

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2020

National Adoption Day Continues Virtually in Los Angeles, Uniting 150 Children with Families

Los Angeles, California — On **Saturday, November 21**, judicial officers from the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the Alliance for Children's Rights, Public Counsel, and pro bono partners, and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services will complete virtual adoption ceremonies for 150 children in Los Angeles County foster care as part of the 2020 National Adoption Day.

"The Los Angeles Superior Court is pleased to continue our support for National Adoption Day during the COVID-19 pandemic," said the **Superior Court of Los Angeles County Presiding Judge of Juvenile Victor H. Greenberg**. "The most important aspect of this event, which was first established in Los Angeles twenty-one years ago, is the formation of new families for children and their adoptive parents. That tradition continues as we finalize 150 adoptions, and celebrate the almost 1,000 adoptions completed over the past four months through our innovative electronic court program."

Earlier in June of this year, the Alliance partnered with the Children's Court to develop a remote process to allow for the finalization of foster care adoptions without the adoptive families having to come to court due to the COVID-19 pandemic. National Adoption Day this year will further allow families to appear virtually at their adoption finalization hearings the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday.

"We are so proud and profoundly grateful to have, even amidst an incredibly challenging year, pushed forward in collaboration with our partners to ensure that hundreds of families in Los Angeles County can safely finalize their adoptions," says **Cynthia J. Billey, director of the Alliance for Children's Rights Adoption Program and co-founder of National Adoption Day**. "While this National Adoption Day may look different than years before, one thing remains true—children and young adults deserve to find love, security, and stability in a family, and we are deeply honored and committed to supporting them on that path to permanency."

Event Details:

- When:** Saturday, November 21, 2020
8:15 a.m. — Virtual Press Event [[RSVP HERE](#)]
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Remote Adoption Hearings
- Where:** If you would like to view the news conference, [please RSVP](#) by Nov. 19. More information on how to view the virtual press event will be forthcoming.
- Who:** Adoptive families and children; **Victor H. Greenberg**, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court; Alliance for Children's Rights President and CEO **Jennifer L. Braun**; Public Counsel's President & CEO Judge **Margaret Morrow** (ret.), Director of LA County Department of Children and Family Services **Bobby D. Cagle**, and others.

Virtual adoptions are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Nov. 21. A pool camera will be allowed at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court on National Adoption Day to film select virtual adoptions from inside a courtroom. A pool camera will also be allowed to film a family in their home, while the adoption ceremony takes place.

Judge Greenberg will be available for virtual interviews between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on National Adoption Day. Please email the Communications Office at publicinfo@lacourt.org to schedule an interview. To schedule an interview with the Alliance or an adoptive family, contact comms@kids-alliance.org

About Alliance for Children's Rights

The Alliance for Children's Rights protects the rights of impoverished, abused, and neglected children and young adults impacted by foster care. By providing free legal representation and social services, and by advocating for broad solutions through ground-breaking child welfare policy reform, the Alliance clears barriers to stability and opportunity so that young people and families can access the support and services they need to thrive. For more information, visit allianceforchildrensrights.org.

About National Adoption Day

Founded in 2000 by a coalition of national partners — the Alliance for Children's Rights, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and Children's Action Network — [National Adoption Day](http://NationalAdoptionDay.org) is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the more than 122,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States and to celebrate all loving families that adopt.

The first National Adoption Day was inspired by the innovative efforts of Michael Nash, a former presiding judge of Los Angeles Juvenile Court, in collaboration with the Alliance for Children's Rights, Public Counsel, and the Department of Children and Family Services to open the court on Saturdays and engage the volunteer efforts of pro bono attorneys to finalize large numbers of backlogged adoptions. Based on Los Angeles' "Adoption Saturday" model, the Alliance and its national partners organized the first-ever National Adoption Day on November 18, 2000, when nine cities opened their courts on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to finalize over 1,100 foster care adoptions. Today, judges, social workers, attorneys, adoption advocates, and policymakers collaborate to plan these annual events in over 400 cities across the United States. To date, the dreams of more than **80,000 children in foster care** have come true as part of National Adoption Day.

In light of the pandemic, many participating cities are not able to hold their customary National Adoption Day in-court celebrations this year and are holding virtual adoption hearings similar to Los Angeles' event. So far, over 30 events in more than 15 states are scheduled to take place on National Adoption Day. Visit www.nationaladoptionday.org for more information.

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