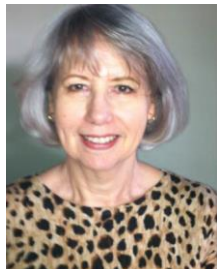# 2015 NCSEA U Instuctors

NCSEA is pleased to announce that Cynthia Bryant and John Tapogna will be instructors for the 2015 NCSEA U program.

Cynthia Bryant engages in consulting, training, research, and writing in the fields of child support and dispute resolution. In early 2014, she retired as Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Texas School of Law, where she taught courses in mediation and dispute resolution and directed the Law School's Mediation Clinic for 10 years.

Much of her career as a lawyer, teacher, and agency executive has focused on the legal rights of children. With Professor John J. Sampson, in 1980 she founded the Children's Right Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law. From 1984 to 1990, she served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Child Support Division, as Director of Litigation and Director of Field Operations in the Texas IV-D program. She returned to the Children's Rights Clinic in 1991, for another 10 years of teaching, writing, and practicing law. In July 2001, she rejoined the Texas Attorney General's Child Support Division as Deputy Attorney General and IV-D Director for Texas, where she continued to serve until July 2004. From 2004-2007 she served on the Board of Directors of the National Child Support Enforcement Association.

Her work on behalf of children has been recognized by Texas CASA, and she received the Forshey Award from the State Bar of Texas Child Abuse and Neglect Committee. In 2002, she received the Commissioner's Award from the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement and, in 2003, the Regional Administrator's Leadership Award from the federal Administration for Children and Families.

John Tapogna, is President of ECONorthwest (ECO), and oversees the firm's overall business strategy and operations. ECO is the Northwest's largest economic consulting firm and works for public, private, and not-for-profit clients throughout the U.S.

Since his arrival at ECO in 1997, Tapogna has built ECO's practices in the child support enforcement, welfare, education, healthcare, and tax policy areas. In child support enforcement area, he has evaluated several state-level demonstrations on topics including medical support enforcement, in-hospital paternity establishment, and asset-building programs for non-custodial parents. And for the US Office of Child Support Enforcement, he documented variations in child support financing across states and forecasted impacts of proposed changes to federal match rates.

Tapogna has overseen the development of award-winning software tools in Arizona, California, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, and Wisconsin that help low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans understand their eligibility for safety-net programs offered in the public and nonprofit sectors. The first of these tools—Oregon Helps—won *Government Executive's* 2003 Government Technology Leadership Award and the 2003-04 *Stockholm Challenge* in the e-government category.

Prior to joining ECO, Tapogna was an analyst at the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, where he forecasted the nation's welfare spending and estimated the cost of key congressional legislation. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oregon and holds a Masters Degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.