

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL FOR CHILDREN



### NEWS RELEASE

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### **EIGHTY FIVE (85) ATTORNEYS BECOME NATION'S FIRST CERTIFIED CHILD WELFARE LAW SPECIALISTS**

**DENVER, June, 2006** – The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) has certified the first class of *Child Welfare Law Specialists* in the country. Eighty Five (85) attorneys who represent children, parents, and state welfare agencies in abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were awarded specialty certification in child welfare law this month. Legal specialty certification, similar to medical board certification, is awarded to attorneys who demonstrate competence in a recognized legal specialty by satisfying the requirements of good standing, substantial involvement, education, peer review, writing, and substantive knowledge. Specialists must pass a comprehensive child welfare law written examination.

In 2001, the American Bar Association (ABA) recognized Child Welfare Law as a legal specialty. In 2004, the ABA accredited the NACC as the child welfare law certifying body. The U.S. Dept. of HHS Children's Bureau then sponsored the NACC's pilot program to certify the nation's first child welfare law specialists. The NACC conducted the pilot program in California, Michigan, and New Mexico. A list of the 85 certified lawyers by pilot state is available at [www.NACCchildlaw.org](http://www.NACCchildlaw.org). These lawyers will be publicly recognized at the NACC National Children's Law Conference in Louisville, KY October 14, 2006.

Child welfare law specialty certification is designed to improve outcomes for children and families in the foster care and court systems by improving the quality of legal services delivered. It is a component of the NACC and federal government initiatives to produce safety, permanence, and well-being for our nation's foster care population. This fall, the NACC will begin phase 2 of the project to expand the program beyond the pilot states. For more information contact the NACC: 888/828-NACC / [www.NACCchildlaw.org](http://www.NACCchildlaw.org).

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