

**Susan A. Weiss** is currently working as an independent consultant – in affiliation with ChildFocus. She is an accomplished and innovative leader in national philanthropy and in public policy advocacy. She recently left Casey Family Programs after 21 years, building and funding strategic partnerships with national policy and judicial organizations to improve the nation’s foster care system, leading efforts for investing philanthropic resources to advance policy changes at federal and state levels, creating national coalitions to advocate for policy improvements, developing judicial engagement strategies, and providing consultation for policy development and advocacy efforts in child welfare.

During her career at Casey, she developed and co-led national effort to focus on youth aging out of foster care – which included funding for a public television documentary and convening numerous organizations for effective collaboration. This effort resulted in passage of federal policy changes and the creation of the National Foster Care Coalition and National Foster Care Month. She created the foundation partnerships with and managed funding for the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures and the nation’s leading judicial/legal organizations (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, ABA Center on Children and the Law, and National Center for State Courts). She drove the development of the Three Branches Institute among these national partners to focus on specific areas of broad system change within states. Among her many accomplishments, she was instrumental in helping launch Courts Catalyzing Change, an effort to reduce disproportionality and disparate outcomes for children of color in the nation’s dependency courts and was a partner with the ABA to create the first-ever national focus on educational outcomes for youth in foster care. The latter resulted in the development and ongoing leadership of the Legal Center on Foster Care and Education. She has also played a key role in the ABA’s leadership to provide quality representation across the country for parents whose children have been removed from their care.

She started her career as an honors program attorney at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development with focus on consumer fraud and lead-based paint poisoning prevention followed by political work and policy advocacy at Consumer Federation of America and Georgetown University and a stint as a consultant which brought her to Casey and an early project addressing the needs of drug-exposed infants.

Susan has been a consistent advocate for children in her volunteer efforts

as well. For the past 20 years, she has been on the board of the Children's Campaign Fund (Washington State), a unique non-partisan PAC dedicated to helping elect state legislators who will champion children's issues. A major proponent for volunteerism and national service, she is also a governor-appointed Commissioner for the Washington State Commission on Community and National Service.

Susan is a cum laude graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Catholic University Columbus School of Law. She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar. She lives with her husband in Seattle, Washington.

Passionate about social justice and maximizing existing investments by foundations, non-profits and government agencies to seek collective solutions. Expertise in child welfare and work with judicial branch including focus on access to justice for children and families in the child welfare system. Earlier in career consumer lobbyist and legal counsel for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

## Experience

### **Consultant**

Affiliated with ChildFocus, Inc.

February 2014 – Present (5 months)

Consulting with non-profits, foundations and government agencies on policies, programs and philanthropic investments that will lead to improving the lives of children and families.



### **Director at Casey Family Programs**

Casey Family Programs

1993 – February 2014 (21 years) Seattle, WA

Twenty one years of foundation leadership