Marcia Robinson Lowry is the executive director of Children’s Rights, Inc., the leading national, non-profit organization fighting for the rights of children dependent upon state child welfare systems. Children’s Rights, which Ms. Lowry founded in 1995, protects America’s most vulnerable children using policy, public education, and the power of the courts. Children’s Rights’ policy department conducts research, public policy analysis and advocacy at the state and federal levels with the goal of improving child welfare systems.

Ms. Lowry has dedicated her legal career to protecting the rights of children. Formerly director of the Children’s Rights Project of the New York Civil Liberties Union (1973-1979) and the American Civil Liberties Union (1979-1995), Ms. Lowry has a long history of reforming child welfare systems. She pioneered the first body of law to protect children in foster care, bringing increased attention and public scrutiny to systems that were all but ignored. Her work at Children’s Rights uses litigation or the threat of litigation in conjunction with national and local policy analysts, experts, and government officials to implement realistic, long-term solutions to change the lives of children. These efforts have created concrete changes in foster care systems such as more funding and resources, as well as improved management and better outcomes for children.

Children’s Rights currently has eight child welfare systems under federal court orders mandating widespread reform--Connecticut; Georgia; Mississippi; New Jersey; Tennessee; Washington, DC; Wisconsin; and Michigan, and four cases in active litigation, in Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Texas.