

Robert A. Latham

Curriculum Vitae

Children & Youth Law Clinic, University of Miami School of Law
1311 Miller Drive, B400, Coral Gables, Florida 33146
rlatham@law.miami.edu – (786) 519-1483

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Children & Youth Law Clinic, University of Miami School of Law

LECTURER, PRACTITIONER-IN-RESIDENCE

LECTURER IN LAW, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

CORAL GABLES, FL

July 2011 – April 2017

April 2017 – July 2026

July 2026 – Present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Design & Instruction

Children and the Law (Spring 2025-present)

Designed and launched upper-level course on statutory and regulatory research, collaborative writing, and policy advocacy. Average enrollment 16 students.

Children & Youth Law Clinic Seminar (2011-present)

Co-developed and co-teach year-long seminar; primary responsibility for units on regulatory research and strategic case planning. Annual enrollment 16–24 students.

Summer Children & Youth Law Clinic (2011–present)

Independently designed condensed summer curriculum. Average enrollment 4–6 students.

Individual Instruction

Individual clinical supervision, 8 academic-year students and 4-6 summer students annually in dependency, disability rights, and public benefits proceedings.

Faculty supervisor, student research and independent studies papers (2012 - present). Examples:

- Mayle Castillo-Alarcon, Spring 2025: *The Constitutional Limits of Restricting Birthright Citizenship: Analyzing the Fourteenth Amendment's Protection of Children Born to Undocumented Immigrants in the United States*
- Maycee Duke, Summer 2024: *Severed ties: Addressing Post-Adoption Sibling Visitation*

in Florida

- Angelina Petrosova, Fall 2022: *The Problems of Refugee Children and the Impact on Their Mental Health*
- Maritza Fernandez, Spring 2022: *The Invisible Harm: How the Best Interests Standard Fails to Address LGBTQIA+ Children's Needs in the United States Foster Care System*

Field Placement Supervisor, Barry University School of Social Work, from Fall 2013 to 2020 – Supervised Masters of Social Work interns in clinical setting, providing task direction, training, and oversight for interdisciplinary child welfare practice.

Pedagogical Innovation & Development

University of Miami Learning PETAL Learning Community: Experiential Inquiry & Story-Centered Teaching (Fall 2025)

Pedagogy Sessions led by Charlton Copeland (August 2025)

Faculty Pedagogy Retreat (May 2024)

Clinical Legal Education Association member since 2011.

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Scholarship

Musser ED, Riopelle C, Latham R. [*Child maltreatment in the time of COVID-19: Changes in the Florida foster care system surrounding the COVID-19 safer-at-home order.*](#) Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jun;116(Pt 2):104945. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.104945. Epub 2021 Jan 26. PMID: 33546917; PMCID: PMC7837623.

Cited by 25+ peer reviewed articles, law review articles, and governmental reports.

Law Review Articles

[*Covid-19 Reflections on Resilience and Reform in the Child Welfare System*](#), 48 Fordham Urb. L.J. 95 (2020) (with Kele Stewart)

Cited by 12 law review articles.

[*The Potential of Florida's Effective Assistance of Counsel Doctrine to Increase Parent Engagement and Promote the Well-Being of Children.*](#) 17 Fla. Coastal L. Rev. 109 (2015)

(with Robin Rosenberg)

Cited by 4 law review articles.

Practice-Orientated & Policy Scholarship

White Papers & reports

UPCOMING August 2026: *Arbitrary Denials and Unfair Outcomes in Florida's iBudget Eligibility Process* (working title), with Jason Khan (Disability Rights Florida), Cameron Riopelle, Ph.D. (Univ. of Miami), Erica Musser, Ph.D. (Barnard College, Columbia University)

[*The "Child Welfare" System: What to Know and Where to Go for More*](#), with The Center for Just Journalism, Movement for Family Power, Illinois Black Advocacy, and Civil Rights Corps (February 2026)

[*Educational achievement of foster children in Miami with placement in a correctional setting*](#). Report. (January 2021).

[*A data study of foster children who refused placement in Hillsborough County*](#). Report. (December 2019).

Cited by: Florida Senate (March 2021). [*Bill Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement for SB 1582*](#).

Administrative Rule Comments

[*Comment in Opposition to Changes to Florida Rule of Professional Conduct 4-1.6*](#) (February 2025)

[*Joint Comments to Department of Children & Families re: Amendments to Florida Administrative Code on Master Trust*](#) (April 2024)

[*Comments to Agency for Persons with Disabilities re: Amendments to Florida Administrative Code on Home and Community Based Services*](#). (May 2022).

[*Letter to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability in response to request for information on current research on representation models*](#). (September 2021).

[*Comments to the Department of Children & Families re: Amendments to Florida Administrative Code 65C-41*](#) (2018)

[Comments to Department of Children & Families re: Amendments to Florida Administrative Code on Alien Children.](#) (December 2016).

[Comments to the Department of Children & Families re: Amendments to Florida Administrative Code 65C-28.](#) (December 2015) (with Currey Cook)

[Comments to the Department of Children & Families re: Amendments to Florida Administrative Code 65C-14 on Group Care.](#) (June 2015) (with Currey Cook)

Policy Analysis & Commentary

[The Supreme Court Doesn't See Children - It's time to grant equal protection to minors.](#)
Newsletter (June 2025)

[Troubled Teens, Inc.](#) Newsletter (November 2024)

[Racial Disparity. Revisited](#) Newsletter. (October 2024)

[A starter reading list on how child welfare policies harm Black people, families, and communities.](#) Blog post (June 2020)

1. Quoted by: Nancy D. Polikoff & Jane M. Spinak, *Foreword: Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being*, 11 Colum. J. Race & L. 427, 432 (2021).
2. Cited by: [International Parent Advocacy Network](#); NCCPR (June 2020) “[Child welfare responds to racism in the usual way: Unctuous hypocrisy and pious posturing](#)”
3. Required reading for [Social Work Policy in Child Welfare](#) (SW 34000), Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, City University of New York.

[What happened in March?](#) Blog post. (April 2020).

Cited by: The Marshall Project, [Is child abuse really rising during the pandemic?](#) (June 2020)

[54 pages about 49 kids: The children who refused placement in Hillsborough County.](#) Blog post. (January 2020).

Cited by: Kele M. Stewart, [Re--Envisioning Child Well-Being: Dismantling the Inequitable Intersections Among Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Education](#), 12 Colum. J. Race & L. 1 (2022).

[A Reluctant Post about the Guardian ad Litem Program – Its Ethics, Efficacy, & Future.](#) Blog

Post. (2019).

[*This is not okay – Visualizing foster care placement instability.*](#) Blog Post. (2019).

Cited by:

1. Washington Association for Children & Families. “[*All the Factors that Impact Placement Stability*](#)” (May 2020)
2. Chronicle of Social Change. “[*Innovative Project Maps the Movement of Foster Care*](#)” (January 2019)
3. Parental Rights Foundation “[*Examples of Issues in the CPS System*](#)”

[*A Child Welfare System that Lost its Way.*](#) Florida Family Law Section Commentator. (2015)

Spate of Avoidable Child Deaths Brings Changes to Child Protection Law, Critics Question if It's Enough. The Florida Public Interest Journal. Vol. 1, Issue 2 (2012)

SERVICE

Contributions to the Rule of Law Through Enforcement or Reform

The following lists projects I have worked on in addition to my regular direct legal advocacy through clinic cases.

Child Welfare Public Records Project (May 2017–present) *Creator and Director*

Founded and directed statewide initiative using public records laws to collect, analyze, and disseminate child welfare data for accountability, advocacy, and research. The Public Florida FSFN Database contains anonymized case information on every foster child in Florida and has supported investigative journalism by USA Today, the New York Times, Tampa Bay Times, and others; academic research; legislative testimony; and extensive policy reform efforts.

Facilitator, Monthly Support Group for Miami Children's Attorneys (July 2024–present)

Convene and facilitate peer consultation group for attorneys representing children in dependency proceedings, providing case strategy discussion and professional support.

Board Member, Parent Advocates for Transformation and Health (P.A.T.H.) (August 2024–present)

Serve on board of organization that cultivates parent leadership and community power to advance justice-centered alternatives to the family policing system.

Developmental Disability Advocacy Strategy Group (September 2021–present)

Statewide network supporting attorneys handling benefits cases for clients with developmental disabilities. Provide legal research and case consultation.

Foster Fairness / Florida Children's Rights Coalition (June 2020–present)

Statewide coalition seeking to improve quality of legal representation for children in foster care. Contribute data analysis, legal research, and strategic support.

Next friend in *H.G. v. Carroll* (2018-present)

Federal class action raising claims of inappropriate placements, lack of services, and violations of rights of foster children. See [Justice for Children: Federal Lawsuit Settlement in South Florida Promises Major Reforms for Children in Foster Care](#).

Florida Attorneys for Unaccompanied Minors (2014–April 2017)

Provided technical assistance, legal research, and policy analysis for ad hoc coalition pursuing coordinated litigation strategy on behalf of immigrant children in Florida's child welfare system. Work culminated in *B.R.C.M. v. Department of Children & Families*, 215 So. 3d 1219 (Fla. 2017).

Florida Youth Shine (Winter 2014–Summer 2022)

Served as chapter and statewide mentor for youth-led advocacy organization, providing skills training and policy analysis to current and former foster youth advocating for system reform.

Youth Homelessness Initiative / Miami Homes for All (January 2014–April 2018)

Co-chaired Permanent Connections subcommittee of collective impact initiative to eliminate youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County.

LGBTQ Child Welfare Workgroup (July 2011–defunct)

Co-chaired statewide coalition coordinating policy analysis, training, and advocacy campaigns for LGBTQ youth in care. Work contributed to administrative code amendments and was analyzed in Matt J. Barnett, *Queering the Welfare State*, 93 N.Y.U.L. Rev. 1633 (2018).

Contributions to the Rule of Law

Legislative & Administrative Testimony

A Study of Denials of Florida HCBS Waiver Eligibility. Presentation to the National Council on Disability ([Summary letter](#)) (January 2026)

Child Representation in the Foster Care System. Testimony to Florida Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs by invitation. Tallahassee, FL. ([Video](#), [Powerpoint](#)) (February 2021).

Refusing Placements in Hillsborough County. Presentation by invitation of the Hillsborough County Children's Alliance, Tampa, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (February 2020).

Refusing Placements in Hillsborough County: A Data Study of Florida's Foster Care System. Testimony to Florida Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs by invitation. Tallahassee, FL. ([Video](#), [Powerpoint](#)) (January 2020).

Amicus Briefs & Impact Litigation

Amicus co-author in *Youth & Family Alternatives, Inc. v. D.T. by & through D.T.* 2, 49 Fla. L. Weekly D1006 (Fla. 2d DCA May 10, 2024). Challenge to denial of free access to case emails for foster children.

Amicus co-author in *B.R.C.M. v. Florida Dep't of Children & Families*, 42 Fla. L. Weekly S472 (Fla. Apr. 20, 2017). Reversal of order summarily denying private dependency petition filed on behalf of immigrant child.

Contributions to the Academic Community and Legal Education

Conference Talks

Minimizing Court-Induced Trauma: Protecting and Empowering Vulnerable Children Through Due Process. Talk presented by invitation at the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Advanced Education Program, Orlando, FL. ([Powerpoint](#), with Dimitris, J.,

Plouffe, K.) (September 2024)

Representing the Whole Family. Talk presented by invitation at the Guardian ad Litem Specialized Advocacy for Children 2019 Symposium, Orlando, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (May 2019).

You Don't Have to Do It Alone – Building an Advocacy Team with Due Process Services for Attorneys. Talk presented by invitation at the Guardian ad Litem Specialized Advocacy for Children 2018 Symposium, Orlando, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (May 2018).

Florida Youth Shine Panel. Panel moderator by invitation at the Miami Regional Child Welfare Conference. (December 2017).

Attorney for Kids: Good for Kids, Good for You. Florida Dependency Summit. Orlando, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (August 2017) (with McCarthy, C., Colado, T.).

Questions Asked & Answered – Attorneys for Children with Special Needs. Plenary panel by invitation at the Guardian ad Litem Specialized Advocacy for Children 2017 Symposium, Orlando, FL. (May 2017).

Recommended Practices for Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ / TGNC Youth. Child Protection Summit. Orlando, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (September 2015) (with Currey Cook).

Advocating for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Care. Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association Conference. Orlando, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (June 2015).

Psychotropic Medication - Perspectives from Inside the System. Talk presented by invitation at the Florida Disability Conference, Orlando, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (May 2015).

Beyond Acceptance: Identity Affirming Services for LGBTQ Youth with Disabilities. Panelist by contribution at the Florida Disabilities Conference, Orlando, FL. (May 2014) (with Silva, C., Tilley, D., Foxworth, D.).

Representing LGBTQi Youth. Presented by invitation to the Florida Bar Children's Legal Services Grantees Conference, Tampa, FL. (September 2012) (with Rae., J.).

Litigation and Advocacy Strategies in Psychotropic Medication Cases. Presented by contribution at the Statewide Florida Dependency Summit, Orlando, FL. (August 2010).

Psychotropic Medication Four Years Later: Law, Ethics, & Best Practices for Non-Medical Professionals. Presented by invitation at the Statewide Florida Dependency Summit, Orlando, FL. (August 2009) (with Judge Nushin Sayfie, Esther Jacobo).

Trainings, Webinars, & Community Presentations

2026 Legislative Update & 5-Year Retrospective, Public Interest Law Section (June 2024)
(co-presenter with Florida's Children First)

Outcomes in Florida's iBudget Eligibility Process, Arc of Florida (June 2024) (with Erica Musser, Cameron Riopelle, Jason Khan)

Effective Advocacy in Rules Workshops, The Arc of Florida ([Powerpoint](#)) (December 2024)

Legal Services for Minors, Gulf Coast Legal Services (July 2024) (with Lindy Aldrich)

The Role of Counsel for Children, by Counsel for Children, 11th Judicial Circuit Lunch & Learn (June 2024) (co-presenter with the Cuban American Bar Association and Florida's Children First)

Legislative Update, Florida Foster Care Review (August 2023)

Florida Judicial Bypass Training, The Jane Network. (April 2023) (co-presenter on representing children).

Clinical Scientists in the Law, Florida International University Clinic Science Program's Professional Development Seminar (April 2023) ([Powerpoint](#), with Liam McGivern, Disability Rights Florida).

What's Your Role? Plenary Panel for the Community-Base Care Alliance 17th Annual Regional Conference. (January 2023)

Race Equity - Connecting Policy to Outcomes. Training for Community-Based Care Alliance, Miami, FL. (March 2021) ([Powerpoint](#), with Kele Stewart).

["Data Overview on Racial Inequity in Florida's Foster Care System."](#) (March 2021) (with Kele Stewart)

Advanced Training Institute. Training by invitation to Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL. (November 2020) (with Paula Velazquez, Lawyers for Children America).

Legal Options for Caregivers of Minor Children. Training by invitation to Department of Children and Families. Miami, FL. (September 2020) ([Powerpoint](#), with Kele Stewart).

Meaningful Youth Engagement in a Virtual Legal World. Webinar by invitation from the National

Association of Counsel for Children. (August 2020) (with Mahadev, S., Townsend, D).

Dependency Law Overview. Training by invitation of the Cuban American Bar Association. Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (December 2019) (with Stewart, K., Perlmutter, B.).

The Ethics of Child Representation. Training by invitation of the Dade County Bar Association, Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (March 2019).

Pro Bono Panel on Representing Children. Training panel by invitation of the American Inns of Court (Spellman-Hoeveler Chapter), Miami, FL. (March 2019) (with Cohen, J., Vigil, A., Creary, H., et al.).

Psychotropic Medication Training. Panel training by invitation of the Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL. (February 2019) (with Hunter, T.)

Dependency Law Overview. Training by invitation at Legal Services of Greater Miami. ([Powerpoint](#)) (November 2018).

Updates in Florida Dependency Law. Training by invitation at Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (September 2018).

Lambda Panel: Advocating for LGBTQ Youth in Out-of-home Care. Pridelines, Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (June 2018) (with Tormes, J.)

Becoming a Guardian ad Litem – Why LGBTQ Representation Matters for the 11th Judicial Circuit GAL Program. Panel discussion by invitation, Miami, FL. (June 2018) (with Woolston, L., et al.).

Community Discussion on Foster Shock (movie). Panel participant by invitation from Barry University School of Social Work. ([Powerpoint](#)) (April 2018) (with Frankel, M., Anthony, K.).

LGBTQ Child Welfare Training. Training by invitation at the Sumter County Guardian ad Litem Program. (March 2018) (with Cook, C.).

LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Policy and Practice. Training by invitation at Capital City Youth Services, Tallahassee, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (February 2018) (with Cook, C.)

LGBTQ Youth and Families in Florida's Child Welfare System. Palm Beach County Youth Services Department. West Palm Beach, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (October 2017) (with Cook, C.)

Navigating Medicaid Managed Care. Training to Florida Youth Shine. ([Powerpoint](#)) (January 2017) (with Pollard, T.).

Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Gender Diverse Youth in Out-of-Home Care. Quality Parenting Initiative webinar. ([Powerpoint](#)) (February 2016) (with Cook, C.)

Advocating for LGBTQ Youth and Caregivers in Child Welfare. Panel training by invitation of the Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL. (June 2015).

Dependency Law Overview for Immigration Attorneys. Training by invitation of Catholic Charities of Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)), (June 2015).

Changes to Independent Living Law. Training by invitation of Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL. (May 2015).

Dependency Law Overview for Immigration Attorneys. Training by invitation of Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami, FL. (March 2015).

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. Panel training hosted by Americans for Immigrant Justice. (May 2014) (with Gundrum, M., Rodriguez, R.).

Psychotropic Medication Panel. Panel training hosted by Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL. (April 2014) (with Hunter, T., MD.).

Psychotropic Medication Law & Advocacy. Video training presented by invitation for Guardian ad Litem Program Pro Bono Training Series. ([Powerpoint](#)) (February 2014).

The New Independent Living Program. Panel training by invitation of the Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (January 2014) (with Stewart, K., Dunlavy, M.).

Out with the Old: Independent Living Changes in Florida. Training hosted by Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (September 2013).

Agency for Persons with Disabilities and Agency for Healthcare Administration Issues in Dependency Court. Invited training from Children's Legal Services, Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (May 2013).

Representing LGBTQ Youth in Florida. Children's Legal Services. Tampa, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (February 2013) (with Rae, J.).

Healthcare Advocacy for Dependent Children. Training by invitation of Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, Miami, FL. (August 2012).

Involuntary Commitment of Children. Training by invitation of Lawyers for Children America, Miami, FL. ([Powerpoint](#)) (July 2012).

Psychotropic Medication Advocacy. Training by invitation of Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL. (February 2012).

Service to the Law School & University

Committee Service

Doctoral Dissertation Committee, Tamara Greak, *A Socioecological Model for Understanding Racial Disparities in Child Maltreatment* (2025) - Participated as subject matter expert on administrative data and child welfare law and policy.

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Hiring Director of Externships Program (August–December 2022)

Member, Intellectual Life Committee (2022-2023)

Institutional Programming

1L Relaunch Facilitator (2025–2026)

Co-organized clinic fall semester kickoff event (August 2025)

Presenter, *Towards Abolishing the Family Policing System* conference at Miami Law (April 2024)

Presenter, Transfer Student Orientation (2022–present)

Presented *Outlawing Risk*, Living Law Talk (August 2020)

Presented at *Gigabytes for Good* Lecture Series, UM Center for Computational Science (November 2019)

Facilitator, Legal Impact Hack on Risk Assessment in the Law, Miami Law Orientation (August 2019)

Faculty Advisor, Alliance Against Human Trafficking (March 2018–present)

Oral Argument Judge, Litigation Skills Competition (2012–present, as needed)

Podcasts and Media

Miami Law Explainer Podcast on *State of Texas v. Becerra* (October 2024)

UM Law Podcast on *The Case of Syesha Mercado* (September 2021)

UM Law Podcast on *Fulton* (November 2020)

Other Contributions

Managed UM Law clinical information technology projects (2011–present)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Florida Bar Member since 2007 - Administrative Law Section, Public Interest Law Section

Clinical Legal Education Association member since 2011

HONORS & AWARDS

Humanitarian Hero, presented by the Community Based Care Alliance, 2025.

Child Advocate of the Year 2022, presented by Florida's Children First.

Hausler Golden Apple Award - April 2021, presented by the Society of Bar & Gavel to a faculty member who contributes a significant amount of time to the student body

Fearless Children's Lawyer of the Month - November 2020, presented by the American Bar Association.

40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of South Florida 2019, presented by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Florida Trailblazer Award for 2019, presented by the Daily Business Review.

Excellence in Advocacy Award for 2016 from the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Program

Outstanding Performance Award from the Guardian ad Litem Program, November 2009.

Irving Stenn, Jr. Award for contributions to the University of Michigan Law School student

community, May 2007.

Book Award in Fourteenth Amendment by Professor Mark Rosenbaum, 2006.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

National

Quoted in “[*When home isn't safe: Missy Mogle tragedy came amid child protective investigator crunch*](#)” (July 28, 2025) (USA Today)

Quoted in “[*Florida legislators advance bill to loosen restrictions on child labor*](#)” (March 28, 2025) (Marketplace)

Contributed data to “[*How Some Christian Group Homes Avoid Florida's Standards*](#)” (January 24, 2025) (New York Times)

Quoted in “[*Taxpayer Spending on Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Foster Kids Surges, but Evaluation Lags*](#)” (January 30, 2024) (The Imprint)

Quoted in “[*In Florida, showing mental health struggles could get a child detained*](#)” (March 16, 2023) (Washington Post)

Interviewed in “[*Child Welfare Challenges in the Sunshine State*](#)” (April 25, 2021) (The Imprint)

Featured in “[*Florida took thousands of kids from families, then failed to keep them safe*](#)” (October 16, 2020) (USA Today)

Featured in “[*Innovative Project Maps the Movement of Foster Care*](#)” (January 22, 2019) (The Chronicle of Social Change)

Quoted in “[*Florida Judges Are Turning Their Backs on Abused Young Immigrants*](#)” (January 22, 2018) (The Nation)

State

Featured in “[*Errors and denials: The hidden cost behind Florida's disability waitlist*](#)” (April 16, 2026) (FOX 13 Tampa)

Quoted in “[*Amid quarrel with pope, Trump strips Miami charity of funding to house migrant kids*](#)” (April 15, 2026) (Miami Herald)

Quoted in “[*Destined to fail: 5-year-old's murder exposes cracks in Florida child protection system*](#)” (July 28, 2025) (Tallahassee Democrat)

Quoted in “[*Trump administration targets Florida foster kids, migrant youth for deportations*](#)” (June 25, 2025) (Miami Herald)

Quoted in “[*Florida child welfare agency calls ICE on teen migrant in foster care, sparking*](#)”

[criticism](#)” (June 11, 2025) (Miami Herald)

Quoted in “[DCF pushes back on Franklin County sheriff who is calling for more child protective investigators](#)” (November 26, 2024) (WFSU)

Quoted in “[Innocence Sold: Florida’s foster system provides dangerous sex traffickers with easy access to vulnerable children](#)” (November 27, 2022) (South Florida Sun-Sentinel)

Quoted in “[Pinellas sheriff blasts foster agency, but his office removed children at Florida’s highest rate](#)” (December 21, 2021) (Tampa Bay Times)

Quoted in “[Replacing Eckerd Connects won’t fix systemic failures in foster care, watchdogs say](#)” (December 1, 2021) (Florida Politics)

Interviewed in “[New Study on Foster Care](#)” (February 1, 2021) (Sundial - WLRN)

Quoted in “[Child abuse reports fall in Florida, raising concerns about at-risk kids](#)” (May 2020) (Tampa Bay Times)

Covered in “[New report says foster care system is failing Hillsborough County teens](#)” (February 11, 2020) (abcactionnews.com)

Interviewed in “[Report: Florida Foster Youth Often Refuse Placement After Being Moved Dozens of Times](#)” (January 29, 2020) (WFSU)

Quoted in “[Bill to Conceal names of foster parents would hamper accountability, critics say](#)” (March 21, 2019) (tampabay.com)

Quoted in “[Adoption fight pits great-aunt against child welfare worker](#)” (December 9, 2018) (heraldtribune.com)

Op-ed: [Kids in foster care aren’t getting the care they need. That’s why we’re suing DCF.](#) Miami Herald. (2018) (with Bernie Perlmutter, Stewart Cooke)

Quoted in “[Lawyers honored for advocacy for children with special needs](#)” (December 15, 2016) (floridabar.org)

Quoted in “[DCF retreats from protections for LGBT foster kids](#)” (April 7, 2016) (Orlando Sentinel)

Quoted in “[New rules bring focus to LGBT youth in foster care in Florida](#)” (July 13, 2015) (News Service of Florida)

Mentioned in Abramowitz, Alan. “[Statewide GAL Stands Ready to Assist.](#)” Florida Bar News (September 1, 2014)

Other

Mentioned in “[The clueless CASA program of Florida](#)” (January 21, 2021) (NCCPR Child Welfare Blog)

Featured in “[A CASA program’s new low](#)” (July 2, 2019) (NCCPR Child Welfare Blog)

Featured in “[With no evidence whatsoever that its multi-million dollar program works, a giant CASA program sinks to fearmongering](#)” (July 1, 2019) (NCCPR Child Welfare Blog)

Mentioned in Rogers, Scott. [The Mindful Law School: An Integrative Approach to Transforming Legal Education](#). 28 Touro Law Review 1189 (2012)

Mentioned in Perlmutter, Bernard. [More Therapeutic, Less Collaborative? Asserting the Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege on Behalf of Mature Minors](#). 17 Barry L. Rev. 45 (2011)

REPORTED CASES

My case load focuses heavily on representing children and young adults with significant mental health, developmental, and behavioral disorders in state court and administrative hearings. Most of these proceedings are confidential. The list below are publicly reported cases.

S.F. v. Agency for Persons with Disabilities, 3D23-1600, 2024 WL 3280617 (Fla. 3d DCA July 3, 2024). Affirmance of revocation of HCBS benefits.

A.V.F. v. A.V.F., 367 So. 3d 484 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023). Per curiam affirmance on challenge to sufficiency of evidence to support residential treatment.

W.R. v. Dep’t of Children & Families, 315 So. 3d 87 (Fla. 3d DCA 2020). Per curiam affirmance of adjudication of dependency.

Mendez v. Mendez Lopez, 271 So. 3d 72 (Fla. 3d DCA 2019). Reversal with opinion of order dismissing petition for temporary custody of non-citizen child.

A.R. v. Dep’t of Children & Families, 261 So. 3d 551 (Fla. 3d DCA 2019). Per curiam affirmance denying challenge to termination of parental rights

N.A. v. Dep’t of Children & Families, 255 So. 3d 518 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Per curiam affirmance.

R.M.V. v. Dep’t of Children & Families, 255 So. 3d 518 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Per curiam affirmance.

M.T. v. Dep't of Children & Families, 255 So. 3d 304 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Per curiam affirmance.

Florida Dep't of Children & Families v. A.R., 253 So. 3d 1158 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Reversal with opinion of order denying termination of parental rights.

E.G. v. Dep't of Children, 193 So. 3d 78 (Fla. 3d DCA 2016). Reversal with opinion of trial court order requiring youth to voluntarily submit to involuntary treatment and refrain from substance usage in dependency case.

J.J. v. Agency for Persons with Disabilities, 174 So. 3d 372 (Fla. 3d DCA 2014). Affirmance of administrative final order finding applicant ineligible for developmental disability services.

Co-author in *Wade v. Dep't of Children & Families*, 79 So. 3d 946 (Fla. 1st DCA 2012). Dismissal of petition for mandamus.

J.C. v. Dep't of Children & Family Services, 26 So. 3d 665 (Fla. 3d DCA 2010). Reversal with opinion of termination of parental rights.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate cum Laude

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

ANN ARBOR, MI

2007

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

AUSTIN, TX

2003

Bachelor of Arts with Honors, Linguistics

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

AUSTIN, TX

2003

Robert Latham

Musser ED, Riopelle C, **Latham R**. [*Child maltreatment in the time of COVID-19: Changes in the Florida foster care system surrounding the COVID-19 safer-at-home order.*](#) *Child Abuse Negl.* 2021 Jun;116(Pt 2):104945. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.104945. Epub 2021 Jan 26. PMID: 33546917; PMCID: PMC7837623.

Cited by:

1. Peer Reviewed Articles

- a. Spencer E, Riner, Akiv J, Dawson, Jessica Smith Schwind, Amanda Graham, Chad Posick, [Child sexual abuse reporting: Trends and challenges before, during, and after COVID-19 school closures in Georgia, USA](#), *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Volume 164, 2025, 107434, ISSN 0145-2134
- b. McDowell H, Barriault S, Afifi TO, Romano E, Racine N. [Child maltreatment during the COVID-19 pandemic: implications for child and adolescent mental health](#). *Front Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2024 Jul 3;3:1415497. doi: 10.3389/frcha.2024.1415497. PMID: 39839317; PMCID: PMC11747916.
- c. Salgado M, Neves S, Silva E. [Professionals' Perspectives on the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic among Child and Adolescent Victims of Domestic Violence Living in the Portuguese Residential Foster Care System](#). *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2023 May 15;20(10):5826. doi: 10.3390/ijerph20105826. PMID: 37239553; PMCID: PMC10217874.
- d. Paramasivan K, Raj B, Sudarasanam N, Subburaj R. [Prolonged school closure during the pandemic time in successive waves of COVID-19- vulnerability of children to sexual abuses - A case study in Tamil Nadu, India](#). *Heliyon*. 2023 Jun 30;9(7):e17865. doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e17865. PMID: 37456023; PMCID: PMC10339019.
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 - j. Nguyen LH. [The impact of the resumption of in-person school attendance on COVID-affected child abuse and neglect trends in Florida](#). Child Abuse Negl. 2022 Jul;129:105658. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105658. Epub 2022 May 1. PMID: 35509142; PMCID: PMC9056707.
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 - m. Katz, C., & Cohen, N. (2022). [Communities' Lockdown and the Challenge of Keeping Children Safe: What Have We Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic?](#) In Child Maltreatment: Contemporary Issues in Research and Policy (pp. 155-171). (Child Maltreatment: Contemporary Issues in Research and Policy; Vol. 15). Springer Nature. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-93096-7_10
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 - o. Park, Keunhye & Victor, Bryan & Perron, Brian & Ryan, Joseph & Braun, Brianna. (2022). [Persistent racial disproportionality in investigated and substantiated child maltreatment reports: Trend analysis before and during the COVID-19 pandemic \(2019–2020\)](#). Journal of Public Child Welfare. 10.1080/15548732.2022.2153960.
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 - r. Xu Y, Jedwab M, Soto-Ramírez N, Levkoff SE, Wu Q. [Material hardship and child neglect risk amidst COVID-19 in grandparent-headed kinship families: The role of financial assistance](#). Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Nov;121:105258. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105258. Epub 2021 Aug 19. PMID: 34419900; PMCID: PMC8494652.
 - s. Frimpong-Manso, Kwabena & Cudjoe, Ebenezer & Abdullah, Alhassan & Deliege, Antoine & Eshun, Esther. (2021). [Keeping families afloat: Foster carer's parenting experiences during COVID-19 in Ghana and implications for practice](#). Developmental Child Welfare. 3. 85-99. 10.1177/25161032211019048.
 - t. Kaila Witkowski, Jungwon Yeo, Sara Belligoni, N. Emel Ganapati, Tanya Corbin & Fernando Rivera (2021) [Florida as a COVID-19 Epicenter: Exploring the Role of Institutions in the State's Response](#), International Journal of Public Administration, DOI: 10.1080/01900692.2021.2001013
 - u. Levandowski, Mateus & Stahnke, Douglas & Munhoz, Tiago & Von Hohendorff, Jean & Salvador-Silva, Roberta. (2021). [Proteção infantil durante a COVID-19: até quando os casos de maus-tratos infantis continuarão sendo subnotificados?](#). Cadernos de Saúde Pública. 37. 10.1590/0102-311x00078421.
 - v. Katz C, Fallon B. [Protecting children from maltreatment during COVID-19: Struggling to see children and their families through the lockdowns](#). Child Abuse Negl. 2021 Jun;116(Pt 2):105084. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105084. Epub 2021 Apr 27. PMID: 33933291; PMCID: PMC8080166.
2. Law Reviews
 - a. Annie Isabel Fukushima & Jens Nilson, Kaden Richards, [Seeing Race & Sexuality: Child Welfare & Forced Labor](#), 77 Ark. L. Rev. 283 (2024)
 3. Governmental and NGO Reports
 - a. [Children: the hidden pandemic 2021: a joint report of COVID-19- associated orphanhood and a strategy for action](#) (Center for Disease Control)
 - b. [Konsekvenser av covid-19-pandemien for barn og unges liv og psykiske helse](#) (January 2021) (Norwegian Institute of Public Health)

[Covid-19 Reflections on Resilience and Reform in the Child Welfare System](#), 48 Fordham Urb. L.J. 95 (2020) (with Kele Stewart)

Cited by:

1. Robyn M. Powell, [Under the Watchful Eye of All: Disabled Parents and the Family Policing System's Web of Surveillance](#), 112 Calif. L. Rev. 2005 (2024)
2. Katie Louras, [The Runaway Train of Mandated Reporting](#), 61 San Diego L. Rev. 137 (2024)
3. Meredith Johnson Harbach, *Parens Patriae After the Pandemic*, 101 N.C.L. Rev. 1427 (2023)

4. Barbara Fedders, [*The Anti-Parent Juvenile Court*](#), 69 UCLA L. Rev. 746 (2022)
5. S. Lisa Washington, [*Survived & Coerced: Epistemic Injustice in the Family Regulation System*](#), 122 Colum. L. Rev. 1097 (2022)
6. Felice Batlan, [*Juvenile Protection Courts and the Pandemic: A View from Inside Out*](#), 18 U. St. Thomas L.J. 272 (2022)
7. S. Lisa Washington, [*Survived & Coerced: Epistemic Injustice in the Family Regulation System*](#), 122 Colum. L. Rev. 1097, 1128 (2022)
8. Robyn M. Powell, [*Achieving Justice for Disabled Parents and Their Children: An Abolitionist Approach*](#), 33 Yale J.L. & Feminism 37, 102 (2022)
9. Megan Schmidt, [*The Hidden Foster Care System: A Parallel System in Legal Limbo During A Deadly Pandemic*](#), 12 U. Miami Race & Soc. Just. L. Rev. 141 (2021)
10. Kelly, L. (2021). [*Abolition or Reform: Confronting the Symbiotic Relationship between "Child Welfare" and the Carceral State*](#). Stan. JCR & CL, 17, 255.
11. Sundquist, C. (2021). [*Pandemic Policing*](#). Georgia State University Law Review, 37(4), 1339-1359.
12. Powell, R. (2021). [*Achieving Justice for Disabled Parents and Their Children: An Abolitionist Approach*](#). Yale Journal of Law & Feminism, Forthcoming.

[*The Potential of Florida's Effective Assistance of Counsel Doctrine to Increase Parent Engagement and Promote the Well-Being of Children*](#). 17 Fla. Coastal L. Rev. 109 (2015) (with Robin Rosenberg)

Cited by:

1. Charisa Smith, [*A Post-Dobbs Future: Bailing Water Downstream to Center Democracy's Children*](#), 54 Seton Hall L. Rev. 747 (2024)
2. Charisa Smith, [*Over-Privileged: Legal Cannabis, Drug Offending & the Right to Family Integrity*](#), 67 S.D.L. Rev. 569 (2022)
3. Charisa Smith, [*From Empathy Gap to Reparations: An Analysis of Caregiving, Criminalization, and Family Empowerment*](#), 90 Fordham L. Rev. 2621 (2022)
4. Haas, T., [*Advocating for Parents in Rural America: A Best Practices Approach*](#). American Bar Association (2017)

SERVICE

Community Legal Needs

Developmental Disability Advocacy Strategy Group

MEMBER

STATEWIDE, FL
September 2021 - Present

The group supports attorneys handling benefits cases involving clients with developmental disabilities.

Foster Fairness / Florida Children's Rights Coalition

MEMBER

STATEWIDE, FL
June 2020 - Present

The projects seek to improve the quality of legal representation of children in foster care. I provide data, legal, and strategic support.

Media coverage: [Florida foster care agency has more staff but serves fewer children, report says](#) (Tampa Bay Times, January 17, 2021)

Family Equity Project

MEMBER

STATEWIDE, FL
June 2020 - Defunct

The Project seeks to reduce race inequities in the Foster Care System. I participate and provide technical assistance on data and legal research to the Project and the wider community.

Restorative Justice Pilot Project

CONSULTANT

BROWARD COUNTY, FL
May 2019

The Project studies the effects of restorative justice models on outcomes for children aging out of foster care. I serve as a consultant providing technical guidance, data analysis, and legal research. This is a collaboration with M. Green of Legal Aid Service of Broward County and M. Castro, A. Yehl, T. Kushner, J. Pann of Nova Southeastern University.

Media coverage: "[For older foster kids, HOPE can be the best restorative](#)" (August 14, 2020).

Florida Youth Shine

MENTOR

MIAMI, FL
Winter 2014 – Summer 2022

FYS is a statewide youth-led advocacy organization for foster children. I served as a chapter mentor and statewide mentor providing skills training and policy and legal analysis.

Media coverage: "[Report: Florida Foster Youth Often Refuse Placement After Being Moved Dozens of Times](#)" (January 29, 2020); "[Children's Week Underway at Florida](#)

[Capitol](#)” (March 25, 2019); “[Foster youth advocate to change the system that raised them](#)” (May 7, 2016)

Florida Attorneys for Unaccompanied Minors

MEMBER

MIAMI, FL

Approx. 2014 – April 2017

The project was an *ad hoc* group of attorneys handling cases involving unaccompanied minors in Florida’s child welfare system. I provided technical assistance, legal research, and policy analysis in furtherance of a coordinated litigation strategy, culminating in [B.R.C.M. v. Department of Children & Families](#), 215 So. 3d 1219 (Fla. 2017).

Media coverage: “Florida Judges Are Turning Their Backs on Abused Young Immigrants” (January 22, 2018) ([thenation.com](#))

Youth Homelessness Initiative / Miami Homes for All

CO-CHAIR

MIAMI, FL

January 2014 – April 2018

The Initiative is a collective impact cooperative seeking to eliminate youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County. I served as a sub-committee co-chair providing organizational and technical assistance for the Permanent Connections subcommittee.

LGBTQ Child Welfare Workgroup

CO-CHAIR

STATEWIDE FLORIDA

July 2011 – Defunct

The Workgroup was originally a subcommittee of the Florida Bar Foundation’s Children’s Legal Services Grantees. Over time, the workgroup became a separate body coordinating policy analysis, training, and advocacy campaigns for a statewide coalition of advocates.

Media coverage: “New rules bring focus to LGBT youth in foster care in Florida,” News Service of Florida (July 13, 2015) ([Florida Times-Union, news-press.com](#)); “DCF retreats from protections for LGBT foster kids” (April 7, 2016) ([orlandosentinel.com](#))

Academic study: Matt J. Barnett, [Queering the Welfare State: Paradigmatic Heteronormativity After Obergefell](#), 93 N.Y.U.L. Rev. 1633 (2018) (student note).

Facilitator, Monthly Support Group for Miami Children’s Attorneys (July 2024 - present)

Board Member, Parent Advocates for Transformation and Health (P.A.T.H.) (August 2024 - present)

Member of the Miami Dependency Workgroup on Psychotropic Medication, February 2009, Miami, FL.

Member of the Guardian ad Litem Program Disability Summit Steering Committee in Summer 2013.

Volunteer facilitator for Walk a Miles in Their Shoes training for The National Coalition for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, May 2019, Miami, FL.

Facilitated discussion group for transgender and gender nonconforming youth with L. Woolston at Transpire 2019, Orlando, FL.

National and State Academic Community

Rule of Law Enforcement and Reform

Child Welfare Public Records Project

CREATOR, DIRECTOR

STATEWIDE, FL
May 2017 – Present

The project uses public records laws to collect, analyze, and produce databases for use in media, advocacy, and research projects. Its largest dataset is currently the [Public Florida FSFN Database](#), a collection of anonymized case information on every foster child in Florida.

Media coverage:

- [“Fewer kids entering foster care raises concerns for psychologist”](#) (FIU News, January 27, 2021)
- [“Florida took thousands of kids from families, then failed to keep them safe”](#) (USA Today, October 16, 2020)
- [“New report says foster care system is failing Hillsborough County teens”](#) (ABC News, February 11, 2020)
- [“Report: Florida Foster Youth Often Refuse Placement After Being Moved Dozens of Times”](#) (WFSU, January 29, 2020)
- [“Meet Anber, a teen who struggles with mental health. Did the system fail her?”](#) (USA Today - News-Press, January 6, 2020)
- [“Problem foster kids could be locked up in ‘secure’ facility under new plan pushed by Tampa Bay child welfare agency”](#) (Tampa Bay Times, September 9, 2019)
- [“Innovative Project Maps the Movement of Foster Care”](#) (Chronicle of Social Change, January 22, 2019)
- [“Bill to Conceal names of foster parents would hamper accountability, critics say”](#) (Tampa Bay Times, March 21, 2019)

Institutional Service

Barry University School of Social Work

FIELD PLACEMENT SUPERVISOR

MIAMI, FL

Fall 2013 – Halted due to COVID

Our clinic accepts Masters Level Social Work students as interns. I provide task direction, training, and oversight.

University of Miami Learning Community (PETAL): Experiential Inquiry & Story-Centered Teaching (Fall 2025)

1L Relaunch Facilitator, 2025-2026

Co-organized clinic fall semester kickoff event, August 2025

Participated in Pedagogy Sessions led by Charlton Copeland, August 2025

Participated in Miami Law Explainer Podcast on *State Of Texas v. Becerra*, October 2024)

Participated in Faculty Pedagogy Retreat, May 2024

Presenter at *Towards Abolishing the Family Policing System* conference at Miami Law, April 2024

Presenter at Transfer Student Orientation, 2022 - present

Chair of Ad Hoc Committee for Hiring Director of Externships Program. August - December 2022.

Member of Intellectual Life Committee. August 2022.

Participated in UM Law Podcast on *The Case of Syesha Mercado*. September 2021.

Participated in UM Law Podcast on *Fulton*. November 2020.

Presented Living Law Talk. *Outlawing Risk*. UM Law. August 2020. ([Powerpoint](#))

Presented at *Gigabytes for Good* Lecture Series, UM Center for Computational Science, November 1, 2019. ([Powerpoint](#))

Facilitator for Legal Impact Hack on Risk Assessment in the Law, for Miami Law Orientation, August 2019.

Faculty advisor for the student Alliance Against Human Trafficking, March 2018 to present

Participated in panel *Social Justice in the Time of Trump*. February 2017.

Oral argument judge for LCOM from 2012 to present (when needed).

Managed UM Law clinical information technology projects (2011 - present)

Presented *The Limits of Representational Advocacy* to the Miami Law Summer Public Interests Fellows Program, June 2014.

Contributed to *Marriage Equality Series: Practical Implications for a Post-DOMA Landscape* with Z. Fenton, M.A. Franks, S. Bernstein, hosted by the University of Miami School of Law, February 2014.

Contributed to *The Ins-and-Outs of Child Advocacy* with Schwartz, E., Vigil, A., Gowen, K., hosted by the Miami Law Child Advocacy and Family Law Society, September 2013.

Contributed to *LGBTQ Advocacy Panel*, with Brenna Munro, Ph.D., hosted by the University of Miami Social Justice Week, January 2013.

Cast member in production of “8” at Miami Law, January 2013.

Contributed to *Adopting a New Stance on Adoption: A discussion on the new development to Florida Gay Adoption Law* with Gill, M., Schwartz, E., Matas, R., Franks, M.A., hosted by the Miami Law Child Advocacy and Family Law Society, November 2012.

Moderated *The Future of Children’s Rights* panel, hosted by University of Miami School of Law, February 2012.

Guest taught *Involuntary Civil Commitment of Children* for the Children & the Law Seminar, Fall 2011.

Co-Chair of the University of Michigan *Mental Health Initiative*, 2006-2007.

Site Leader for University of Michigan *Street Law*, 2006-2007.

Secretary for University of Michigan *OUTLaws*, 2005-2007.

Mentor, Emma Rice, Social Justice Concentration (2025)

Paper supervisor, Mayle Castillo-Alarcon, Spring 2025: *The Constitutional Limits of Restricting*

Birthright Citizenship: Analyzing the Fourteenth Amendment's Protection of Children Born to Undocumented Immigrants in the United States

Paper supervisor, Maycee Duke, Summer 2024: *Severed ties: Addressing Post-Adoption Sibling Visitation in Florida*

Paper supervisor, Angelina Petrosova, Fall 2022: *The Problems of Refugee Children and the Impact on Their Mental Health*

Paper supervisor, Maritza Fernandez, Spring 2022: *The Invisible Harm: How the Best Interests Standard Fails to Address LGBTQIA+ Children's Needs in the United States Foster Care System*

University of Miami

Curriculum Vitae

1. Date: February 5, 2026, updated March 25, 2026

PERSONAL

2. Name: Robert A. Latham
3. Email Address: rlatham@law.miami.edu
4. Current Academic Rank: Lecturer
5. Primary Department: School of Law, Children & Youth Law Clinic
6. Secondary or Joint Appointments: None

HIGHER EDUCATION

7. Institutional:
 - University of Michigan Law School; J.D. cum laude; May 2007
 - University of Texas at Austin; B.S., Computer Science; May 2003
 - University of Texas at Austin; B.A. with Honors, Linguistics; May 2003
8. Non-Institutional: None
9. Certification, licensure:
 - Florida Bar; admitted 2007, Administrative Law Section, Public Interest Law Section

EXPERIENCE

10. Academic:
 - University of Miami School of Law; Lecturer, Practitioner-in-Residence, Associate Director, Children & Youth Law Clinic; July 2011–present

11. Non-Academic:

- Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL; Senior Program Attorney, Trial Specialist; November 2007–July 2011

12. Military: None

PUBLICATIONS

13. Books and monographs published: None

14. Juried or refereed journal articles and exhibitions:

- Musser ED, Riopelle C, Latham R. "Child maltreatment in the time of COVID-19: Changes in the Florida foster care system surrounding the COVID-19 safer-at-home order." *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 2021 Jun;116(Pt 2):104945.

Cited by 25+ peer reviewed articles, law review articles, and governmental reports.

15. Other works, publications and abstracts:

Law Review Articles

- Stewart K., Latham R, "Covid-19 Reflections on Resilience and Reform in the Child Welfare System." 48 *Fordham Urb. L.J.* 95 (2020).

Cited by 12 law review articles.

- Latham R, Rosenberg R. "The Potential of Florida's Effective Assistance of Counsel Doctrine to Increase Parent Engagement and Promote the Well-Being of Children." 17 *Fla. Coastal L. Rev.* 109 (2015).

Cited by 4 law review articles.

White Papers & Reports

- "Arbitrary Denials and Unfair Outcomes in Florida's iBudget Eligibility Process" (forthcoming March 2026), with J. Khan, C. Riopelle, E. Musser.
- "The 'Child Welfare' System: What to Know and Where to Go for More" (February 2026), with Center for Just Journalism, Movement for Family Power, Illinois Black Advocacy, Civil Rights Corps.
- "Educational achievement of foster children in Miami with placement in a correctional setting." Report (January 2021).
- "Data Overview on Racial Inequity in Florida's Foster Care System" (March 2021), with

K. Stewart.

- "A data study of foster children who refused placement in Hillsborough County." Report (December 2019).

Cited by Florida Senate Bill Analysis for SB 1582.

Administrative Rule Comments

- Joint Comment in Opposition to Changes to Florida Administrative Code 65C-46 on Care for LGBTQ+ Youth (February 2025)
- Comment in Opposition to Changes to Florida Rule of Professional Conduct 4-1.6 on attorney-client confidentiality for children (February 2025)
- Joint Comments to DCF re: Florida Administrative Code on Master Trust (April 2024)
- Comments to APD re: Florida Administrative Code on changes to HCBS Waiver Program (May 2022)
- Comments to DCF re: Florida Administrative Code 65C-41 on Extended Foster Care eligibility (2018)
- Comments to DCF re: Florida Administrative Code on Alien Children (December 2016)
- Joint Comments to DCF re: Florida Administrative Code 65C-28 on Protections for LGBTQ+ Youth (December 2015), with C. Cook
- Joint Comments to DCF re: Florida Administrative Code 65C-14 on Protections for LGBTQ+ Youth in Group Care (June 2015), with C. Cook

Policy Commentary

- "The Supreme Court Doesn't See Children." Newsletter (June 2025)
- "Troubled Teens, Inc." Newsletter (November 2024)
- "Racial Disparity, Revisited." Newsletter (October 2024)
- "A starter reading list on how child welfare policies harm Black people, families, and communities." Blog post (June 2020). Cited in Nancy D. Polikoff & Jane M. Spinak, *Foreword: Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being*, 11 Colum. J. Race & L. 427 (2021); required reading at Hunter College School of Social Work.
- "What happened in March?" Blog post (April 2020). Cited by The Marshall Project.
- "54 pages about 49 kids: The children who refused placement in Hillsborough County." Blog post (January 2020). Cited in Kele M. Stewart, *Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being: Dismantling the Inequitable Intersections Among Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and*

Education, 12 Colum. J. Race & L. 1 (2022).

- "A Reluctant Post about the Guardian ad Litem Program." Blog post (2019).
- "This is not okay – Visualizing foster care placement instability." Blog post (2019).
- "A Child Welfare System that Lost its Way." Florida Family Law Section Commentator (2015).
- "Spate of Avoidable Child Deaths Brings Changes to Child Protection Law." The Florida Public Interest Journal, Vol. 1, Issue 2 (2012).

Amicus Briefs

- Youth & Family Alternatives, Inc. v. D.T., 49 Fla. L. Weekly D1006 (Fla. 2d DCA 2024), amicus co-author.
- B.R.C.M. v. Florida Dep't of Children & Families, 215 So. 3d 1219 (Fla. 2017), amicus co-author.

16. Other works accepted for publication: None

PROFESSIONAL

17. Funded Research Performed: None

18. Editorial responsibilities: None

19. Professional and Honorary Organizations:

- Clinical Legal Education Association; member; 2011–present
- Florida Bar; member; 2007–present

20. Honors and Awards:

- Cindy Lederman Humanitarian Hero Award, Miami-Dade County Community Based Care Alliance, February 2026
- Child Advocate of the Year, Florida's Children First, 2022
- Fearless Children's Lawyer of the Month, American Bar Association, November 2020
- 40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of South Florida, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 2019
- Florida Trailblazer Award, Daily Business Review, 2019
- Excellence in Advocacy Award, Statewide Guardian ad Litem Program, 2016

- Outstanding Performance Award, Guardian ad Litem Program, November 2009
- Irving Stenn, Jr. Award, University of Michigan Law School, May 2007
- Book Award in Fourteenth Amendment, Professor Mark Rosenbaum, 2006

21. Post-Doctoral Fellowships: None

22. Other Professional Activities:

Legislative & Administrative Testimony & Reports

- "A Study of Denials of Florida HCBS Waiver Eligibility." Presentation to National Council on Disability (January 2026)
- "Child Representation in the Foster Care System." Presentation to Florida Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (February 2021)
- Letter to OPPAGA re: research on child representation models (September 2021)
- "Refusing Placements in Hillsborough County: A Data Study." Presentation to Florida Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (January 2020)

Conference Presentations

- "Minimizing Court-Induced Trauma: Protecting and Empowering Vulnerable Children Through Due Process." Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Advanced Education Program, Orlando, FL (September 2024), with J. Dimitris, K. Plouffe
- "Representing the Whole Family." Guardian ad Litem Specialized Advocacy for Children Symposium, Orlando, FL (May 2019)
- "You Don't Have to Do It Alone – Building an Advocacy Team with Due Process Services for Attorneys." Guardian ad Litem Specialized Advocacy for Children Symposium, Orlando, FL (May 2018)
- "Florida Youth Shine Panel." Panel moderator, Miami Regional Child Welfare Conference (December 2017)
- "Attorney for Kids: Good for Kids, Good for You." Florida Dependency Summit, Orlando, FL (August 2017), with C. McCarthy, T. Colado
- "Questions Asked & Answered – Attorneys for Children with Special Needs." Plenary panel, Guardian ad Litem Specialized Advocacy for Children Symposium, Orlando, FL (May 2017)
- "Recommended Practices for Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ / TGNC Youth." Child Protection Summit, Orlando, FL (September 2015), with C. Cook

- "Advocating for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth in Care." Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association Conference, Orlando, FL (June 2015)
- "Psychotropic Medication - Perspectives from Inside the System." Florida Disability Conference, Orlando, FL (May 2015)
- "Beyond Acceptance: Identity Affirming Services for LGBTQ Youth with Disabilities." Florida Disabilities Conference, Orlando, FL (May 2014), with C. Silva, D. Tilley, D. Foxworth
- "Representing LGBTQ Youth." Florida Bar Children's Legal Services Grantees Conference, Tampa, FL (September 2012), with J. Rae
- "Litigation and Advocacy Strategies in Psychotropic Medication Cases." Statewide Florida Dependency Summit, Orlando, FL (August 2010)
- "Psychotropic Medication Four Years Later: Law, Ethics, & Best Practices for Non-Medical Professionals." Statewide Florida Dependency Summit, Orlando, FL (August 2009), with Judge N. Sayfie, E. Jacobo

Trainings, Webinars, & Community Presentations

- "Effective Advocacy in Rules Workshops." The Arc of Florida (December 2024)
- "Legal Services for Minors." Gulf Coast Legal Services (July 2024), with L. Aldrich
- "The Role of Counsel for Children, by Counsel for Children." 11th Judicial Circuit Lunch & Learn (June 2024), with Cuban American Bar Association and Florida's Children First
- "Legislative Update." Florida Foster Care Review (August 2023)
- "Florida Judicial Bypass Training." The Jane Network (April 2023)
- "Clinical Scientists in the Law." FIU Clinical Science Program Professional Development Seminar (April 2023), with L. McGivern
- "What's Your Role?" Plenary Panel, Community-Based Care Alliance 17th Annual Regional Conference (January 2023)
- "Race Equity - Connecting Policy to Outcomes." Community-Based Care Alliance, Miami, FL (March 2021), with K. Stewart
- "Advanced Training Institute." Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL (November 2020), with P. Velazquez
- "Legal Options for Caregivers of Minor Children." Department of Children and Families, Miami, FL (September 2020), with K. Stewart
- "Meaningful Youth Engagement in a Virtual Legal World." National Association of

Counsel for Children (August 2020), with S. Mahadev, D. Townsend

- "Refusing Placements in Hillsborough County." Presentation to Hillsborough County Children's Alliance (February 2020)
- "Dependency Law Overview." Cuban American Bar Association, Miami, FL (December 2019), with K. Stewart, B. Perlmutter
- "The Ethics of Child Representation." Dade County Bar Association, Miami, FL (March 2019)
- "Pro Bono Panel on Representing Children." American Inns of Court (Spellman-Hoeveler Chapter), Miami, FL (March 2019), with J. Cohen, A. Vigil, H. Creary, et al.
- "Psychotropic Medication Training." Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL (February 2019), with T. Hunter
- "Dependency Law Overview." Legal Services of Greater Miami (November 2018)
- "Updates in Florida Dependency Law." Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL (September 2018)
- "Lambda Panel: Advocating for LGBTQ Youth in Out-of-home Care." Pridelines, Miami, FL (June 2018), with J. Tormes
- "Becoming a Guardian ad Litem – Why LGBTQ Representation Matters." 11th Judicial Circuit GAL Program, Miami, FL (June 2018), with L. Woolston, et al.
- "Community Discussion on Foster Shock." Barry University School of Social Work (April 2018), with M. Frankel, K. Anthony
- "LGBTQ Child Welfare Training." Sumter County Guardian ad Litem Program (March 2018), with C. Cook
- "LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Policy and Practice." Capital City Youth Services, Tallahassee, FL (February 2018), with C. Cook
- "LGBTQ Youth and Families in Florida's Child Welfare System." Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, West Palm Beach, FL (October 2017), with C. Cook
- "Navigating Medicaid Managed Care." Florida Youth Shine (January 2017), with T. Pollard
- "Supporting LGBTQ and Gender Diverse Youth in Out-of-Home Care." Quality Parenting Initiative webinar (February 2016), with C. Cook
- "Advocating for LGBTQ Youth and Caregivers in Child Welfare." Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL (June 2015)
- "Dependency Law Overview for Immigration Attorneys." Catholic Charities of Miami, FL (June 2015)

- "Changes to Independent Living Law." Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL (May 2015)
- "Dependency Law Overview for Immigration Attorneys." Americans for Immigrant Justice, Miami, FL (March 2015)
- "Special Immigrant Juvenile Status." Americans for Immigrant Justice (May 2014), with M. Gundrum, R. Rodriguez
- "Psychotropic Medication Panel." Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL (April 2014), with T. Hunter, MD
- "Psychotropic Medication Law & Advocacy." Guardian ad Litem Program Pro Bono Training Series (February 2014)
- "The New Independent Living Program." Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL (January 2014), with K. Stewart, M. Dunlavy
- "Out with the Old: Independent Living Changes in Florida." Florida Foster Care Review, Miami, FL (September 2013)
- "Agency for Persons with Disabilities and AHCA Issues in Dependency Court." Children's Legal Services, Miami, FL (May 2013)
- "Representing LGBTQ Youth in Florida." Children's Legal Services, Tampa, FL (February 2013), with J. Rae
- "Healthcare Advocacy for Dependent Children." Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, Miami, FL (August 2012)
- "Involuntary Commitment of Children." Lawyers for Children America, Miami, FL (July 2012)
- "Psychotropic Medication Advocacy." Guardian ad Litem Program, Miami, FL (February 2012)

Advocacy Projects - Current

- Child Welfare Public Records Project, Creator & Director (May 2017–present). Statewide database of anonymized foster care records extensively supporting journalism, research, and policy reform.
- Member, Developmental Disability Advocacy Strategy Group (September 2021–present)
- Member, Foster Fairness / Florida Children's Rights Coalition (June 2020–present)
- Next friend, *H.G. v. Carroll*, federal class action on foster care conditions resulting in settlement and consent decree (2018–present)

Advocacy Projects - Past

- Member, Family Equity Project (June 2020–defunct). Statewide project to reduce race inequities in the foster care system.
- Florida Attorneys for Unaccompanied Minors (2014–2017). Support and coordination for litigation culminating in *B.R.C.M. v. DCF*, 215 So. 3d 1219 (Fla. 2017) (reversing trial court's summary denial of dependency petition for unaccompanied youth).
- LGBTQ Child Welfare Workgroup, Co-Chair (2011–defunct). Statewide coalition achieving administrative code amendments on safe placement of LGBTQ youth.

Media Appearances - National

- "When home isn't safe: Missy Mogle tragedy came amid child protective investigator crunch." USA Today (July 28, 2025)
- "Florida legislators advance bill to loosen restrictions on child labor." Marketplace (March 28, 2025)
- "How Some Christian Group Homes Avoid Florida's Standards." New York Times (January 24, 2025) (contributed data)
- "Taxpayer Spending on Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Foster Kids Surges, but Evaluation Lags." The Imprint (January 30, 2024)
- "In Florida, showing mental health struggles could get a child detained." Washington Post (March 16, 2023)
- "Child Welfare Challenges in the Sunshine State." The Imprint (April 25, 2021)
- "Florida took thousands of kids from families, then failed to keep them safe." USA Today (October 16, 2020)
- "Innovative Project Maps the Movement of Foster Care." Chronicle of Social Change (January 22, 2019)
- "Florida Judges Are Turning Their Backs on Abused Young Immigrants." The Nation (January 22, 2018)

Media Appearances - State

- "'Destined to fail': 5-year-old's murder exposes cracks in Florida child protection system." Tallahassee Democrat (July 28, 2025)
- "Trump administration targets Florida foster kids, migrant youth for deportations." Miami Herald (June 25, 2025)
- "Florida child welfare agency calls ICE on teen migrant in foster care, sparking

criticism." Miami Herald (June 11, 2025)

- "DCF pushes back on Franklin County sheriff who is calling for more child protective investigators." WFSU (November 26, 2024)
- "Innocence Sold: Florida's foster system provides dangerous sex traffickers with easy access to vulnerable children." South Florida Sun-Sentinel (November 27, 2022)
- "Pinellas sheriff blasts foster agency, but his office removed children at Florida's highest rate." Tampa Bay Times (December 21, 2021)
- "Replacing Eckerd Connects won't fix systemic failures in foster care, watchdogs say." Florida Politics (December 1, 2021)
- "New Study on Foster Care." Sundial - WLRN (February 1, 2021)
- "Child abuse reports fall in Florida, raising concerns about at-risk kids." Tampa Bay Times (May 2020)
- "New report says foster care system is failing Hillsborough County teens." ABC Action News (February 11, 2020)
- "Report: Florida Foster Youth Often Refuse Placement After Being Moved Dozens of Times." WFSU (January 29, 2020)
- "Bill to Conceal names of foster parents would hamper accountability, critics say." Tampa Bay Times (March 21, 2019)
- "Adoption fight pits great-aunt against child welfare worker." Herald-Tribune (December 9, 2018)
- "Kids in foster care aren't getting the care they need. That's why we're suing DCF." Miami Herald (2018) (op-ed, with B. Perlmutter, S. Cooke)
- "Lawyers honored for advocacy for children with special needs." Florida Bar News (December 15, 2016)
- "DCF retreats from protections for LGBT foster kids." Orlando Sentinel (April 7, 2016)
- "New rules bring focus to LGBT youth in foster care in Florida." News Service of Florida (July 13, 2015)
- "Statewide GAL Stands Ready to Assist." Florida Bar News (September 1, 2014)

Media Appearances - Other

- "The clueless CASA program of Florida." NCCPR Child Welfare Blog (January 21, 2021)
- "A CASA program's new low." NCCPR Child Welfare Blog (July 2, 2019)

- "With no evidence whatsoever that its multi-million dollar program works, a giant CASA program sinks to fearmongering." NCCPR Child Welfare Blog (July 1, 2019)
- Mentioned in Rogers, Scott. "The Mindful Law School: An Integrative Approach to Transforming Legal Education." 28 Touro Law Review 1189 (2012)
- Mentioned in Perlmutter, Bernard. "More Therapeutic, Less Collaborative? Asserting the Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege on Behalf of Mature Minors." 17 Barry L. Rev. 45 (2011)

Reported Cases

- S.F. v. Agency for Persons with Disabilities, 3D23-1600, 2024 WL 3280617 (Fla. 3d DCA July 3, 2024). Affirmance of revocation of HCBS benefits.
- A.V.F. v. A.V.F., 367 So. 3d 484 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023). Per curiam affirmance on challenge to sufficiency of evidence to support residential treatment.
- W.R. v. Dep't of Children & Families, 315 So. 3d 87 (Fla. 3d DCA 2020). Per curiam affirmance of adjudication of dependency.
- Mendez v. Mendez Lopez, 271 So. 3d 72 (Fla. 3d DCA 2019). Reversal with opinion of order dismissing petition for temporary custody of non-citizen child.
- A.R. v. Dep't of Children & Families, 261 So. 3d 551 (Fla. 3d DCA 2019). Per curiam affirmance denying challenge to termination of parental rights.
- N.A. v. Dep't of Children & Families, 255 So. 3d 518 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Per curiam affirmance.
- R.M.V. v. Dep't of Children & Families, 255 So. 3d 518 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Per curiam affirmance.
- M.T. v. Dep't of Children & Families, 255 So. 3d 304 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Per curiam affirmance.
- Florida Dep't of Children & Families v. A.R., 253 So. 3d 1158 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018). Reversal with opinion of order denying termination of parental rights.
- E.G. v. Dep't of Children, 193 So. 3d 78 (Fla. 3d DCA 2016). Reversal with opinion of trial court order requiring youth to voluntarily submit to involuntary treatment.
- J.J. v. Agency for Persons with Disabilities, 174 So. 3d 372 (Fla. 3d DCA 2014). Affirmance of administrative final order finding applicant ineligible for developmental disability services.
- Wade v. Dep't of Children & Families, 79 So. 3d 946 (Fla. 1st DCA 2012). Dismissal of petition for mandamus (co-author).

- J.C. v. Dep't of Children & Family Services, 26 So. 3d 665 (Fla. 3d DCA 2010). Reversal with opinion of termination of parental rights.

TEACHING

23. Teaching Awards Received:

- Hausler Golden Apple Award, Society of Bar & Gavel, April 2021

24. Teaching Specialization:

Courses Developed and Taught

- Children and the Law (Spring 2025–present). Designed upper-level course on statutory/regulatory research, collaborative writing, and policy advocacy. Enrollment: 16 students.
- Children & Youth Law Clinic Seminar (2011–present). Co-developed year-long seminar; primary responsibility for regulatory research and strategic case planning units. Enrollment: 16–24 students.
- Summer Children & Youth Law Clinic (2011–present). Independently designed condensed summer curriculum. Enrollment: 4–6 students.

Clinical Supervision

- Direct supervision of 8 academic-year and 4–6 summer students annually in dependency, disability rights, and public benefits proceedings.

Pedagogical Development

- University of Miami PETAL Learning Community: Experiential Inquiry & Story-Centered Teaching (Fall 2025)
- Pedagogy Sessions, Prof. Charlton Copeland (August 2025)
- Faculty Pedagogy Retreat (May 2024)

25. Thesis and Dissertation Advising:

- Tamara Greak, "A Socioecological Model for Understanding Racial Disparities in Child Maltreatment" (2025); committee member, subject matter expert

Independent Study Supervision (Selected)

- Mayle Castillo-Alarcon, "Constitutional Limits of Restricting Birthright Citizenship" (Spring 2025)
- Maycee Duke, "Severed Ties: Post-Adoption Sibling Visitation in Florida" (Summer 2024)
- Angelina Petrosova, "Problems of Refugee Children and Mental Health" (Fall 2022)
- Maritza Fernandez, "The Invisible Harm: Best Interests Standard and LGBTQIA+ Children" (Spring 2022)

Field Placement Supervision

- Barry University School of Social Work, MSW intern supervisor (Fall 2013–2020)

SERVICE

26. University Committee and Administrative Responsibilities:

Committee Service

- Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Hiring Director of Externships Program (August–December 2022)
- Member, Intellectual Life Committee (2022–2023)
- Doctoral Dissertation Committee, Tamara Greak (2025)

Institutional Programming

- 1L Relaunch Facilitator (2025–2026)
- Transfer Student Orientation presenter (2022–present)
- Faculty Advisor, Alliance Against Human Trafficking (2018–present)
- Oral Argument Judge, Litigation Skills Competition (2012–present)
- Clinical information technology management (2011–present)
- Presenter, "Towards Abolishing the Family Policing System" conference (April 2024)
- Living Law Talk, "Outlawing Risk" (August 2020)
- "Gigabytes for Good" Lecture Series, UM Center for Computational Science (November

2019)

- Legal Impact Hack facilitator, Miami Law Orientation (August 2019)
- "The Limits of Representational Advocacy." Miami Law Summer Public Interest Fellows Program (June 2014)
- "Marriage Equality Series: Practical Implications for a Post-DOMA Landscape." University of Miami School of Law (February 2014), with Z. Fenton, M.A. Franks, S. Bernstein
- "The Ins-and-Outs of Child Advocacy." Miami Law Child Advocacy and Family Law Society (September 2013), with E. Schwartz, A. Vigil, K. Gowen
- "LGBTQ Advocacy Panel." University of Miami Social Justice Week (January 2013), with B. Munro, Ph.D.
- Cast member, production of "8" at Miami Law (January 2013)
- "Adopting a New Stance on Adoption." Miami Law Child Advocacy and Family Law Society (November 2012), with M. Gill, E. Schwartz, R. Matas, M.A. Franks
- Moderator, "The Future of Children's Rights" panel (February 2012)
- Guest taught "Involuntary Civil Commitment of Children" for Children & the Law Seminar (Fall 2011)

Podcasts

- Miami Law Explainer: State of Texas v. Becerra (October 2024)
- UM Law Podcast: The Case of Syesha Mercado (September 2021)
- UM Law Podcast: Fulton (November 2020)

27. Community Activities:

Community Activities - Current

- Board Member, Parent Advocates for Transformation and Health (P.A.T.H.) (August 2024–present). Organization cultivating parent leadership and community power to advance justice-centered alternatives to the family policing system.
- Facilitator, Monthly Support Group for Miami Children's Attorneys (July 2024–present)

Community Activities - Past

- Consultant, Restorative Justice Pilot Project, Broward County (May 2019). Collaboration with Legal Aid Service of Broward County and Nova Southeastern University.
- Mentor, Florida Youth Shine (Winter 2014–Summer 2022). Youth-led advocacy

organization for foster children.

- Co-Chair, Youth Homelessness Initiative / Miami Homes for All, Permanent Connections subcommittee (January 2014–April 2018)
- Member, Guardian ad Litem Program Disability Summit Steering Committee (Summer 2013)
- Member, Miami Dependency Workgroup on Psychotropic Medication (February 2009)
- Volunteer facilitator, "Walk a Mile in Their Shoes" training, National Coalition for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (May 2019)
- Facilitator, discussion group for transgender and gender nonconforming youth, Transpire 2019, Orlando, FL, with L. Woolston