

Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by Children's Law Center | June 2017

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 **CLC has moved! We are now located at 501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 800.**

Upcoming Events

Advanced CCAN Half-Day Training, Wednesday, June 21st from 9:30am-2:30pm at DC Superior Court, Family Court Conference Room (4224).

9:30am-11:00am: *Ta. L.*: The Legal Landscape and Practice Tips

Presenters: Abe Sisson, senior appellate attorney, Melissa Colangelo, appellate project manager, and Allison Green, senior supervising attorney

This session will increase participants' understanding of the opinion's key rulings, as well as what questions are left open by the decision. The presenters will address litigation trends in permanency goal change hearings that have been observed and walk through the Superior Court's recent directive on *In re Ta.L.* The presenters will also opine on how the Court of Appeals might handle permanency goal appeals under *In re Ta.L.*

11:30am-1:00pm: Reasonable Efforts Advocacy

Presenters: Beth Kurtz, GAL staff attorney, and Cara Morse, GAL senior attorney

What are "reasonable efforts," and what does a GAL need to know about reasonable efforts proffers, objections, and findings? What are the government's obligations, and where do they come from? How often does the court need to address the government's reasonable efforts? How can the reasonable efforts finding be a tool to advance the best interests of your clients? Come to this session for an overview of the legal background of the reasonable efforts standard and tips for advocacy.

1:00pm-2:30pm: Appellate Practice in Family Court Cases

Presenters: Abe Sisson, senior appellate attorney, and Melissa Colangelo, appellate project manager

This session provides a comprehensive overview of general appellate principles and appellate practice, with a focus on family law matters. Topics covered include appellate jurisdiction, preservation of issues, standards of review, and procedural issues related to Rule D litigation, as well as appeals to the D.C. Court of Appeals. This session is designed to help both new and experienced attorneys avoid common pitfalls when it comes to logistics of the appellate process, as well as the presentation of substantive arguments.

To RSVP, please email trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Tuesday, June 20th. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!

Immigration 201: Advocacy in Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Cases, Thursday, June 22, 2017 from 3:00pm-4:30pm at Children's Law Center (501 3rd Street NW, 8th Floor, Washington DC 20001).

Staff attorneys Allie Federoff and Katy McGiffin are excited to host a panel of experts, including Judge Julie Breslow, Assessment Center psychologist Dr. Giselle Hass, GAL Bill Ecenbarger, and Clinical

Supervisor, Lutheran Social Services URM Program Jennifer Forrester, to discuss the unique considerations in working with and advocating for Unaccompanied Refugee Minor youth in DC.

To RSVP, please email trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Wednesday, June 21, 2017. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!

Lunch and Learn Teleconference: The Role of Expert Witnesses in Special Education Proceedings, Thursday, July 13th from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

We invite you to join us for this informative Lunch and Learn that will focus on the role of the expert witness in special education matters. This presentation will highlight the role of the special education expert in due process hearings and in the IEP meetings leading up to those hearings. Rich Weinfeld and Jennifer Fisher, authors of books and articles on special education and the directors of Weinfeld Education Group (WEG), will be our presenters. They will provide an overview of the process that the expert witness utilizes in forming an expert opinion. They will also provide some tips about what to expect in working with expert witnesses in meetings, testimony preparation, and hearings.

To join the call, dial 641-715-3680 and use passcode: 964021#.

You are welcome to submit questions in advance to Kristen Pisani-Jacques, GAL Project Deputy Director, at kpisani@childrenslawcenter.org. Same-day questions can be sent to events@childrenslawcenter.org. **Prior registration is not required.**

Don't forget about Children's Law Center's Helpline!

Our **Helpline** provides CCAN attorneys with legal information and advice.

- *Staffed by Children's Law Center attorneys*
- *Confidential*
- *Legal information and assistance on general and case-specific topics, such as help identifying resources and services, sample pleadings, and other materials*
- *All Helpline calls are screened to identify potential conflicts of interest*

Call (202) 467-4900 (Option 3) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Reports and Publications

Practice Kit 7: Sexual Health Issues and Teen Parents (Children's Law Center, Revised May 2017)

"This Practice Kit includes information to help practitioners address sexual health with teen clients. It also highlights issues that are particularly relevant to teen clients who become parents. Included are relevant federal and local laws; CFSA policy; information on sexual health issues, such as contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, and abortion; and resources for pregnant and parenting teens, including parenting classes, prenatal health care, child care, custody, and child support." [Full Publication](#)

How "Reasonable Efforts" Leads to Emotional and Legal Permanence (Bob Friend and Kelly Beck)

"This article intends to holistically review the opportunities and actions of the entire child welfare system in order to improve the experience and outcomes of the children and families it was intended to serve. More specifically, the authors will weave together leadership and oversight provided by courts via reasonable efforts findings with the innovative practices that child welfare agencies, advocates, and partners can take between hearings to advance and secure the safety, permanence, and well-being of the children, parents, family members and communities they serve." [Full Publication](#)

Trauma: What Child Welfare Attorneys Should Know (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network)

"Trauma exposure can significantly interfere with the way children's brains assess threat, which in turn can affect how they respond to stress. The negative impact of trauma exposure is particularly relevant for children and families in the child welfare system, as the majority of child welfare-involved clients have experienced multiple traumas, including abuse, neglect, and exposure to domestic violence. By understanding the impact of

trauma on youth and families, and incorporating trauma-informed skills into legal advocacy, attorneys representing children or parents in child welfare cases can improve outcomes for their clients. This document is intended to provide you with knowledge about the impact of trauma, practice tips for incorporating trauma-informed practices into legal representation, and resources to assist in the representation of clients with histories of trauma.” [Full Publication](#)

Raising the Bar: Impacts and Implementation of the New Heights Program for Expectant and Parenting Teens in Washington, DC (Mathematica Policy Research, May 2017)

“This report shares the findings from an impact and implementation study of New Heights, a DC Public Schools program that provides a multi-faceted approach for supporting parenting students’ educational attainment. This report demonstrates how the program made a significant impact on academic outcomes, such as school engagement and credit accumulation, and a marginal impact on a more distal outcome of graduation. The report provides an in-depth description of the program model, and presents student and staff perceptions of its success.” [Full Publication](#)

Helping Young Children Who Have Experienced Trauma: Policies and Strategies for Early Care and Education (Child Trends, April 2017)

“This report from Child Trends and the National Center for Children in Poverty includes a review of the prevalence of early childhood trauma and its effects. The report offers promising strategies for child care and preschool programs looking to help young children who have endured trauma, and presents recommendations for policymakers to support trauma-informed early care.” [Full Publication](#)

Escaping Poverty (Urban Institute, May 2017)

“More than 1 in 10 US children grow up in persistently poor families—spending at least half of their childhood living in poverty. These children are significantly less likely to succeed economically as adults than their nonpoor and less-poor counterparts. And the economic effects go beyond those borne by these children; child poverty costs the United States billions of dollars a year in lost productivity and expenses related to poor health and crime. This report examines the paths persistently poor children take into adulthood and highlights characteristics of those who are ‘most successful’ as young adults—defined as consistently connected to work or school and not poor.” [Full Publication](#)

Immigrant Eligibility for Federal Child Care and Early Education Programs (Center for Law and Social Policy, April 2017)

“One in four children under age six has at least one foreign-born parent. The vast majority (96 percent) of these young children of immigrants are U.S. citizens. Many of these citizen children live with at least one undocumented household member. Consequently, families may be hesitant to access public benefits and programs for which they are legally eligible.” [Policy Brief](#)

Three Innovative Approaches to Serving Low-Income Fathers (MDRC, April 2017)

“B3 is a partnership between six organizations that provide Responsible Fatherhood services, the MDRC-led study team, and the project funder, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. B3 seeks to identify services that can measurably improve the outcomes of fathers who participate in Responsible Fatherhood programs. The study is designed to rigorously assess new and emerging service approaches in the field over the next three years.” [Full Publication](#)

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative at 25 (The Annie E. Casey Foundation, April 2017)

“The Annie E. Casey Foundation launched its Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) 25 years ago. This results report, which draws on eight years of JDAI data, tells how participating sites have achieved significant and—in many cases—long-lasting reductions in rates of juvenile incarceration and juvenile crime. Readers will also learn what’s next. The report shares key challenges and also new goals, tools and strategies for JDAI sites to consider as they look to enhance their work and advance the initiative’s remarkable track record of success.”

[Full Publication](#)

Policy Brief: TANF Reaching Few Poor Families (Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, May 2017)

“The federal government has a critical role in ensuring that low-income families have access to a minimum level of support to meet their basic needs. The TANF block grant handed that responsibility over to states, which—

with no national standards to hold them accountable for providing assistance to families in need—acted in their own self-interest, not in the best interest of the most vulnerable members of society.” [Policy Brief](#)

News

Local

[Surviving CFSA](#) (David Grosso Webpage, 5/23/17)

[Do charter schools serve special needs kids? The jury is out](#) (WJLA, 5/22/17)

[How will new federal drug sentencing directives affect our region](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 5/22/17)

[Plans for a new DC jail sparks concerns about transparency](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 5/22/17)

[We need to make room for everyone in DC](#) (Washington Post, 5/19/17)

[Pushing through complacency to fight health disparities in DC’s African American communities](#) (DC Policy Center, 5/18/17)

[Need a lawyer to fight an eviction? A new DC program provides one for free](#) (WAMU, 5/18/17)

[Despite increases in funding, some DC schools face possible cuts](#) (The Washington Post, 5/18/17)

[Gentrification doesn’t mean diversity](#) (City Lab, 5/15/17)

[How to ensure men are not locked out of society after having been locked up](#) (The Washington Post, 5/13/17)

[Three ways we can help the DC children who live in fear](#) (The Washington Post, 5/12/17)

[DC is in the midst of a housing crisis. Is the city up for the challenge?](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 5/10/17)

[The nation’s capital forfeits millions in affordable housing funds as homelessness surges. Why?](#) (The Washington Post, 5/8/17)

[Advocacy group details shortfalls of program for DC’s homeless](#) (Washington City Paper, 5/2/17)

[How will the Washington region hold its schools accountable for student learning?](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi, 5/2/17)

[How are school vouchers performing for DC students?](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 5/1/17)

National

[Trump budget harms kids and families by slashing \\$1.5 trillion from Medicaid and CHIP](#) (First Focus, 5/23/17)

[Opinion: How policing back boys leads to the conditioning of black men](#) (NPR, 5/23/17)

[Homeschooling makes learning personal for some special education students](#) (WAMU, 4/22/17)

[Study: ADHD symptoms are going untreated in black youth](#) (NBC, 5/21/17)

[The deportation fears of immigrants with disabled children](#) (The Atlantic, 5/19/17)

[How some kids escape poverty](#) (City Lab, 5/19/17)

[A new understanding of the childhood brain](#) (The Atlantic, 5/19/17)

[Why juvenile justice reform needs child welfare at the table](#) (Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, 5/15/17)

[Race-related trauma disrupts psychological well-being](#) (Psychology Today, 5/15/17)

[Focus on infants during childbirth leaves US moms in danger](#) (NPR, 5/12/17)

[When disability is misdiagnosed as bad behavior](#) (Pacific Standard, 5/10/17)

[How homeownership became the engine of American inequality](#) (The New York Times, 5/9/17)

Trainings

Trainings are scheduled to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month if possible. Agendas to be announced!

- 🚩 September 20, 2017 – Half-Day Special Education Training – DC Superior Court Rm 4224, 9:30am-2pm

Case Rounds

Case Rounds scheduled to be held bi-monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. All Case Rounds are held from 1pm-2pm at D.C. Superior Court in Room 4224.

- 🚩 July 11, 2017
- 🚩 September 12, 2017

Lunch and Law Teleconferences

All Lunch and Law Teleconferences are held from 12pm-1pm. Check Keeping Current and <http://www.childrenslawcenter.org/events> for call-in info.

- 🚩 August 16, 2017: Changes to the Law Regarding Experts

More detailed information on sessions to follow. Please check your monthly Keeping Current for updates. Please contact Kristen Pisani-Jacques, Deputy Director of the Guardian ad Litem project, with comments or suggestions at kpisani@childrenslawcenter.org or (202) 750-7527.

About This Publication

Keeping Current is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. The materials referenced in Keeping Current are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community, and Children's Law Center cannot verify the quality of all the materials or events referenced herein. CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials, and should review the weekly CCAN e-mail for current information.

In a continued effort to improve the utility of its resources, Children's Law Center has created a quick survey to get feedback on how CCAN attorneys find *Keeping Current* and other resources. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFVK7N3>.