

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT OF KIMBERLY ABBOTT

Kimberly has been the Mental Health Initiatives Manager with the Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) since October 2022. She moved into this newly-created position after becoming passionate about improving the mental system for youth in Nevada while serving as a Team Chief with CAP since 2018. She re-joined the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada as a Staff Attorney with CAP in September 2014, after having served as the organization's Pro Bono Project Director from 2004 to 2011, recruiting and supporting volunteer attorneys, as well as, developing new programs. Currently, she represents children in the foster-care system, giving them a voice as decisions about their futures are made. She also spearheads CAP's advocacy around children's mental health, including collaborative work with both the State and County, and in 2022 became a certified Child Welfare Law Specialist through the National Association of Counsel for Children.

Prior to joining LACSN, Kimberly was an associate in the Education Law Group at Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehan in Boston Massachusetts, where she concentrated on education and special education law. She is the proud recipient of the 2006 Clark County Bar Association's Ambassador of the Year Award and the 2007 Martin P. Dowling Volunteer of the Year Award. She obtained her Bachelor degree in Sociology, from Boston College, magna cum laude, in 1999 and earned her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 2002.

Kimberly has served on the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission and on the Board of Directors for Helping Hands of Las Vegas Valley and currently serves on the Nevada Children's Commission Behavioral Health Committee. She enjoys teaching and often produces and presents trainings on various topics in child welfare. She has been a presenter at the ABA Equal Justice Conference, NACC's National Child Welfare Law Conference and Governor Sisolak's Healthcare Provider Summit.