



## **Biographies**

### **Fostering Court Improvement Expertise**

#### **The Hon. Nancy Sidote Salyers**

*Judicial Executive, Fostering Court Improvement and Co-Director, Fostering Results*  
Judge Nancy Sidote Salyers has spent almost 3 decades of her legal career working on behalf of children and families, including serving as Presiding Judge of the Cook County Juvenile Court's Child Protection Division, which was widely regarded as a model court for collaborations forged with agencies, academics, child advocates and the community. Through reforms launched during Salyers' tenure, for the first time in the one hundred year history of the court, more child cases were closed than opened on a consistent basis, significantly decreasing previous backlogs. Judge Salyers has been recognized nationally for her work, including awards from the White House, the National Child Support Enforcement Association, The National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators and the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association. She brings to FCI her understanding of and experience with using data to direct decision-making and system reform. Judge Salyers holds Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts degrees from Dominican University (Rosary College), where she graduated Cum Laude, and earned her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law.

#### **Dr. Mark Testa, Ph.D.**

*Child Welfare Expert, Fostering Court Improvement and Co-Director, Fostering Results*

Mark Testa is an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and Director of the Children and Family Research Center. He formerly served as Research Director for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), where his research was instrumental in policy innovations leading to better services for children and families. Professor Testa has been recognized nationally for his work in child welfare, including the Adoption 2002 Excellence Award for Applied Scholarship and Research on kinship care and permanence. Recent publications include: "The Social Ecology of Child Endangerment (with Frank Furstenberg) in *A Century of Juvenile Justice*, "The Gift of Kinship Foster Care" in *Children and Youth Services Review*, and "Subsidized Guardianship: Testing an Idea Whose Time Has Finally Come" in *Social Work Research*. Dr. Testa now directs the efforts of FCI through his extensive knowledge and work with state agencies particularly in effective use of AFCARS data to monitor outcomes produced by the child welfare system.

**Mr. Andrew Barclay**

*Statistical Expert, Fostering Court Improvement and Founder & Advisory Board Chair, Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic, Emory University School of Law*

Mr. Barclay, in partnership with Emory's School of Law, founded and endowed the Barton Clinic to advocate for research-based policy and to encourage students from all disciplines into public-interest career paths.

Mr. Barclay works as a full-time volunteer technical consultant, providing technological and statistical support to Georgia non-profit and governmental agencies. He has worked in computing for over twenty-five years, in both the for-profit and the public sectors. He has expertise in hardware and software engineering, high performance computing, digital signal processing, database design, data analysis, statistics, and public health. Mr. Barclay serves on advisory groups and steering committees for non-profits and government agencies. He served for four years as the Chief Justice's appointee to the board of the Georgia Technology Authority. He currently serves on the board of Georgia's Children and Youth Coordinating Council at the appointment of Governor Sonny Perdue. Mr. Barclay now directs the efforts of FCI through his software development and statistical analysis expertise.

Mr. Barclay holds masters degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering from Stanford University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also completing a PhD in Biostatistics at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health.

**Mark A. Hardin, J.D.**

Mark Hardin is Director of Child Welfare for the ABA Center on Children and the Law in Washington, D.C. He has held this position for 26 years.

Prior to coming to the American Bar Association, Hardin was part of the Oregon Permanency Planning Project at Portland State University. Before that, he worked at the Family Law Center of Multnomah County Legal Aid in Portland Oregon. Hardin received his B.A. in 1967 from the University of California at Berkeley and his J.D. in 1972 from the University of Oregon.

In his work with the Center he conducts research, writes, and trains on child protection and foster care issues. Mr. Hardin has authored or co-authored over thirteen (13) books on these subjects. He has also received many awards from national organizations and agencies for his advocacy and subject matter expertise in judicial oversight of child welfare cases. Mr. Hardin's most recent work includes the study and application of court measurement and effectiveness (along with the NCFJCJ and NCSC) through which outcomes for children can be improved. Mr. Hardin serves FCI as a technical consultant.