for juvenile dependency attorneys. This group became the “Juvenile Law Training Academy Workgroup.” Its principal focus over the years has been to outline a training curriculum for attorneys and juvenile court stakeholders and to supplement available training opportunities. The Academy fulfills a unique role because it is the only multidisciplinary juvenile law training conference in the state and affords practitioners the opportunity to collaborate and connect with a diverse group of peers.

JCIP has been a member of the workgroup since its inception in 2003. Other founding members included the Office of Public Defense Services, the University of Oregon Law School, Youth, Rights & Justice, the Juvenile Law Section of the Oregon State Bar, and the Oregon Criminal Defense Attorneys Association. The first CLE event sponsored by the workgroup was held in 2005. It was a 2-day event scheduled to coincide with the Oregon Judicial Conference (with many of the judges attending the judicial conference, lawyers were more likely to be able to attend the attorney conference). The focus of the seminar was on “The Essentials of Juvenile Court Practice.” It was well attended and well received.

The focus of the Academy changed in 2007 when the effort was made to expand the curriculum so that it was of interest to agency attorneys, CASAs, CRB members, DHS caseworkers and others, as well as attorneys for parents and children. The planning workgroup includes representatives from the Department of Human Services, Department of Justice, district attorneys, and CASA. CASA representation was impacted by staffing

changes that overlapped with our planning cycle this year. I am seeking new CASA representative to continue our multidisciplinary approach.

Since 2005, a conference has been held every year at the same time in October. The 2019 conference is scheduled for October 21-22, 2019. The focus of the conference has alternated between subject matter appealing to newer practitioners, and subject matter of more interest to experienced practitioners. In addition to this conference, the Oregon State Bar Juvenile Law Section sponsors an annual one-day conference on juvenile law and the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association sponsors an annual 1 ½ day conference on juvenile dependency and delinquency defense. There are occasionally other CLE events available to juvenile law practitioners, some of them local and some statewide but the three mentioned above have been the primary training opportunities for juvenile attorneys in Oregon.

Juvenile law is a rapidly changing area of practice and is growing increasingly complex. Attorneys must maintain and develop their legal skills as well as acquire a breadth of experience and knowledge in a wide range of topics. The Oregon Court of Appeals issues written opinions in dependency cases nearly every week. The scientific research relating to the causes and effects of abuse and neglect, the impact of foster care and removal on children, the impact of adverse childhood experiences and brain development continues to grow and develop. Performance standards demand increased accountability and heightened levels of practice. There is a strong need for practical training which enables attorneys to improve the effectiveness of their work. The JLTA workgroup will continue to try to plan and develop conferences which are relevant and timely to the practice of juvenile law.

**2. Have you contacted other sources for assistance? Please explain. (JCIP funds cannot be used to supplant other funds that are or have been available from your agency for this program/project in the past).**

Academy workgroup members all contribute to the conference. JCIP, in addition to financial support, has participated on the planning workgroup to develop creative, practical presentations. The Oregon State Bar Juvenile Law section has generally made a financial contribution and such a contribution will be requested again this year. OPDS has participated in planning and promoting the event and in providing supplemental support for public defense attorneys who are otherwise unable to participate. Youth, Rights & Justice has participated in the planning, in providing speakers, in the preparation of materials and in assisting its member attorneys with the costs of participation. Professor Leslie Harris from the University of Oregon Law School has been a member of the planning group since the beginning, has been a presenter, has developed materials and has offered to provide space at the university for the event. The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association has made all of the arrangements for

meeting space, for hotel accommodations, for meals, and has managed the registration process, the production of materials, and the staffing of the event. The planning committee attempts to cover OCDLA's out of pocket expenses each year with tuition. The Department of Justice, CASA, and DHS have contributed to the academy by serving on the planning workgroup and through the excellent presentations made by their attorneys and staff.

**3. Please describe specifically how the funds for which you are applying will be used.**

The purpose of the training academy workgroup is to improve the quality of representation provided to all parties in juvenile dependency cases by educating the attorneys and other juvenile court stakeholders. High quality legal representation helps to protect children from abuse and neglect by ensuring that the needs of the children and their families are addressed, that statutory requirements are met, and that information is available to the court and CRB that will enable it decision-making which promotes permanent placement in appropriate homes for all children. Well-trained attorneys for all parties are better able to advocate effectively for placement decisions and visitation plans that preserve family relationships and for services that enhance the family's capacity to provide for children's needs. A growing body of national research points to high quality legal representation as a way to expedite permanency and improve outcomes for court-involved families. The funds will be used to offset program costs which maximizes the value of the conference and allows for attendance by as many practitioners as possible.

While the cost has increased since 2005 (\$125 in 2018) it is still much less than the average cost of a two-day CLE. The seminar has consistently been well attended and the workgroup continues to make efforts to incorporate a diverse group of practitioners and stakeholders. The JLTA had 202 paid attendees in 2015, 210 in 2016 and 165 in 2017. The planning for the 2018 JLTA is underway and the seminar is expected include technical legal presentations (eg: appellate caselaw, new legislation, family time/visitation advocacy, reasonable efforts), practical skills (eg: working with Spanish speaking clients, incarcerated parents engagement and participation, Ethics credits), and innovative strategies for particularly challenging or complex cases (permanency planning for older children, attorneys' partnership with case managers).

For 2019, we have confirmed Mimi Laver from the ABA Center on Children and the Law as one of our guests. Ms. Laver is a nationally recognized advocate for quality interdisciplinary parent representation. She is committed to create positive change for parent representation, including steering the development of national best practice standards for representation of parents, children and agency representation. Significantly, a recent study endorsed interdisciplinary/holistic parent defense finding that the use of social workers/case managers and parent mentors by parent's attorneys led to quicker

returns and fewer days in foster care without compromising the safety of children. Ms. Laver will join with Oregon Case Managers to discuss the benefits of this model of representation. This will mark a return to Oregon for Ms. Laver as she participated in the 2016 Oregon Task Force on Dependency Representation.

2019 has been an extremely active year for the Oregon Legislature. Legislation touched on topics including standards for removal of a child with a protective custody order, placement options available for foster care, congregate care limitations, benefits for foster youth aging out, juvenile justice reform, and qualifications of caseworkers. The JLTA will provide updates for attorneys as well as exploring newly added provisions of Oregon Law. The legislative update portion will bring together the combined forces of DOJ, OCDLA, YRJ, OPDS and DHS. This will include a discussion of the new requirements for judicial review of certain high level treatment placements: Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP).

Our Oregon child welfare partners will also share their experience and expertise. Attorney Nina Nolen, Coos County, and Attorney Juda Largent, Douglas County, will provide us guidance for LGBTQ youth in the foster care system (OSB MCLE Access to Justice credit pending). Public Defender Jennifer List's presentation "How to Deliver Bad News" will provide guidance about how to counsel clients in a trauma informed manner (OSB MCLE Mental Health and Substance Use Education credit approved).

Attorney Maggie Carlson, Multnomah County, is bringing together several birth parents to discuss what services worked best and, particularly, how best to support positive visitation options for families working towards reunification. Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) has continued to expand into all parts of Oregon. Availability of MAT, in addition to traditional treatment modalities, increases treatment options for families involved in Child Welfare. Eric Martin, Director, MetroPlus Association of Addiction Peer Professionals and instructor with DHS Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Divisions will lead a discussion about MAT and treatment best practices. Skilled appellate counsel from DOJ and OPDS will join together to present the appellate caselaw update.

**4. Please describe how the project will be funded or sustained in the future (if applicable).**

Juvenile law is a rapidly changing area of practice and is growing increasingly complex. The Oregon Court of Appeals issues written opinions in dependency cases nearly every week. The scientific research relating to the causes and effects of abuse and neglect, the impact of foster care and removal on children, the impact of adverse childhood experiences, and brain development continues to grow and develop. Performance standards demand increased accountability and heightened levels of practice. There is a strong need for practical training which enables attorneys to improve the effectiveness of

their work. The JLTA workgroup will continue to try to plan and develop conferences which are relevant and timely to the practice of juvenile law.

**5. Please describe the evaluation plan for this project or how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities.**

At the close of the Academy, all attendees are asked to complete an evaluation form including making recommendations for future presentations. The evaluation provides important feedback about the quality of the presentations and guides the workgroup in planning the next year's conference.

**6. If you are awarded financial assistance by JCIP, we ask that you agree to submit materials from your program for possible posting on the JCIP Website. We also require that you provide an overview report of the use of these funds, due on December 1 of the fiscal year the funds were provided. If copyright consideration prevents that for some materials please let us know that.**

I would be happy to provide JCIP copies from the materials and summarize the use of the funds for the JCIP report as I have done in previous years.