



Contact: LuAnn Ritsema, Director of Communication and Marketing
Phone: (704) 943-9611
E-mail: luann@cfcrights.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attorney Stephanie Klitsch Named Outstanding Young Lawyer by the National Association of Counsel for Children

Charlotte, NC –August 27, 2015: Council for Children's Rights is pleased to announce that **Stephanie R. Klitsch**, an attorney with the Council's Individual Advocacy Team, was honored by the National Association of Counsel for Children ("NACC") as the **Outstanding Young Attorney of the Year** at the Association's 38th National Child Welfare, Juvenile and Family Law Conference in Monterey, California on Wednesday, August 26, 2015.

The award is presented annually to a young lawyer who has been in practice for five years or fewer, and who has made a significant contribution to the well-being of children through legal representation or other advocacy efforts in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, or private custody and adoption.



In nominating Ms. Klitsch, Council executive director Bob Simmons noted, "Over the course of my 32-year legal career, I have trained and worked with many fine lawyers, but Stephanie stands out as one of the finest people and best lawyers I have ever met. She has accomplished more meaningful results for more clients in three years than many lawyers accomplish in a lifetime, and her accomplishments deserve the notice and recognition that she would not seek for herself."

Klitsch first came to the Council as an Individual Advocacy intern in 2011 and, later, as a Stanford Law Public Interest Fellow prior to joining the Council staff full-time in 2013. In her current role with the Council's Individual Advocacy Team, she holistically represents the best interest of children in the areas of special education, school discipline, child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice. She is the current Chair of the Juvenile Law Section of the Mecklenburg County Bar and serves on several

community committees, including the Charlotte-Metropolitan Human Trafficking Task Force, the Child Fatality Protection and Prevention Team, and the ParentVOICE Advisory Committee.

In accepting the award at the annual luncheon, Klitsch shared that “doing this work of fighting on behalf of children has been a dream of mine since high school. It is unexpected and humbling to be recognized for doing the work I love.” Thanking the Association, she added “It is critical for us to continue to find ways to support one another in our mission to enhance the well-being of children and families. With a strong community of passionate advocates, we can create a renewed focus on the welfare of families in our communities and our nation.”

Klitsch graduated from Cornell University in 2007, where she majored in Policy Analysis and Management with a concentration in Family and Social Welfare. She received her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2012 from Stanford Law School.

About Council for Children’s Rights

The Council for Children’s Rights (CFCR) is one of the largest and most comprehensive advocacy and legal services programs for children in the Southeast. In our pursuit of solutions to the complex issues affecting children, we are committed to the premise that every child has the fundamental right to be safe, healthy and educated. We do that through individual advocacy, legal representation and addressing broad, community-wide issues through research and policy work. To learn more, please visit www.cfcrights.org.

###