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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

**CWLA (Child Welfare League of America)  
Names New Board Leadership**

Washington, D.C. (May 17, 2019) – The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the country’s oldest standard-setting and advocacy organization, announces the election of Board officers and three new members effective immediately. The 24-member Board of Directors includes community leaders from public and private agencies and organizations serving children and families who are vulnerable across the United States.

**BOARD CHAIR**

**Keith H. Liederman**  
CEO  
Kingsley House  
New Orleans, LA

**SECRETARY**

**Victoria Kelly**  
Director (Retired)  
Delaware Department of Services for  
Children, Youth and their Families  
Millsboro, DE

**VICE CHAIR**

**Alex B. Morales**  
President & CEO (Retired)  
Children’s Bureau  
Upland, CA

**TREASURER**

**Krisztina Ford**  
President and CEO  
All Faiths Children’s Advocacy Center  
Albuquerque, NM

During his close to 10 years of service on the CWLA Board, Keith Liederman has served as a member of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Membership Committee, and was most recently Vice Chair. As Chief Executive Officer of [Kingsley House](#), a 123-year-old nonprofit in New Orleans, he has decades of experience overseeing nationally accredited early learning, adult day care, and community programming, helping children, families, seniors, and veterans who are vulnerable. Dr. Liederman, who holds a PhD in social work, also serves as adjunct faculty at Tulane University School of Social Work, teaching courses in diversity and social justice, social welfare policy, and practice. He shared, “I am honored to take on this new leadership role as CWLA moves into its second century of service,” and added that “this is an exciting and challenging time for CWLA and our nation. Our unyielding commitment to improving life outcomes for children and families who are vulnerable is as needed now as when we were founded nearly 100 years ago.”

CWLA also is pleased to welcome three new Board members:

- **Richard Heyl de Ortiz** is the Executive Director of the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition, based in New Paltz, New York. A leader in the New York child welfare field, Heyl de Ortiz has particular experience in the administration of foster care, adoption, and kinship care. He has unique knowledge of and experience in family court, laws relating to child abuse and neglect, and the causes of childhood trauma. He has personal experience as a foster parent, and adopted a child of another race, creating a family that is transracial.

- **Yaridis L. Garcia** is the Community Planner Manager at the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) of Pinellas County, Florida, where she works in community engagement, planning, advocacy, and strategic mission-driven projects that lead to positive changes for Pinellas County children and families. Garcia is involved in the recruitment, mobilization, and engagement of community networks of formal and informal service providers, and works with community residents for strategic action. She also provides technical assistance in the areas of community planning, organizational capacity building, formation of strategic partnerships and community alliances, and the use of performance data to measure service quality and effectiveness.
- **Alisa A. Lee** is the state Indian Child Welfare Administrator for Utah’s Division of Child and Family Services and serves as the Native American Liaison for the Department of Human Services. Alisa is an enrolled member of the federally recognized Fort Independence Paiute Tribe in Owens Valley, California. She is an elected member of her Tribal council and currently serves as the Vice Chairwoman.

#### **About the Child Welfare League of America**

Founded in 1920, CWLA is a national organization representing members who serve children, youth, and families whose unique needs require the supports that CWLA provides through standard setting, training, consulting, publications, and advocacy. CWLA’s vision is that every child can grow up in safe, nurturing, families and communities. Through our *National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare – Raising the Bar for Children, Families, and Communities*, CWLA details dozens of standards that help ensure fewer children are at risk and many more do not just survive, but thrive. Visit [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org) for a detailed description of our resources, staff, and Board of Directors.

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