

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**  
**8:30 – 11:45 a.m.**  
**Children’s Law Committee**  
**3.0 MCLE Credit Hours,**  
**Supreme Court Commission on CLE Course #: 240014**  
**Room Location: Pavilion**

## **Animis Opibusque Parati: Advocacy and Representation for South Carolina’s Children**

To complement South Carolina’s state motto “*Animis Opibusque Parati*,” the Children’s Law Committee has a robust agenda to strengthen and enhance lawyers’ minds and resources as they provide legal advocacy and representation for children. Attendees will receive a legislative update provided by **Representative Jason Elliott**, who also has a law practice in Greenville. He will be co-presenting with attorney **Amanda Whittle**, State Child Advocate and Director of the Department of Children’s Advocacy, to provide an update regarding recent laws and pending bills concerning children. **Natalece Washington** is a Georgia native and will be joining us from the National Association of Counsel for Children. She has devoted her legal career to child welfare law, and she will provide national trends and research about counsel for children in foster care. **Amanda Hess** with Disability Rights South Carolina and **Jennifer Rainville** with S.C. Appleseed for Justice are South Carolina lawyers who include education law in their areas of practice. They will equip attendees to identify potential education issues and to access resources to address issues to benefit children. **Anna Maria Conner** is a Senior Attorney with Disability Rights South Carolina, and she will highlight legal advocacy for children with disabilities, specifically regarding Medicaid, waivers, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSTD) resources. **Tonnya Kohn** is South Carolina’s State Court Administrator and will lead the segment regarding the S.C. Courts Mental Health Initiative. Authorized by Chief Justice Donald W. Beatty in October of 2022, the S.C. Courts Mental Health Initiative is a “collaborative, statewide endeavor to improve the administration of justice for people affected by mental health issues.” This session will provide attendees with information about the status of the initiative which was designed to affect change through unprecedented statewide collaboration.

### **Agenda**

- 8:30 – 8:35 a.m.      **Introduction**  
  
Amanda Whittle, J.D., CWLS  
*SC Department of Children’s Advocacy*  
*Columbia, SC*
- 8:35 – 9:10 a.m.      **Legislative Update**  
  
Rep. Jason Elliott  
*Jason Elliott Law*  
*Greenville, SC*
- 9:10 – 9:40 a.m.      **Lawyers Make a Difference**  
  
Natalece Washington, J.D., CWLS  
*National Association of Counsel for Children*  
*Atlanta, GA*

9:40 – 10:10 a.m.     **When Good Kids Seem Bad: Spotting the Educational Needs of Students**

Jennifer Rainville  
*S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center*  
*Columbia, SC*

Amanda C. Hess  
*Disability Rights of South Carolina*  
*Columbia, SC*

10:10 – 10:40 a.m.     **Medicaid and EPSDT: What Does That Offer South Carolina's Children**

Anna Maria Conner  
*Disability Rights South Carolina*  
*Columbia, SC*

10:40 – 10:55 a.m.     **Break**

10:55 – 11: 45 a.m.     **S.C. Courts Mental Health Initiative**

Tonnya K. Kohn  
*Judicial Branch Court Administration*  
*Columbia, SC*

**Course Planner/Moderator:**     Amanda F. Whittle  
*S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy*  
*Columbia, SC*