

Keeping Current

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

[Upcoming Events](#) | [News](#) | [Reports & Publications](#)

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

Upcoming Events

Safe Haven Brown Bag, Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 12:30pm-2:00pm at DC Superior Court, Courtroom 203.

CFSA is currently undergoing a Safe Haven Redesign, as they focus on narrowing the number of private foster care providers in the District and Maryland. Please join representatives from CFSA to learn more about the redesign and to also have a chance to provide input and feedback.

Lunch and Law Teleconference: Client Empowerment, Wednesday, May 31, 12:00pm-1:00pm.

We invite you to join Gabrielle Majewski, Education Project Manager; Jess Kurtz, GAL supervising attorney; and Lee Robbins, education attorney, for our second Lunch and Learn of 2017, focused on client empowerment. Each client comes to us with different strengths. Client empowerment involves client-driven legal representation in which the client is actively participating in the case strategy and making his or her own decisions about the direction of a case, armed with information offered by an attorney. Clients' own advocacy skills and efforts significantly contribute to a legal success becoming a positive long-term outcome. Even in situations where a desired legal outcome is not achieved, helping to empower a client with self-advocacy skills can help ensure future achievement of the client's long-term goals. Through this Lunch & Learn, Children's Law Center attorneys will present on effective client empowerment and strategies attorneys can employ to better engage and empower clients in a holistic and thoughtful manner. **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.**

Advanced CCAN Half-Day Training, Wednesday, June 21, 9:30am-2:30pm at DC Superior Court, Family Court Conference Room (4224). *More information on sessions and presenters to follow!*

9:30am-11:00am: Reasonable Efforts Advocacy

11:30am-1:00pm: *Ta. L:* The Legal Landscape and Practice Tips

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

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

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

Encouraging Responsible Parenting among Fathers with Histories of Incarceration (Urban Institute, April 2017)

"Fathers find it difficult to maintain their relationships with their children during and after their incarceration experience. To help fathers sustain and strengthen their relationships with their children, six Office of Family Assistance-funded Fatherhood Reentry programs implemented a range of activities intended to build fathers' knowledge of parenting and child development, increase fathers' contact and communication with their children and families, and help reduce fathers' barriers to reunifying with their children. This implementation evaluation documented these activities and services, which included parenting classes, support groups, family contact visits, video diaries, special events, child care services, and assistance navigating child support issues."

[Full Publication](#)

Market Signals: Evidence on the Determinants and Consequences of School Choice from a Citywide Lottery (Mathematica Policy Research, April 2017)

"The authors estimate school-choice preferences revealed by the rank-ordered lists submitted by more than 22,000 applicants to a citywide lottery for more than 200 traditional and charter public schools in Washington, D.C. The results confirm previously reported findings that commuting distance, school demographics, and academic indicators play important roles in school choice and that there is considerable heterogeneity of preferences. Higher and lower income choosers respond to academic quality measures, but respond to different indicators of quality. Simulations suggest segregation by race and income would be reduced and enrollment in high-performing schools increased if policymakers were to relax school capacity constraints in individual campuses. The simulations also suggest that removing the lowest performing schools as choice options could further reduce segregation and increase enrollment in high-performing schools." [Full Publication](#)

Helping Girls Get Back on Track (MDRC, April 2017)

"PACE Center for Girls is a unique program that provides academic and social services to girls ages 11 to 18. Girls eligible for PACE exhibit multiple health, safety, and delinquency risk factors, such as poor academic performance, exposure to abuse or violence, truancy, risky sexual behavior, and substance abuse. PACE seeks to help them onto a better path and reduce the likelihood of negative outcomes, such as involvement with the juvenile justice system." [Full Publication](#)

Parent-Child Visiting Practices in Prisons and Jails (Urban Institute, April 2017)

"Relationships between children and their parents are the foundation on which children learn how to form and sustain healthy relationships. Disrupting those relationships—by losing a parent to incarceration, for example—can have long-term effects on children and may lead to antisocial behavior, poor school performance, and physical and mental health problems. Although some evidence suggests visiting practices can lessen the trauma associated with parental incarceration, the full effects of visiting remain understudied. Our goal was to help inform researchers and practitioners about what is known about visiting practices, describe key components of visiting practices, and offer recommendations for practice and research." [Full Publication](#)

Developing Culturally Responsive Approaches to Serving Diverse Populations: A Resource Guide for Community-Based Organizations (Child Trends, March 2017)

“As communities become more culturally and linguistically diverse, community-based service organizations (CBOs) are called to do more to reduce disparities in access and use of important social services. An important strategy is developing cultural competency—behaviors, attitudes, and policies that enable CBOs to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. This resource guide identifies easily accessible resources on cultural competency that CBOs can use to become more responsive to the needs of their targeted populations, and to help attract funds to support their important work.” [Full Publication](#)

News

Local

[‘Cry for help’: Why some teens choose to run away](#) (NBC4, 4/25/17)

[Bowser plans to lease apartment building to house homeless families](#) (The Washington Post, 4/21/17)

[Study: Parent groups in Northwest DC raise thousands for schools](#) (The Washington Post, 4/18/17)

[Nonprofit sues DC landlord for housing discrimination against voucher tenants](#) (Washington City Paper, 4/13/17)

[Bowser takes on DC’s expensive childcare market, but will her efforts be enough?](#) (WAMU, 4/13/17)

[Bowser budget draws mixed reviews](#) (AFRO, 4/13/17)

[Family of DC girl with severe lead poisoning struggling to find new housing, facing homelessness](#) (Fox5, 4/12/17)

[The risks facing youth who leave home: Combatting our region’s underage sex trafficking](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 4/12/17)

[DC mayor to propose expanding rights of sexual assault victims](#) (The Washington Post, 4/12/17)

[Teens from two very different DC schools hold tough conversations on race](#) (WAMU, 4/12/17)

[DC looks for ways to bolster police force as attrition outpaces recruitment, homicides rise](#) (The Washington Times, 4/10/17)

[DC mayor’s budget plan aims to ease shortage of infant and toddler care](#) (The Washington Post, 4/9/17)

[Study: Black students from poor families are more likely to graduate from high school if they have at least one black teacher](#) (The Washington Post, 4/9/17)

[A bigger spotlight now shines on DC’s runaway teens. This home has helped them for 40 years](#) (The Washington Post, 4/7/17)

[The foster care aspect of the DC missing girls story](#) (Social Justice Solutions, 4/5/17)

[Sanctuary DMV pledges to protect undocumented immigrants from President Trump’s crackdown](#) (The Washington Times, 4/5/17)

[Is DC addressing the educational needs of girls of color?](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 4/4/17)

National

[Do state spending differences create an unequal playing field for children?](#) (Urban Wire, 4/25/17)

[What do we really know about the value of prekindergarten?](#) (The Washington Post, 4/24/17)

[When corporal punishment is still used in schools, its roots run deep](#) (NPR, 4/12/17)

[Is homelessness a medical condition?](#) (The Network for Public Health Law, 4/11/17)

[How the heroin crisis is straining foster care](#) (The Huffington Post, 4/11/17)

[Special Ed School vouchers may come with hidden costs](#) (The New York Times, 4/11/17)

[Can a difficult childhood enhance cognition?](#) (The Atlantic, 4/11/17)

[Children notice what adults miss, study finds](#) (The Ohio State University, 4/10/17)

[DeVos praises this voucher-like program. Here's what it means for school reform](#) (The Washington Post, 4/9/17)

[How foster care turns into hell](#) (New York Post, 4/7/17)

[The perils and false rewards of parenting in the era of 'digi-discipline'](#) (NPR, 4/7/17)

Trainings

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

- 🚩 June 21, 2017 – Advanced CCAN Half-Day Training – DC Superior Court Rm 4224, 9:30am-2pm:
9:30am-11:00am: Reasonable Efforts Advocacy
11:30am-1:00pm: *Ta. L.*: The Legal Landscape ad Practice Tips
1:00pm-2:30pm: Appellate Practice in Family Court Cases
- 🚩 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.

- 🚩 **New Date!** July 13, 2017: The Role of the Expert Witness in Special Education Cases
- 🚩 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>.