

## Gerard Wallace, Esq.

### CAREER HISTORY

#### Legal 1992 – 2010

*Executive Director, National Committee of Grandparents  
for Children's Rights* 2010-present  
*Stony Brook, New York*  
Leadership of national membership organization.

*Director, NYS Kinship Navigator* 2006-present  
*Catholic Family Center, Rochester, New York*  
State-wide information and referral service. Website, 800 telephone, intake, resources.

*Director, Grandparent Support Project, Government Law Center* 2006-2008  
*Albany Law School, Albany, New York*  
Educational support for lawyers and other professionals about kinship care.  
Publication of articles and informational materials; Trainings, seminars,  
and conference planning. Coordinate activities of state-wide Kincare Coalition.

*Consultant, Office of Children and Family Services Kinship Programs* 2003-2006  
*Long Island, New York City, Middletown, Albany, and Rochester programs*  
Consultations with individual caregivers, presentations and telephone assistance to  
service providers.

*Consultant, AARP New York* 2004- 2010  
*Albany and New York City, New York*  
Advise and educate on legal issues related to kincaregiving. Write proposals for  
programs and activities. Author three Kinship Summit reports with recommendations for  
changes in law and policies. Presentations across NYS. Coordinate events and  
conferences.

*Counsel, National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights* 2003-1009  
*Home Office, SUNY campus, Stony Brook, New York*  
Advocacy on state and federal level. Draft policy and legislative agenda. Author legal  
opinions and amicus curiae briefs. Advisor on goals and strategies.

*Director, Grandparent Caregiver Law Center*  
*Brookdale Center on Aging at Hunter College* 1999 - 2005  
Advocacy and legal education to professionals working with caregivers, education of  
grandparents, research and publication on issues and policy, lectures and media  
appearances.

*Private Practice, Saugerties, NY* 1997 - 1999  
Elder Law, especially estate planning and long term care planning, Family Law, Real  
Estate Law. Also appellate briefs and trial work in Family Court. Specialized in  
representing grandparent caregivers.

*Paralegal, Stevens & Stevens, Mineola, NY* 1992 - 1993  
Prepared leases, contracts, and wills; researched tort issues.

*New York State Long Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman, Kingston, NY.* 1993  
Assisted in monitoring nursing homes and communicating with residents.

*New York State Office for the Aging intern, Albany NY* 1996  
Researched legal issues for director of NYS Legal Assistance Program.

*Finklestein, Levine, Gittlesohn, and Tetenbaum, Albany, NY* 1994  
Personal injury firm. Investigated claims and interviewed potential clients.

### **Publishing, 1980 - 1992**

*President. Illuminations Publishing, Inc., Saugerties, NY* 1989 - 1992  
Edited, produced, and created layout for technical manuals, business information reports, art catalogues, and various newsletters.

*Editor-in-chief. Metromania Publishing, New York, NY* 1985 - 1986  
Managed a team of writers and graphic artists in creation of trivia games.

*Editor. Funk & Wagnals Encyclopedia, New York, NY* 1980 - 1983  
Edited special projects and indexed major revision of twenty-eight volume encyclopedia; compiled annotated bibliography that included all major subjects in the encyclopedia.

### **Computer, 1986 – 1988**

*Operations Manager. William Street Brokers, New York, NY* 1986 - 1989  
Responsible for multi-million dollar centralized computer operations that provided twenty-four hour continual coverage of trading floors in New York, London, Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore; trained personnel and instituted a three day work week.

*Cobol and Assembly Programmer. Dun & Bradstreet, Summit, NJ* 1983 - 1984  
Wrote data input programs for national business information center.

### **EDUCATION HISTORY**

*Albany Law School, Union University, Albany, NY* 1994 - 1997  
Juris Doctor Degree, **Magna Cum Laude**.  
New York State - Passed July 1997 Bar Exam.  
Cumulative GPA 3.52, standing 17 of 209,  
Dean's List, fall and spring of second and third years.

**Edgar A. Sandman Fellowship in Elder Law** 1996  
*Adelphi University, Huntington, NY* 1992  
Lawyer's Assistant Program, GPA 4.0, Honors.

*Fordham University, Fordham College, Rose Hill Campus, Bronx, NY* 1966 - 1970  
B. A. History, GPA 3.19.

*Other Certificates, Courses:*

<i>CLE courses in Elder Law, Family Law</i>	1997 - 2010
<i>Long Term Care Ombudsman, NY State Office for Aging, Ulster County, NY</i>	1994
<i>Court Evaluator Certificate, New York State Bar</i>	1994
<i>Computer Courses, New York University, NY</i>	
<i>Cobol and Assembly computer languages, twelve credits, GPA 4.0</i>	1982
<i>Education courses at S.U.N.Y. at New Paltz, NY, NY</i>	1979 - 1982
<i>Publishing seminars at N.Y.U. and Hunter College, NYC, NY</i>	1980 - 1981

**SELECTED EXAMPLES OF SPECIALIZATION IN GRANDPARENT CAREGIVERS**

- Awarded 2010 Brookdale Foundation Janet Sainer Award for service to Kinship Families.
- Awarded 2009 Generations United GrandFamilies Award for Outstanding Service to the Kinship Community
- Bi-monthly column in the nationally syndicated *Grand* magazine on elder law and kinship care.
- Op-Ed column in the Washington Post, June 9, 2004. "Foster Care With Love."
- Provided elements for proposed federal legislation, sponsored by Senator Clinton and Senator Snowe.
- Advised New York City Council, NYS Senate Task Force on the Safety of Children, and NYS Matrimonial Commission, NYS Governor's Cabinet Subcommittee on Children of Incarcerated Parents. Advice to Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, Maine, and other state legislators.
- Authored three Kinship Summit reports for AARP NY.
- Keynote speaker at the first grandparent dinner on September 13, 2005. As a prelude to the GrandRally in Washington, D. C., this dinner, attended by 350 grandparents and grandparent advocates, celebrated the role of grandparents in family life.
- In 2005, provided concepts and drafting for a relative placement bill, designed to increase the opportunity for suitable relatives to become foster parents. Among other features, the bill established a new procedure in neglect proceedings that enables families to petition to become foster parents, for up to one year after the initial placement in foster care. Signed into law by Governor on September 21, 2005.
- In 2004, provided legal information and bill language to New York Legislature and to Governor's Counsel. Efforts helped Legislature and Governor's office to reach agreement on a chapter amendment rewriting the "Caregiver Consent" bill. New law creates a "parental designation" that enables parents to designate their authority for certain matters to another caregiver for limited periods of time.
- In 2003, provided legal information to New York Legislature and Governor's Counsel office for solutions to issues burdening grandparent caregivers. Helped draft legislation and wrote legal memorandum justifying proposed law. Chapter 657 of the Laws of 2003, creates a new "extraordinary circumstance" defined as an extended disruption of custody, which is the residence for two or more years of a grandchild in the grandparent's household. Existence of this circumstance mandates that judges decide custodial disputes between grandparents and either absentee parents or other parties by considering the best interest of the child. The same law also mandates that all grandparents receive

notification when children are removed or surrendered and that any relative located be informed of the opportunity to become a foster parent or to become a guardian or custodian and of the likelihood of adoption if a child enters foster care. Provided Governor's counsel with legal arguments that persuaded counsel to recommend signing. This law is a significant extension of the rights of grandparents.

- Co-founder of the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights, which has become the premier national organization solely representing grandparents. Committee partnered with the AARP, the Children's Defense Fund, the Child Welfare League, and Generations United to hold national rallies of grandparents in front of the United States Capitol.
- Awarded first place by National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences for contribution to the 2003 educational curriculum package on "Parenting a Second Time Around."
- In 2000, *amicus curiae* brief to U. S. Supreme Court in *Troxel v. Granville*, the grandparent visitation case. Brief featured to the Congressional Digest's *Supreme Court Debates*.

#### **Sample Publications:**

- "Kinship Navigators: The New Child Welfare System," Common Ground, New England child welfare professionals newsletter. 2010.
- 2005, 2008, and 2011 NYS AARP KinCare Summit Reports.
- "Foster Care - With Love." June 9<sup>th</sup> 2004 op-ed column in Washington Post.
- Regular columns in Sadin Law Institute, *Senior Rights Report*, and New York State Bar *Elder Law Attorney*.
- "Grandparents' Rights Since *Troxel v. Granville*." *Westlaw Elder Law Advisor*, Summer 2002.
- "Grandparent Caregivers: A New Family Paradigm," New York State Bar *Elder Law Attorney*, Summer 2000.
- "Grandparent Caregivers: Emerging Issues in Elder Law and Social Work Practice," *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, vol. 34(3) 2001.
- Complete list available upon request.

#### **Conferences and Presentations:**

- Over 400 presentations at conferences, media, caregiver events, etc. List available upon request.

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