

FY20 – FY21 Board of Directors

JOAN PERNECKE

Joined CACI Board – 2017

- Current Board President



Joan Pernecke was an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County, Illinois beginning in January 1989. Since 2007 she has been the Chief of the Child Protection Division of the Juvenile Justice Bureau, in which 12 full-time courtrooms and 3 adjunct courtrooms handle all Child Protection Prosecutions, both initial and TPR Petitions. Her Division is responsible for screening cases brought by DCFS, hospitals and others, and filing Petitions as appropriate. The members of the State's Attorneys Child Protection Division staff are responsible for prosecuting all Petitions as well as working with all other agencies involved in the cases, including multiple Child Welfare personnel, in order to best meet the needs of the children who rely on the assistance of Juvenile Court.

As a Criminal Courts Trial assistant from 1992-2003, she has handled several general felony trial calls, with both capital and non-capital murders caseloads, as well as domestic violence, sexual assault cases and all manner of other violent felonies. From 2003-2007, Joan was a Supervisor in the Juvenile Justice Bureau, Delinquency Division. In that capacity she oversaw the filing and prosecution of all Delinquency matters in all Suburban Cook County Juvenile courtrooms as well as some Chicago courtrooms. Additionally, she managed various Federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grants, and assisted in the management of the Juvenile Sex Offender treatment study.

During her career with the State's Attorney's Office, she has tried 80 juries, including 39 murders, and was the coordinator of the first group of dedicated domestic violence courtrooms from 1989-1992. Prior to joining the State's Attorney's Office, she worked in an Antitrust and Tax Law firm for several years in Chicago and is a member of the Federal Bar and Illinois Appellate Bar, Capital Litigation Trial Bar and United States Supreme Court Bar. She also gained extensive experience in Administrative Law and the licensing and

disciplining of professionals during her employment with the Illinois Attorney General's Office from 1981 through 1984.

Ms. Pernecke has served long-term as Faculty for the DePaul University College of Law Trial Advocacy courses, as well as for the National College of District Attorneys in South Carolina, and the American Prosecutors Research Institute. She regularly organizes and conducts trainings for State's Attorneys, Child Welfare professionals, Police Officers and others working in the courts.

Ms. Pernecke has been a member of the Illinois Child Death Review Teams since 2003, and now serves as both the Chair of the Cook A team and the Chair of Executive Council. This statutorily mandated organization of volunteer professionals working with child welfare are tasked with reviewing the deaths of children who have been or are involved with DCFS and determining what, if anything, may have prevented their death or the deaths of children in similar circumstances.