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**MARISOL GARCIA,
HEALTH LAW ADVOCATES' DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
HAS JOINED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ABA'S
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LITIGATION COMMITTEE**

BOSTON, MA – JUNE 28, 2024 – Health Law Advocates (HLA) is delighted to announce that its Deputy Director, Marisol Garcia, has been appointed to the leadership of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Children's Rights Litigation Committee (CRLC). The CRLC has a 25-year track record of addressing the lack of access to legal representation for children in all aspects of the legal system.

The CRLC “focuses on improving outcomes for children who come into contact with legal systems such as child welfare, immigration, education and juvenile justice by increasing legal representation for children, improving the quality of children's legal representation, providing technical assistance to individuals and groups desiring to start children's law programs, and engaging with and training pro bono lawyers.”

Attorney Garcia brings to the CRLC leadership more than 25 years of experience in child advocacy. At HLA, among her duties is directing the organization's largest program, the Mental Health Advocacy Program (MHAP) for Kids. MHAP for Kids has 17 attorneys who represent approximately 1,000 families annually to help them overcome barriers to mental health care for children. Prior to joining HLA in 2015, Attorney Garcia was in private practice representing children and adults with disabilities in Social Security matters as well as children in civil and delinquency proceedings in the juvenile justice system. She began her legal career as a Bart J. Gordon fellow and staff attorney at the Children's Law Center of Massachusetts.

Attorney Garcia has co-authored numerous articles for the CRLC and has presented on children's mental health issues at statewide and national trainings. Her articles have covered issues such as “Advocating for Special Education Services During COVID-19” and “Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline.” She joins the CRLC's Working Group, which determines the agenda for the CRLC along with its co-chairs. In 2022, she was selected as one of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's Top Women of Law.

HLA, founded in 1996, is Massachusetts' only non-profit legal services organization focusing exclusively on access to health care for residents with low-income. In addition to providing free legal services for well over 1,000 individuals and families each year, HLA advocates for policy reforms, conducts education and outreach programs, and initiates impact litigation.

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