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Nicole Stewart appointed to serve on National CASA/GAL Urban Leadership Council

BOSTON, MASS – Boston CASA announces the appointment of Nicole Stewart, Executive Director, to the Urban Leadership Council of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA/GAL) Association.

Serving a two-year term, Stewart, along with child welfare leaders from across the nation, will play an integral role in voicing the unique needs of 893 local programs in the National CASA/GAL network. In 2023, the CASA/GAL network, with its 71,000 volunteers, served 201,000 children who were involved in judicial proceedings related to abuse or neglect. With approximately 569,000 children in foster care annually, the leadership council will focus its efforts on ensuring that the network achieves its mission of serving all children through best-interest advocacy.

“The National CASA/GAL Leadership Councils are a vital part of our strategic priorities to reduce the number of children in foster care, strengthen and preserve families, and expand our network,” said National CASA/GAL Chief Executive Officer, Tara Lisa Perry. “We are so excited and grateful to have Ms. Stewart providing her insight and expertise as we strive to move our mission forward on behalf of all children who have experienced abuse or neglect.”

Stewart joined Boston CASA as its Executive Director in early 2022. Previously, she spent almost two decades as an educational leader advocating for opportunity and quality education for all children. Her commitment to addressing the root causes of low achievement among vulnerable students led her to focus on empowering underrepresented families and communities. She transitioned to the non-profit sector, serving multiple organizations in leadership roles dedicated to systemic change for social and racial justice and economic and educational opportunities to effectuate real change. Since joining Boston CASA, she has focused on expanding the organization's reach and granting a greater number of foster children access to advocacy services.

“I am deeply honored and grateful for this appointment to serve on the National Leadership Council at this critical time in our country,” said Stewart, Executive Director of Boston CASA. “The vulnerable children served by CASA volunteers deserve every chance to thrive, and our advocacy and support are necessary. I look forward to bringing the successes and challenges of Boston CASA to this network to make us stronger as we strengthen our work across the nation.”

Stewart’s appointment to the Urban Leadership Council underscores Boston CASA’s dedication to advocating for the best interests of children who have been separated from their parents due to abuse and neglect. Through this role, she will contribute to shaping national strategies that enhance support for these often-forgotten children. Boston CASA remains committed to its mission of training and supporting community-based volunteers who provide a voice to children in the court system so they may thrive in a stable environment.

(MORE)

About the National Court Appointed Special Advocate®/Guardian ad Litem Association

The [National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem \(CASA/GAL\) Association](http://nationalcasagal.org), together with its 939 state and local member programs, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect in the United States can be safe, have a permanent home and have the opportunity to thrive. National CASA/GAL offers leadership and support to the network of programs and leads its continued growth. CASA/GAL volunteers and staff work every day to advocate for children, youth and families. To learn more, visit nationalcasagal.org.

About Boston CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Boston CASA promotes and protects the best interests of children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties. Boston CASA train and support community-based volunteers who provide a voice to children in the court system so they may thrive in a stable environment. To learn more about Boston CASA visit www.bostoncasa.org.