

**Protecting Childhood: Ensuring Justice and Advocacy in the Legal System**  
**Children in the Courts Conference**  
**May 4-7, 2026**

**Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>- CASA only (No CLE; CME (\*) denoted)**

	Two Rivers	Rock Island IV – VII	Rock Island I – III
<b>TIME</b>	CASA Directors	CASA Staff	CASA Volunteers
<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>		
<b>1:00 – 2:30</b>	<b>Welcome and Updates from Child Welfare Leadership</b> -Janet Bledsoe, AAL Program Director; Daniel Brightwell, Deputy Chief Counsel, OCC; Brooke Steen, AOC Juvenile Division Director; Brian Welch, Parent Counsel Director; Tiffany Wright, DCFS Director		
<b>2:30 – 2:45</b>	<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>2:45 – 3:45</b>	<b>Director Development Workshop</b> Laura Edwards, Sonata Venture Solutions	<b>Artificial Intelligence in Advocacy</b> -Shane O’Barr, AOC Applications Training Specialist	<b>Brain Development and Behavior*</b> Amanda Childs, LCSW; Community Services, Inc.
<b>3:45 – 4:00</b>	<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>4:00– 5:15</b>	<b>Workshop Continued</b>	<b>Accessing Treatment Resources</b> -Kira Kennedy, OSAMH, DHS	
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Welcome Reception in Atrium for CASA</b>		

**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 5.25 CLE Hours (All approved for DN; Ethics (E) and CME (\*) denoted)**

	Two Rivers	Rock Island IV – VII	Rock Island I – III
<b>TIME</b>	CASA Directors	CASA Staff and Volunteers	Attorneys and Judges
<b>9:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>Workshop Continued</b>	<b>Building Relationships with Neurodiverse Caregivers and Youth</b> -Dr. Sufna John, UAMS	<b>Registration for DN attorneys and judges</b>
<b>10:15 – 10:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>10:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Workshop Continued</b>	<b>Legal Advice v. Legal Information*</b> -Krystal Mann and Laura Calhoun, AOC Staff Attorneys Rock Island IV-VII	<b>Welcome and Updates from Leadership</b> -Janet Bledsoe, AAL Program Director; Daniel Brightwell, Deputy Chief Counsel, OCC; Brooke Steen, AOC Juvenile Division Director; Brian Welch, Parent Counsel Director; Tiffany Wright, DCFS Director
<b>12:00-1:00</b>	<b>LUNCH (provided)</b>		<b>Judges will convene during lunch in Junction I-II</b>
<b>1:00-2:00</b>	<b>Workshop Continued</b>	<b>Situational Safety and Court Security</b> -Brent Scott, AOC Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness	
<b>2:00-2:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>CASA Adjourns</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>2:15-3:30</b>	<b>Workshop Continued (Directors will adjourn following the workshop)</b>		<b>Choose Your Own Ethical Adventure (E)</b> -Moderated by Krystal Mann, Staff Attorney AOC
<b>3:30-3:45</b>	<b>BREAK</b>		
<b>3:45-5:15</b>	<b>Dependency-Neglect Appellate Update*</b> -Marc Tave, OCC; Judge Tjuana Byrd Manning, Juvenile Judge, 6 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District; Elizabeth James, Parent Counsel		
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Welcome Reception in Atrium for Attorneys and Judges</b>		

Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 6.5 hours (all sessions approved for DR and DN; Ethics (E) and CME (\*) denoted)

TIME	Rock Island I-III	Rock Island IV-VII
8:00 – 9:00	Registration for DR and DN Attorneys and Judges	
9:00 – 10:15	Finish Empty -Jason Curry	
10:15 – 10:30	BREAK	
10:30 – 12:00	Accountability and Honest Dialogue with Clients (E) - Dr. Sufna John, UAMS	
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH (provided)	Judges will convene during lunch in Junction I-II
1:00-2:15	Choose your Own Evidentiary Adventure -Moderated by Krystal Mann, Staff Attorney AOC	
2:15 – 2:30	BREAK	
2:30 – 3:45	Accessing Treatment Resources -Kira Kennedy, OSAMH, DHS	
3:45-4:00	BREAK	
4:00-5:15	Cybersecurity Awareness* -Dain Couch, AOC Judicial Chief IT Security Officer	Domestic Violence: Impacts on Families and Children, Indicators of Abuse, and Family Dynamics* -Kiah Hall, University of Arkansas
5:30	Welcome Reception in Atrium for Attorneys and Judges	

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 6.00 hours (all sessions approved for DR and DN; Ethics (E) and CME (\*) denoted)

TIME	Rock Island I-III	Rock Island IV-VII
8:00 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 10:00	Artificial Intelligence: Power and Pitfalls (E)* -One North/TEKSystems Company	
10:00 – 10:15	BREAK	
10:15 – 11:15 (5-minute break)	Advocating for Services for Youth with Developmental Disabilities or Behavioral Health Needs -Derek Henderson, Disability Rights Arkansas	Artificial Intelligence: What Every Attorney and Judge Needs to Know Part I* -One North/TEKSystems Company
11:20 – 12:15	DN Appellate Update- Quick Run Through* -Laura Calhoun and Kurt Meredith, AOC Staff Attorneys	Artificial Intelligence: What Every Attorney and Judge Needs to Know Part II* -One North/TEKSystems Company
12:15 – 1:00	LUNCH (provided)	
1:00 – 2:30	A Psychiatrist's Guide to Family Addiction -Dr. Jason Beaman, Chair, School of Forensic Sciences, Oklahoma State University	
2:30 – 2:45	BREAK	
2:45 – 4:15	Domestic Relations and Probate Appellate Update* -Angela Mann, Attorney Mann and Kemp	
4:15	Adjourn	