

OCR'S NEW APPELLATE PROGRAM IS LIVE!

As of July 1, 2023, only those trial court GALs/CFYs who are certified as Level 1 (L1) or Level (L2) Appellate Attorneys are authorized by OCR to handle appeals cases arising from their trial court D&N cases. Trial court GALs/CFY who are not certified are required to secure appellate counsel from OCR's Appellate & Litigation Support Team for appeal cases.

Our current list of Appellate & Litigation Support Attorneys can be accessed here:

<https://coloradochildrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Appellate-Litigation-Support-FY24-Appointment-List.pdf>

We have added two new members to the Appellate & Litigation Support Team. Please join us in welcoming Sheena Knight and Josie Burt.

Sheena Knight

Sheena received her Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Boston University in 2012. While in Boston, Sheena volunteered with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, where she worked on legislation and public policies to benefit children and youth in foster care. Sheena then attended the University of Colorado School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctorate in 2015. During her time in law school, Sheena interned with the Boulder County Attorney's Office's Child Protection Unit, and she also worked with a GAL in Weld County. Sheena went to law school with the sole goal of representing children and youth. Sheena has been a Guardian ad Litem/Counsel for Youth in Arapahoe County with OCR for 7 years. During that time, Sheena has assisted with more than 75 appeals and has done oral arguments in front of the Court of Appeals.

Sheena is very passionate about ensuring children and youth have a voice in the courtroom and throughout the appellate process. Sheena is excited to continue to advocate for children and youth throughout the appellate process and to ensure children and youth's rights are protected.

Josie Burt

Josie Burt has practiced dependency and neglect law and specializing in appeals since the beginning of her career. Initially she represented respondent parents in both trial and appellate courtrooms, but switched to Guardian ad Litem work in 2017. In the fall of 2018 she began taking private cases, including appeals in domestic relations cases and torts on issues such as guardianship, property division, grandparent rights, attorneys fees, contempt, personal injury, negligence, and governmental immunity. In 2021 she worked as a special assistant county attorney participating in dependency and neglect appeals on behalf of Mesa County. When not researching or writing she can be found enjoying the wonders of her western slope home by hiking, biking, skiing, or camping.