



SUMMER 2011

Liaison Profile: Beth Bobby

Beth serves as the AOC liaison to the local Blue Ribbon Commissions in Colusa, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Plumas, Santa Clara, Sutter, and Yuba counties



In her younger days, Beth Bobby, the AOC liaison to the local Blue Ribbon Commissions in Colusa, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Plumas, Santa Clara, Sutter, and Yuba counties, would have thought nothing of jumping on a plane and spending a month or two crisscrossing Europe in search of adventure. These days, Beth focuses her explorations, both personal and professional, on her native California. In addition to frequent trips to provide training and technical assistance to the juvenile courts, court-appointed counsel, and local commissions in her ten counties, Beth enjoys getting away with her husband, a sommelier, and young son to explore the wide variety of viticultural hotspots the state has to offer. She's also a lifelong fan of Disneyland, making an annual pilgrimage and even spending her honeymoon at the Orange County resort.

Beth has been an attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts since July of 2006. She earned her bachelor's degree in Government from Sacramento State University and her law degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in Sacramento. She began her legal career in general private practice, but quickly developed an interest in family law, on which she focused more and more. Over several years, she was drawn to the plight of families torn by violence, abuse, and neglect and she began representing parents in dependency court. In 1999, she made the jump to full-time dependency practice by joining Parent Advocates of Sacramento.

Though she enjoyed the dynamics of the judicial process and felt gratified in those cases when she could help guide a family to reunification, Beth began to focus more on systemic issues in the juvenile court. She had developed an acute sense of the strengths and needs of the California juvenile courts and the interplay among the participants in the system. Armed with these insights and an enthusiasm for working with courts, attorneys, and social workers, Beth joined the AOC's Dependency Representation Administration, Funding, and Training (DRAFT) project. As a member of the DRAFT team, Beth has focused on providing training and technical assistance to juvenile courts and court-appointed counsel. Over time, her responsibilities have expanded to include advising courts on compliance with federal title IV-E and serving as the AOC liaison to her counties' local BRCs. Beth finds that her work with the LBRCs is a natural extension of her work with the DRAFT courts. She enjoys working with people and using the knowledge accumulated in her years of practice to help her counties identify their needs, set priorities, and implement collaborative programs to improve outcomes for families and children.