

Deborah P. Cromer

Deborah Cromer is an Attorney at Law and Education Attorney with the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles. She provides legal representation for children under the jurisdiction of the Edelman Children's Court of Los Angeles. Currently carrying a case load of 210+ dependency cases; serves as a resource to firm attorneys on the subject of foster children and education, including special education law and advocacy; and represents CLC on the California Foster Youth Education Task Force. Deborah possesses a strong legal background in education law combined with hands-on education advocacy for organizations serving under represented communicates, including foster children. In addition, she is a published author on topics related to child welfare and education, and experienced journalist and editor.

Deborah's achievements include:

- Appointed as education attorney for Children's Law Center of Los Angeles. Member of the 317e education panel at the Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park, Calif.
- Faculty member at 2008 Conference for National Association of Counsel for Children. Co-chaired panel on education and foster children.
- Placed second in the 2006 Schwab Legal Essay Competition sponsored by the ABA Family Law Section. Published in Spring 2007 issue of the *Family Law Quarterly*: "Through No Fault of Their Own: Reasserting a Right to Family Connectedness for Children in the Child Welfare System."
- Developed and drove the education advocacy program for foster children in Orange County. Created curriculum and trained new CASAs on the education needs and rights of foster children.
- Assisted in the development of curriculum and training materials for Orange County Juvenile Court bench officers, attorneys, social workers and education representatives on education rights and strategies for children under the Court's jurisdiction.
- Co-chaired Center for Children's Rights 2006 Symposium on special education advocacy. Chairperson for CCR education programs (2004-2006).
- Recognized for scholastic achievement with CALI Awards for Excellence in Family Law, The Whittier Law Journal, and Legal Skills.
- Honored as 2006 Fellow of the Year, Center for Children's Rights, Whittier Law School.

Deborah earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno. Received her Juris Doctor Degree from Whittier Law School, Costa Mesa, CA, and is certified by Dell's Computer Executive Development Program.