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## **Pennsylvania Advocates to Represent U.S. at World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights in Dublin**

**Dublin, Ireland** (June 1, 2017) – Juvenile Law Center's Susan Vivian Mangold and Marsha Levick, two of America's top children's law experts, will be sharing their experiences, insights and lessons learned with advocates and academics from around the world at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights, taking place June 4-7 in Dublin. First launched in Sydney in 1993, the Congress is one of the world's largest events for family law and children's rights professionals. The Congress converges every four years, each time in a different host country committed to human rights - especially children's rights.

Mangold, Juvenile Law Center's Executive Director, and Levick, Deputy Director and Chief Counsel, will address approximately seven hundred international attendees. Mangold will present on the integration of current scientific research on children and adolescents in the development of law and policy in the United States, and will chair a panel discussion on juvenile justice with colleagues from New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Levick is the only American scheduled to deliver one of four keynote addresses at the Congress on Monday, June 5. She will discuss the current state of the juvenile justice system in America, the challenges we face, and her hopes for future reforms. Other plenary speakers include Baroness Hale of Richmond, the only woman sitting on the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom; Dr. Anne Lindboe, Children's Ombudsman of Norway; and The Honorable Mr. Justice Sean Ryan, President of the Court of Appeal of Ireland.

"This is an important opportunity for Marsha and me to share Juvenile Law Center's experience in bringing neuro and behavioral science of adolescence to the courts to craft law and policy informed by the latest brain science," said Mangold. "We look forward to a thoughtful and engaged conversation to improve our advocacy domestically and to partner with colleagues around the world."

"I am thrilled to be participating in the Congress in Dublin," said Levick. "While the United States is home to the first formal juvenile court, our European colleagues have often outpaced us in adopting a more humanitarian approach to children's delinquency. We're eager for a robust exchange of ideas, learning innovative approaches to improving juvenile justice, and look forward to forging new partnerships with our international colleagues to fight for the world's children."

The 2017 seminal event is expected to draw its approximately 700 attendees from 48 countries. The Congress will focus on six themes—Justice and Equality, Child Participation, Child Protection, Changing Family Forms, International Families, and Family Property—with talks from over 150 international experts. The event includes a screening of Academy Award-nominated documentary *India's Daughter*.

The World Congress is hosted in partnership with The School of Law at University College Cork (UCC), takes place at the Convention Centre Dublin on 4-7 June 2017. Those interested in attending can register online: <http://wcfldr2017.com>

*Juvenile Law Center is the oldest non-profit, public interest law firm for children in the nation. Widely published and internationally recognized as thought leaders in the field, Juvenile Law Center's impact on the development of law and policy on behalf of children is substantial. Juvenile Law Center uses an array of legal strategies and policy advocacy to promote fairness, prevent harm, ensure access to appropriate services, and create opportunities for success for youth in the foster care and justice systems. For more information about Juvenile Law Center's work, visit [www.JLC.org](http://www.JLC.org).*

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