



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL FOR CHILDREN

President and CEO
Marvin Ventrell, JD

Chair, Board of Directors
John Stuemky, MD

February 19, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

It is our pleasure to write this letter of reference for Marvin Ventrell. We do so as the Chair and immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC).

Mr. Ventrell served as the CEO of our organization from January 1, 1994 through January 15, 2009. Mr. Ventrell was an extraordinary CEO and his contributions will long be felt by this organization and the thousands of professionals, children, and families we serve.

During Mr. Ventrell's tenure as CEO, the NACC grew rapidly from a fledgling organization to a prominent national force. Our budget grew by over ten times its size, our membership doubled, and our influence and effectiveness grew immeasurably.

Mr. Ventrell is a creative visionary with extraordinary expertise in law and the multidisciplinary work of child welfare, juvenile justice, family law, court systems, and trial advocacy. Under his leadership, the NACC developed a strong and disciplined strategic planning process that guided us to success.

Mr. Ventrell is a fine teacher and a rigorous and kind mentor. He has helped develop many fine young lawyers. He is an accomplished scholar with publications too numerous to recite here. Among these publications is the NACC Treatise, *Children's Law and Practice*, relied upon nationally as a law school text book and attorney practice guide in this field.

Perhaps most notable among his accomplishments is the creation of the national child welfare certification program. He accomplished the designation of child welfare law as a legal specialty by the American Bar Association. He then acquired federal government and private funding to create the program whereby lawyers in this field may be certified as specialists. This involved the development of a complex business plan, curriculum, and administrative process. The program is now functioning as our core model project and is largely self-supporting.

Mr. Ventrell's ability to identify unmet need, envision a solution, and carry out a project to successful completion is remarkable. He does this independently with a strong sense of self and aggressive work ethic. At the same time, his leadership skills allow him to create group input, buy-in, and productivity.

Mr. Ventrell's awards include the ABA Child Advocacy Award and the Kempe Award. In addition, under Mr. Ventrell's leadership, the NACC won the Meritorious Service to the Children of America Award from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Outstanding Association Award from the American Society of Association Executives.

NACC / 1825 Marion Street, Suite 242 / Denver, CO 80218
Tel. 303.864.5320 / Fax 303.864-5351

E-mail advocate@NACCchildlaw.org / www.NACCchildlaw.org
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We regret the loss of Mr. Ventrell to this association but we are fortunate that his work at the NACC will serve us for years to come.

Very truly yours,

/s/ John Stuemky

John Stuemky, MD
Chair, NACC Board of Directors
405/830-3623 (Mobile)
John-stuemky@ouhsc.edu

/s/ Christopher Wu

Christopher Wu, JD
Past Chair, NACC Board of Directors
415/254-9650 (Mobile)
Christopher.wu@jud.ca.gov