



EAST BAY
CHILDREN'S
LAW OFFICES



empowering the voices of children

2013



East Bay Children's Law Offices (EBCLO) was founded in 2009 to represent children and youth in juvenile dependency court who have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Since then, EBCLO's mission has expanded to include the representation of youth in other courts where they need lawyers.

Committed to the need for high quality, holistic legal advocacy for children, EBCLO's team of attorneys and social workers strive to provide our young clients with a voice in the decisions affecting their lives.



2,101

children served by EBCLO in 2012



4,584

hearings impacted by EBCLO advocacy in 2012

2013 Highlights

EBCLO is now serving children in more courts in Alameda County than ever before. Our expertise at balancing vigorous advocacy with a compassionate understanding of children's complex legal needs makes us successful at the thousands of hearings we attend each year.

- In February of 2013, EBCLO opened its Juvenile Defender Office representing children in the juvenile justice system by using a holistic defense that protects youth's rights and addresses the underlying causes of delinquency. We now represent 22 youth involved in that court system.
- Extended Foster Care under AB12—The landmark California law took effect January 1, 2012, and we now represent 294 young adults called non-minor dependents. We have also helped 11 young adults re-enter the foster care system after their first attempts at living independently were unsuccessful.
- The Education Advocacy Program piloted a study of third grade success based on research that children's success in third grade is highly correlated to future academic and life success. We also prevented the expulsion of every child referred to the program in 2012 and trained 323 adults about the educational needs of foster youth.



EMPOWERED VOICES

Kayla

Eighteen year old Kayla entered foster care at age 5, living in many different homes and going to many different schools along the way. At times she had trouble focusing on school, but she is now a high school graduate. Kayla says that if not for her attorney who encouraged her and fought for her rights, it wouldn't have happened. For her full story, watch the video at: <http://www.ebclo.org/news-and-events.html>

Emerald*

Thirteen year old Emerald needed a legal guardian. Her grandmother was the natural choice, but she wanted and needed help so the Court appointed EBCLO. EBCLO helped Emerald and her grandmother build an incredible support team, and the Guardianship was granted. Her grandmother says that there are some people you meet along the way that become like family... and that's EBCLO.

* not her real name

Dependency Advocacy Program

Our primary function is the legal representation of children and youth at every Juvenile Dependency proceeding from detention through permanency. Within the court process, we identify and request services for our clients, including advocating for their educational, developmental, physical and mental health needs. We also establish and maintain relationships with our clients so that we, too, can be another stable adult figure in their lives.

AB12 Project: EBCLO's law fellow specializes in navigating California's extended foster care program by empowering our 18-20 year old clients with the highest educational, employment, housing or mental health needs. Having an advocate involved in the details of these adults' lives helps give all our clients a realistic chance at a thriving adulthood by providing accountability for the care and services needed, and legal advocacy to resolve urgent or important matters in their lives.

Probate Guardianship Counsel for Children Program

At the request of the Court, EBCLO also represents children in Probate Guardianship proceedings. The EBCLO attorney/social worker team assesses the appropriateness of the guardianship and assists the families in obtaining needed community based services.

Juvenile Defender Office

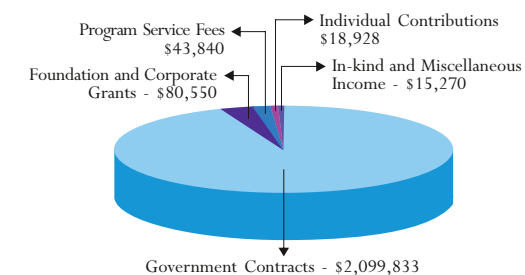
In partnership with the Alameda County Bar Association and East Bay Community Law Center, EBCLO provides a holistic defense to youth in the juvenile justice system which includes vertical representation, case management, educational support and counseling referrals if necessary, with the goal of successful completion of probation and dismissal of the petition.

Education Advocacy Program

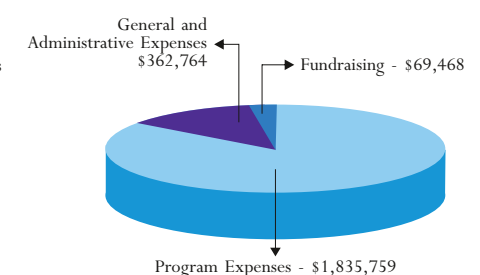
Outside of the courtroom, EBCLO's expertise in special education and school discipline matters is provided to all EBCLO clients regardless of which court proceedings brought the youth to us. The Education Advocacy Program promotes school stability, the provision of appropriate educational and school related mental health services, the training of other adult educational rights holders and the achievement of academic success for all children in all areas.

2012 Financial Statement

Support and Revenue
Total Revenue \$2,258,421



Expenses
Total Expenses \$2,267,991



Individual and Corporate Donors *January – December 2012*

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