

Keeping Current

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

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 Check out CLC's revised Practice Kits on Appellate Practice and Medicaid!

Upcoming Events

CCAN Case Rounds: Ask a Social Worker, Tuesday, July 11th from 12pm-1pm at DC Superior Court, Family Court Conference Room (4224).

Do you have questions about services in DC? Does your client have mental health needs that are not being met and do you want to talk over how to better address them? Do you have questions about how trauma might be impacting your client's day to day functioning? Come talk to a CLC social worker to brainstorm about how to ensure your clients' needs are being met and to inform your advocacy on your cases.

To RSVP, please email trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Monday, July 10th. 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.

Lunch and Learn Teleconference: Changes to the Law Regarding Experts, Wednesday, August 16th from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

We invite you to join us for this informative Lunch and Learn that will focus on the recent change in case law regarding the qualification of expert witnesses. Jessie Forsythe and Jessica Kurtz Zagoren, supervising attorneys at Children's Law Center, will discuss the recent D.C. Court of Appeals case *Motorola Inc. v. Murray*, 147 A.3d 751 (D.C. 2016) and how it changes the requirements in D.C. for qualifying expert witnesses. The presentation will provide an overview of where we came from, what changed, and what assessment the court should be making. We will provide guidance around how to effectively voir dire and argue for the qualification of an expert witness, including those who might not have previously met the standard.

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 5: Appellate Practice in DC Abuse and Neglect Cases (Children's Law Center, June 2017)

"Revised June 2017. This practice kit covers general appellate principles, including appellate jurisdiction, scope of appeal, standard of review, and procedural matters, with a particular focus on neglect, guardianship, termination of parental rights (TPR), and adoption cases. It also includes an Appendix with excerpts from applicable provisions of the D.C. Code, D.C. Superior Court and D.C. Court of Appeals rules, a table with relevant case law summaries and the cases themselves, and commonly used forms. Finally, there is an Additional Resources section, primarily consisting of reference materials created by the D.C. Court of Appeals."

[Full Publication](#)

Practice Kit 8: A Guide to Medicaid for Children in DC (Children's Law Center, June 2017)

"Revised June 2017. This practice kit is designed to provide a general overview of the federal and local laws that govern the provision of Medicaid benefits to children in DC and to empower attorneys and advocates to seek services and applicable remedies using this knowledge. The kit should serve as a helpful resource to varied audiences and resources in this toolkit may be used to advocate for any child who lives in the District of Columbia, is a ward of D.C., or who is otherwise covered by D.C. Medicaid for any reason."

[Full Publication](#)

Why Does Cash Welfare Depend on Where You Live? (Urban Institute, June 2017)

"State TANF policy decisions are significantly related to race. A state with a relatively large African American population is more likely to have less generous, more restrictive TANF policies (except for asset limit policies). States with larger African American populations also tend to have less generous maximum benefits and income eligibility limits and harsher initial sanctions, all else equal. Further research should explore the relationships between TANF policy decisions and other racial and ethnic groups."

[Full Publication](#)

Developing Housing and Health Collaborations: Opportunities and Challenges (Urban Institute, June 2017)

"This brief examines key issues for health and housing collaborations and highlights lessons from three such programs: the New York Medicaid Redesign Team Supportive Housing Initiative, the Houston Integrated Care for the Chronically Homeless, and Portland's Housing with Services initiative. We found that the challenges to health and housing integration are significant, but not insurmountable."

[Full Publication](#)

Every Step Counts: Building a School Choice Architecture (MDRC, June 2017)

"As school choice systems expand, district enrollment offices are striving to make the choice process accessible and clear for families. This practitioner brief offers lessons for supporting families through the sequence of decisions involved as they engage in the process, search for information, and compare and select schools."

[Full Publication](#)

Suspensions for Girls of Color by School District (National Women's Law Center, May 2017)

"Girls of color across the country are disproportionately suspended from school compared to their white peers. Suspension rates vary widely by school district. Out-of-school suspensions result in lost instruction time and increased school pushout. We can take steps to prevent school pushout and ensure girls of color can succeed in schools. Click on a school district below or type a city, county or state into the search box (to the left of the map when you hover over it) to see school suspension rates for girls of color overall, Black girls, Latina girls, Native

American girls, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander girls and their rate of suspension as compared to their rate of enrollment.” [Map](#)

Considering Culture: Building the Best Evidence-Based Practices for Children of Color (The Annie E. Casey Foundation (April, 2017)

“This case study examines the role of culture in informing and enhancing efforts to level life’s playing field for children of color. Readers will learn how organizations are applying evidence-based practices in culturally relevant ways and how local programs are adopting nontraditional approaches to successfully serve communities of color.” [Full Publication](#)

Our Schools Have an Equity Problem. What Should We Do About It? (The Aspen Institute, June 2017)

“The Education & Society Program partnered with Education Week to publish a collection of commentaries offering a broad range of perspectives on the meaning of educational equity and how leaders from a variety of sectors and roles can work toward this vision. The special feature includes pieces written by experts from across the country.” [Full Publication](#)

News

Local

[As D.C. prospers, supermarkets proliferate—except in poor areas](#) (The Washington Post, 6/27/17)

[D.C. reports sharp decline in new HIV infections](#) (The Washington Post, 6/27/17)

[Member spotlight: Sharra Greer](#) (DC Bar, 6/26/17)

[D.C. has worst record for number of HIV infections](#) (The Washington Times, 6/26/17)

[Federal appeals court upholds ruling against D.C. on special-needs students](#) (The Washington Post, 6/23/17)

[D.C. Council member condemns Park Police for detaining youths selling water on Mall](#) (The Washington Post, 6/23/17)

[New House Oversight chair Rep. Gowdy pledges not to meddle in District affairs](#) (The Washington Post, 6/23/17)

[New D.C. bill would tighten tenant-friendly law](#) (Washington City Paper, 6/21/17)

[Berry Farm relocations to begin this summer, displacing residents](#) (Washington City Paper, 6/20/17)

[Lori E. Parker seeks Ward 1 D.C. Council seat](#) (The Washington Post, 6/19/17)

[Children of nonresident immigrants to get access to aid for D.C. college tuition](#) (The Washington Post, 6/16/17)

[D.C. schools leader prepares to release system wide plan for improvement](#) (The Washington Post, 6/16/17)

[A young cancer survivor-turned pediatric surgeon reflects on a career of ‘healing kids’](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 6/15/17)

[New D.C. program gives free security cameras to low-income residents](#) (DCist, 6/1/17)

National

[GOP health-care bill could strip public schools of billions for special education](#) (The Washington Post, 6/28/17)

[Study: Black girls viewed as ‘less innocent’ than white girls](#) (The Washington Post, 6/27/17)

[The lifelong learning of lifelong inmates](#) (The Atlantic, 6/27/17)

[Sick and afraid, some immigrants forgo medical care](#) (The New York Times, 6/26/17)

[School vouchers get 2 new report cards](#) (NPR, 6/26/17)

[Pregnant women suffering from addiction should be treated compassionately, not like criminals](#) (The Hill, 6/21/17)

[2 dads and their experience with foster fatherhood](#) (NPR, 6/16/17)

[Talking to boys the way we talk to girls](#) (The New York Times, 6/15/17)

[Hospitals are partnering with lawyers to treat patients' legal needs](#) (NPR, 6/6/17)

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.

- 🚩 September 12, 2017

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>.