<u>Top 3 Tips for Attorneys Representing Non minor Dependents</u>

1. Inform; Inform; Inform
   - If your client is approaching the age of 18, inform them of all their options:
     o Stay in Foster Care
     o Have their case dismissed
     o Any other permanency options if available
   - Inform your client of the participation criteria to be and remain a nonminor dependent
     o Be completing high school or equivalent
     o Be enrolled in college or vocational school
     o Be participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
     o Be working at least 80 hours per month
     o Be unable to do any of the above because of a medical or mental helath condition
   - Inform your client of the reentry criteria and their right to reenter
     o Reentry criteria: A youth can reenter if they meet the age criteria, were under a foster care placement order and intend to meet one of the participation criteria
2. Review, Review, Review
   - Review the Transitional Independent Living Case Plan (TILCP) with your client, ensure it has a plan and backup plan to maintain your client's eligibility, and ensure it meets the needs of your client
   - Review the Transition Independent Living Plan (TILP). Ensure that it was developed with your client and it accurately reflects your client's future goals and how to achieve those goals.
   - Review the report to ensure that the nonminor dependent has meaniningful lifelong connections that will be available to the nonminor when their case is dismissed
3. Advocate, Advocate, Advocate
   - Advocate for the best placement option for your client.
     o Remember the 2 additional placement options for nonminor dependents: SILP and THP+FC
     o A nonminor may return to the family home; however, they may no longer qualify for nonminor dependent status.
   - Advocate for all the fiscal and program benefits that may be available to your client regardless of whether they stay in foster care, guardianship or adoption
   - Advocate for the best and most appropriate permanent plan for your client, including adult adoption.