

## MARY BISSELL

Mary Bissell is an attorney, child advocate and founding partner of ChildFocus™, a consulting firm specializing in policy research and planning, program development, government relations, and strategic communications. For the past three years, she has also been a Fellow at the New America Foundation, a nonpartisan public policy institute in Washington, DC.

Bissell was formerly an attorney and lobbyist at the Children's Defense Fund and a legislative assistant in the Office of Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV). Prior to her experience on the Hill, she directed The Kinship Care Project at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and the DC Kinship Care Coalition, Inc., a non-profit organization she founded.

Bissell has published extensively in a broad range of publications including *The Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Miami Herald*, and *The Philadelphia Enquirer*. She has spoken on CNN, the *TODAY* Show, CBS, NBC, and National Public Radio.

A graduate of Yale University and the Georgetown University Law Center, Bissell is a member of the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Supreme Court Bars.