

CASA OF NEW JERSEY SYMPOSIUM 2021

Disproportionality and the Impact of Structural Racism in the Child Welfare System

June 10, 2021 and June 16, 2021



Jeyanthi
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Keynote
Speaker

Jeyanthi Rajaraman, Esq., is the Chief Counsel and a supervising attorney of Legal Services of New Jersey's Family Representation Project (FRP). The FRP provides parents in child abuse or neglect and termination of parental rights litigation with information, advice and representation. Additionally, the FRP provides advice and representation to youth in DCPP's care, both those who have become parent defendants themselves and those who are seeking aging-out services from the Division. The FRP participates in many child welfare committees, including the statewide Children in Court Committee along with the Supreme Court Family Practice Committee.

At the Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), Jey also provides advice, support, and trainings statewide for other attorneys who represent parents, and provides community trainings on various areas of advocacy. She is also responsible for training and mentoring all of New Jersey Legal Services staff and pro bono attorneys. Additionally, she is the co-chief section counsel of LSNJ's Youth Law Project, which provides legal advice and information to New Jersey youth. As part of her work with the FRP, Jey has argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court in *Re D.C.* and co-authored several LSNJ's amicus briefs such as in *Division of Youth and Family Services v. L.L.*

Jey serves as a member of the National Alliance for Parent Representation. She has been a presenter at the ABA national child welfare conference and at other state child welfare training conferences. In addition, Jey is the coordinator and primary trainer at Legal Services of New Jersey's annual seminar on New Jersey child welfare litigation.