

**STRENGTHENED BONDS: ABOLISHING THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
AND RE-ENVISIONING CHILD WELL-BEING**

**Columbia Law School
Columbia Journal of Race and Law
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June 16-18, 2021

DAY TWO

June 18, 2021

11:00 am to 6:00 pm EDT

- **Panel 2: Looking Through Client Lenses: Youth of Color, LGBT Parents and Youth, Disabled Parents (12:45 – 2:00 pm)**
 - **Kara Finck**, Practice Professor of Law, Director of Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic, **Marcia Hopkins**, MSW, Senior Manager, Youth Advocacy Program & Policy, Juvenile Law Center, with Youth Foster Change and Juveniles for Justice advocates, *Families Matter: Constructing an Anti-Racist System from the Perspective of Youth Advocates and Interdisciplinary Collaboration*
 - **Courtney G. Joslin**, Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law, UC Davis School of Law and **Catherine Sakimura**, Deputy Director & Family Law Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights, *Fractured Families: LGBTQ Families of Color and the Child Welfare System*
 - **L. Frunel** (pseudonym of parent author) and **Sarah Lorr**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Law & Co-Director of the Disability and Civil Rights Clinic, Brooklyn Law School, *Lived Experience and Disability Justice in the Foster System*
 - Moderator, **Sacha M. Coupet**, Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

- **“Coffee Break” (2:00 -2:15 pm) (Breakout rooms available to meet with panelists and attendees)**

Note: If you wish to assign yourself to one of the many breakout rooms, you must have Zoom Desktop client or mobile app version 5.3.0 or higher or ChromeOS version 5.0.0 (4241.1207) or higher.

Panelist Biographies



Sacha Coupet is the Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law where she has served on the faculty since 2004. She holds a Ph.D. in Psychology (Clinical) from the University of Michigan and earned her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. Eternally fascinated by human behavior and the ways in which people's lived realities are recognized within the law, Prof. Coupet strives to synthesize her backgrounds in psychology and law. Her research focuses on the regulation of families and children, including the privileges, rights and interests of those within the family, as well as issues related to identities within law. She and her spouse are parents to two energetic young kids and the caretakers of a canine with an insatiable appetite. When she is not working, she can be found elbow deep in one or more of her many hobbies or making good trouble.



Kara R. Finck directs the Penn Law Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic at University of Pennsylvania Law school, focusing on the legal needs of children and families and holistic legal representation. As the Managing Attorney of the Family Defense Practice at The Bronx Defenders, she created a groundbreaking interdisciplinary legal practice for parents involved in the child welfare system. She was also a Skadden Fellow at The Door Legal Services Center representing adolescents. A graduate of Columbia Law School, her areas of specialty include family defense, child welfare, and interdisciplinary practice focusing on law and social work collaboration.



Marcía Hopkins believes in the power of youth voice and the inherent strength of families. Hopkins earned her master's degree in social work from Temple University. She graduated with honors from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Hopkins currently works at Juvenile Law Center, as the Senior Manager, Youth Advocacy Program & Policy. Hopkins also worked as a Life Skills Counselor for former youth in foster care experiencing homelessness and works directly with youth impacted by the justice and child welfare systems to develop strategies for system reform in close collaboration with attorneys and other stakeholders. Hopkins also worked as a Programs Consultant with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Foster Youth Internship Program and Angels In Adoption Program and also has professional experience serving as an advocate for survivors and victims of violence. Hopkins has lived experience in the foster care system and is a member of the Foster Care Alumni of America, PA Chapter.



Courtney Joslin is a Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law at UC Davis School of Law. Joslin is a leading expert in the areas of family and relationship recognition, with a particular focus on same-sex and unmarried couples. She is a co-author (with William N. Eskridge Jr. & Nan D. Hunter) of the textbook *Sexuality, Gender, and the Law*. Professor Joslin served as the Reporter for the Uniform Parentage Act (2017). She is an elected member of the American Law Institute. Prior to joining UC Davis, Joslin was an attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights.



Sarah H. Lorr is an assistant professor and Co-Director of the Disability & Civil Rights Law Clinic at Brooklyn Law School. Prior to joining the faculty at Brooklyn Law School, Professor Lorr was a Supervising Attorney at Brooklyn Defender Services Family Defense Practice. She has represented parents in a wide range of matters related to family law, including termination of parental rights, custody, and family offense proceedings. She continues to represent parents in child welfare cases, and conducts trainings and case consultations throughout the nation. She focuses on keeping families together and protecting her clients' fundamental right to parent. Her research focuses on the intersection of parental rights, disability, race, and poverty.



Cathy Sakimura is the Deputy Director and Family Law Director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Cathy also founded and oversees NCLR's Family Protection Project, which improves access to family law services for low-income LGBT parents and their children, with a focus on families of color. She received her J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law and her B.A. from Stanford University. In 2012, she was named one of the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40 by the National LGBT Bar Association. She is a co-author of the book *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Family Law*.