

# NANCY BECKFORD

---

## BAR ADMISSIONS:

- Member of the State Bar of Washington (2010)
- Member of the State Bar of California (2006)
- Law Society of Upper Canada (2004 – 2014)

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- **Bachelors in Economics & Political Science Hons.**, University of Waterloo, Canada 2000
- **Bachelors in Law (equiv. J.D.)**, Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, Canada 2003
- **Family Law Mentor Program Training**, King County Bar Assn., Seattle, WA 2011
- **Title 26: GAL Training**, King County Bar Assn, Seattle, WA 2011
- **Title 13: VGAL Training**, Snohomish County VGAL Program, Snohomish, WA 2014
- **Adoption GAL Training**, King County Bar Assn, Seattle, WA 2016

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

### **Attorney for Children's Representation Program – Snohomish County OPD**

*Snohomish, Washington, USA*

*January 2019 – present*

Represent youth in dependency, termination and guardianship matters. Provide age-appropriate and trauma-informed legal counsel to youth regarding all aspects of their case. Participate in review hearings, settlement conferences, termination/dependency fact-findings, shared planning meetings, BRS meetings and IEPs.

### **CASA Contract Attorney – Snohomish County**

*Snohomish, Washington, USA*

*July 2015– present*

Represent CASAs in dependency cases. Complete discovery redaction, draft pleadings, review CASA reports, and provide general legal counsel regarding compliance with GALRs. Provide trainings on the CASA role in the court system.

### **CASA & Attorney Guardian Ad Litem – Snohomish County**

*Snohomish, Washington, USA*

*September 2014– present*

Represent the best interests of children in all aspects of the dependency from review hearings, placement motions, to termination trials. Consult with social workers, negotiate with parties, monitor progress, conduct investigations, file GAL reports, make recommendations and advocate for the best interests of the child.

### **Associate Attorney – Law Offices of Jeanne M. Malitz**

*San Diego, California, USA*

*July 2007 – April 2008*

Provided legal counsel for non-immigrant/immigrant petitions and family-based immigration petitions.

### **Volunteer Immigration Attorney – Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego**

*Vista, California, USA*

*January 2007 – June 2007*

Counseled indigent clients on their citizenship, family-based immigrant and asylum petitions/inquiries. Conducted legal research and drafted petitions and applications. Assisted families in accessing social services.

### **Duty Counsel Panel Lawyer – Legal Aid Ontario**

*Ontario, Canada*

*October 2004 – January 2005*

Advised clients in family law, civil, and dependency law. Represented clients in custody/access cases, support/restraining/protection order hearings, child protection hearings and temporary care and planning hearings. Assisted clients with accessing mental health/substance abuse/housing service providers.

### **Counsel – Family Responsibility Office (FRO) Attorney General**

*Ontario, Canada*

*September 2003 – October 2004*

Represented the Director of the Family Responsibility Office in the enforcement of support orders including: contested review hearings, default hearings, various motions and small claims court matters. Provided statutory interpretation and assisted in policy development.

I am currently serving as the WSBA Co-Chair of the Dependency and Child Welfare Committee. I am asking for your vote to continue to serve in this capacity.

For the last 8 years, I have been working in Snohomish County in the dependency arena as a Youth Attorney, Attorney Guardian Ad Litem, and an Attorney for the Office of the CASA. I am passionate about advocating for the needs of vulnerable youth who often feel like they have no voice. These experiences have provided me with a firm understanding of the complexities and stressors in dependency law.

If elected Co-Chair for the Dependency and Child Welfare Committee, I will focus on providing more legal support and resources to our colleagues given the sweeping legislative changes in dependency law. In addition, I would strengthen membership enrollment from a broader cross-section of counties so we can serve more legal communities across the state. I am open and eager to work with all members of our bar to successfully advance the goals of the Dependency and Child Welfare Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Beckford