

Editor's Note

It is with pleasure that we present the first issue of the twenty first volume of the UC Davis Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy. This issue explores areas of juvenile law that affect our communities both at home and abroad. The articles further academic discussions and present persuasive arguments in the areas of sexual exploitation of children, subsidized guardianship for children, and child obesity.

The first article is “Child Sexual Exploitation Compels a Multifaceted Analysis: Refining the Supply and Demand Approach” by Sharlene Koonce, a 2017 graduate of UC Davis School of Law. Ms. Koonce’s article discusses the sexual exploitation of children through a supply and demand model. Ms. Koonce discusses the shortfalls within the supply and demand approach and proposes legal, tactical, and policy priorities to help eradicate sexual exploitation of children in the United States and abroad. Ms. Koonce argues that the end demand efforts of the supply and demand model require a multifaceted stance. Implementation of such imperatives, she argues, would improve services by incorporating a rehabilitative approach for sex buyers and additional support for child victims.

Next, we present “An Analysis of State Law and Policy Regarding Subsidized Guardianship for Children: Innovations in Permanency” by William Vesneski, Lydia Killos, Peter J. Pecora, and Erin McIntire. This article analyzes state guardianship statutes and administrative codes to determine which states are supporting or not supporting guardianship placements for children in the public child welfare system. Specifically, the article’s analysis focuses on the federal Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) legislation, where alignments and divergences between federal and state law were examined. Their findings reveal that states are inclined to support opportunities for subsidized guardianship.

Through the adoption of state laws and regulations, they argue, states are working to balance the parental rights of birth parents with those of guardians, while safeguarding the interests of children’s stability.

Finally, we present “Childhood Obesity and Its Effects on Students’ Academic Performance” by Cheryl “Shelly” George, the Policy Director of the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center. Ms. George’s article addresses childhood obesity and its correlating effects on obese children’s academic development. Ms. George argues that legal loopholes undermine the legislative policies enacted to regulate public school lunch sales in schools within the United States. Further, she argues that the problem of childhood obesity must be addressed from all aspects of society—parents, schools, governments, and medical professionals. Specifically, Ms. George’s article calls for new policy in order to foster healthy school food programs.

The issues presented in these articles emphasize the challenges faced by youth in our immediate communities and internationally. Our hope is that these articles will inspire not only compassion, but more importantly, action.

We would like to thank our entire 2016-2017 Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy staff for their hard work in making this issue a success. Particularly, we would like to thank our faculty advisor Professor Courtney Joslin. We would like to especially thank our Managing Productions Editor, Carolyn Davis, for her spectacular contribution to our twenty first volume. Her tireless work was instrumental and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Koonce and Magaly Zagal
Editors-in-Chief