

Quality Parenting Initiative:
California State Wide Conference March 2017

The Role of Judges and Attorneys in
Quality Parenting: An Ethics Informed Approach

Judges and lawyers for children and birth families play a key role in the development and implementation of QPI policies and practices, such as co-parenting between birth and foster families, thoughtful placement transitions, and working with families as respected and equal partners. QPI invokes system reform to reduce the trauma of foster care to children and to strengthen families. However, such reform requires the Courts, lawyers, and child advocates to use less traditional approaches in achieving the goals of permanency for children and families while ensuring the legal rights of all persons are provided for.

QPI is founded in core principles that the most effective systems for our children and families will occur in environments in which collaboration, open communication and teamwork are fostered. This workshop will highlight how these core principles are best achieved within the scopes of the law and zealous legal advocacy.

This workshop will explore many of the following considerations:

- How can judicial leadership result in court-led multi-disciplinary training for all stakeholders?
- How can judicial leadership and lawyers most effectively structure policy around court participation, visitation, transitions, and co-parenting in a way to best reduce trauma for children and youth?

- How do lawyers and judges balance ethical considerations in engaging in a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach?
- What are the benefits to the clients (i.e., children, families, and agencies) engaging in the QPI process?
- What are the some of the legal challenges in engaging in the QPI process and how can they best be addressed?

It has been definitely established in child development and brain science that excellent parenting is the foundational element of supporting healthy children and youth development and well being. QPI challenges the legal system to not only embrace this knowledge but to become active partners with the QPI movement to judges, child welfare attorneys, and child advocates to create change within child welfare by challenging the system, the culture of child welfare, and policy within children welfare.