We are pleased to announce the official launch of the Legal Center for Foster Care & Education (Legal Center FCE). The Legal Center FCE is a collaboration between Casey Family Programs and the ABA Center on Children and the Law (with support from the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues) in conjunction with the Education Law Center-PA and the Juvenile Law Center. This initiative represents a multiyear, million dollar investment by Casey Family Programs to bring attention and important legal resources to bear on the educational needs of children and youth in the nation’s foster care system.

The Legal Center FCE serves as a national technical assistance resource and information clearinghouse on legal and policy matters affecting the education of children and youth in the foster care system. The Legal Center FCE provides expertise and relevant information to states and constituents, facilitates networking to advance promising practices and reforms, and provides technical assistance to respond to the ever-growing demands for legal support and guidance.

Accompanying this collaboration is the creation of a new Web site, located at www.abanet.org/child/education. This Web site, initially begun through support from the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues, has now been revised and expanded through this collaboration with Casey Family Programs.

Through this Web site, which will be continually updated with new information, legal and policy resources, and announcements, you can access several important items. First, you can sign up to join a national foster care/education listserv. As a member of this listserv, you will receive important announcements about events and new resources, read questions and answers related to relevant foster care and education topics, and have an opportunity to post your own question, answers or information to advocates around the country who are working on these issues.

Second, the Web site will keep you up to date with information about regular conference calls, including a full schedule of calls throughout 2007. These calls will focus on a specific topic of interest of immediate relevance to our work and will provide an opportunity to share the collective knowledge of callers from around the country.

Finally, there is a brief online survey. The collaboration is eager to obtain as much information as possible from the field about areas of priority, as well as the ways in which the Legal Center’s information can best be delivered to you and your colleagues. Please take five minutes to complete this survey which you can find on the Legal Center FCE home page at: www.abanet.org/child/education.

We encourage you to share this information with colleagues who are also interested in the educational needs of children in foster care and to visit the Web site, complete the survey, and join the national listserv to stay up-to-date with all new developments.