

# CHRISTINA D. GHIO

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## EDUCATION

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Juris Doctor, Georgetown University Law Center 1996  
Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, Central Connecticut State University 1993

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**The Law Office of Christina D. Ghio, LLC** 2010 to present  
Windsor, Connecticut

- Represent children, through their parents, in matters involving education, special education, disability discrimination, and civil rights
- Represent children in child welfare appeals before the Connecticut Appellate and Supreme Courts
- Represent children in matters involving juvenile justice
- Represent grandparents and other relatives seeking to intervene for the purpose of obtaining custody of children removed from the custody of their parents and placed in foster care by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Represent foster and pre-adoptive parents in matters related to children under the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), including representation related to open adoption agreements

**Legislative and Administrative Advisor** 2006 - 2010  
Office of the Child Advocate  
Hartford, Connecticut

- Directed agency legislative efforts by soliciting input from staff, drafting legislation, preparing written testimony, and educating members of the General Assembly, agency heads, and members of the community
- Represented the Child Advocate in the federal class action *W.R., et al v. Connecticut Department of Children and Families*
- Conducted investigations of state funded entities providing services to children, including child welfare, juvenile justice, child care, health care, education, and mental health services, and made recommendations for improvement and remedial actions when necessary

**Director, Child Abuse Project**  
Center for Children's Advocacy  
Hartford, Connecticut

**2001 - 2006**

- Advocated for improvements in state systems affecting children by proposing and commenting on legislation and regulations, including a successful effort in 2005 to establish through legislation the Commission on Child Protection
- Organized and provided training and technical support to attorneys representing parents and children in child abuse and neglect proceedings, including 2004 and 2005 new attorney trainings: "Providing Effective Legal Representation in Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings," and the 2005 Mentor Pilot Project
- Represented children in child abuse and neglect and families with service needs proceedings
- Represented children with disabilities in civil litigation under the American with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

**Staff Attorney**  
Disabilities Rights Center, Inc.  
Concord, New Hampshire

**2000 - 2001**

- Represented children and adults with disabilities in civil litigation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other federal and state statutes that protect individuals against discrimination based on disabilities
- Represented children and adults pursuing complaints against area agencies providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities
- Advocated for systemic changes in special education by building coalitions with concerned organizations and commenting on proposed amendments to administrative regulations

**Staff Attorney**  
New Hampshire Public Defender  
Manchester, New Hampshire

**1996 - 2000**

- Represented children and adults in all phases of felony and misdemeanor proceedings before the District and Superior Courts
- Initiated and implemented weekly juvenile case conferences and supervision of new attorneys to improve representation of children in delinquency matters

## **LEGAL INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Georgetown University Juvenile Justice Clinic, Student Attorney  
Washington, D.C.

1995 - 1996

National Center for Youth Law, Fellow  
San Francisco, CA

1995

Law Offices of Attorney Donna L. Wulkan, Intern  
Washington, D.C.

1995

Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN), Intern

1994

Washington, D.C.

Children in Placement, CT, Intern 1994  
Hartford, CT

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates present  
Connecticut Bar Association, Member present  
National Association of Council for Children, Member present  
New England Juvenile Defender Center, Board Member 2000 – 2004

**HONORS & AWARDS**

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Connecticut Law Tribune, Connecticut's New Leaders of the Law Award 2005

# CHRISTINA D. GHIO

## PUBLICATIONS

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Ghio, Christina. "Legislation Will Improve Representation for Abused and Neglected Children." Connecticut Lawyer 16.1 (2005): 23-25.

Stone, Martha, and Stacey Violante Cote, Christina Ghio, Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt, Jay Sicklick, and Lori Nordstrom. "Center for Children's Advocacy: Providing Holistic Legal Services to Children in Their Communities." Clearinghouse Review: Journal of Poverty Law and Policy 39.3-4 (2005): 244-250.

Ghio, Christina. "Improving the Quality of Legal Representation for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases." Kidscounsel 5.3 (2005): 19.

Ghio, Christina. "In Re: Lindsey P. Prompts New DCF Policies on OTC's: DCF Issues New Policies Regarding Procedures for Orders of Temporary Custody" Kidscounsel 5.1 (2005): 7.

Ghio, Christina. "Public Access to Juvenile Court Child Protection Proceedings: Should the Doors be Open" Kidscounsel 4.3 (2004): 1.

Ghio, Christina. "Office of Child Advocate Files § 1983 Action Against State" Kidscounsel 4.1 (2004):13.

Ghio, Christina. "New Legislation Passed in 2002" Kidscounsel 2.3 (2002): 6-9.

## TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

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"Overview of the Adoption and Safe Families Act." Rights to Realities: Parents, Their Kids and Criminal Justice. September 30, 2009.

"Lessons From Across the Country: Improving Human Services Delivery." Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes. May 27, 2009. Available at:  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/gae/CEAO/docs/HS%20Consolidation%205-27-09.pdf>

"Multiple Perspectives: A Case Analysis." Child and Youth Law Forum VI. Connecticut Judicial Branch. 2005.

"Neglect and Termination of Parental Rights – Focus on Evidence." New Attorney Training. Center for Children's Advocacy. 2005.

"Effective Advocacy and Treatment Planning Conferences and Administrative Case Reviews." New Attorney Training. Center for Children's Advocacy. 2005.

"The Spanking Case: Crossing the Line?: A Panel Discussion" New Attorney Training. Center for Children's Advocacy. 2005.

"Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children" New Attorney Training. Center for Children's Advocacy. 2004.

"Representing Clients at Treatment Planning Conferences and Administrative Case Reviews" New Attorney Training. 2004.