



BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT OF PATRICK HIRSCH

Patrick Hirsch joined Legal Aid Center's Children's Attorneys Project in 2018. He came from Los Angeles, where he spent several years doing similar work on behalf of the children in foster care in LA County.

Patrick is a product of rural northern Illinois, but moved to California to attend Pomona College in 2004. At Pomona, he studied social injustice and the forces that contribute to it, and committed himself to doing what he could to address it. In particular, his interests were drawn by the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Upon graduating, Patrick realized he would have to narrow his focus, and decided that rather than work to remedy wrongs that have already resulted in problematic incarcerations, he would focus his attention on preventative efforts by working to ensure all children receive appropriate educations. After considering becoming a teacher, Patrick decided he would have a broader impact as an education attorney, and enrolled at Loyola Law School in the fall of 2008.

While attending Loyola, Patrick took a course focusing on the special challenges confronted by court-involved youth. When he learned that foster youth are statistically proven to be more disadvantaged as students than any other group, including racial and economic groups, he knew that that was where his efforts were most needed. After graduating in 2011, Patrick joined the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles [now the Children's Law Center of California] as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow working on projects to improve the educational outcomes of youth in foster care in Los Angeles. When the fellowship expired, Patrick's role expanded to include several other specialized areas of representation, including LGBTQ rights and issues. Ultimately, Patrick transitioned into a courtroom role, providing general representation to youth in foster care.

In 2018, Patrick and his family moved to Las Vegas. Knowing he wanted to continue working with foster youth, it took Patrick only a few internet searches to conclude that he needed to be a CAP Attorney. He was thrilled to be offered a position, and now represents youth pulled into foster care in Clark County.