

# Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by DC's Children's Law Center | April 2013

## DC Court of Appeals

**Portillo v. United States** (No. 11-CF-0431) Decided: March 21, 2013. The DC Court of Appeals decided that the trial court failed to conduct an adequate inquiry into appellant's pretrial ineffective assistance of counsel (IAC) claim. In this case, the DCCA explicitly points out that the trial court's comments could appear dismissive of the defendant's concerns and also were intimidating to someone with limited education and who spoke little English. Case remanded. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/j01guw>

**Araya v. Keleta** (No. 11-FM-1105 et al) Decided: March 21, 2013. Court upheld a trial court divorce, custody, child support and alimony order, after a discussion of the proper consideration of cross-allegations of domestic violence, as well as a discussion of marital property and the effect of comingling to transmute the nature of separate property into marital property. Available at <http://tiny.cc/gd5wuw>

## Upcoming Oral Arguments

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 9:30am

112-FM-0897 – Russel M. Stokes v. Sheila L. Stokes  
11-FS-1584 – In Re And.P.; C.P.  
11-FS-1585 – In Re Ang.P.; C.P.

Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 2:00 pm

12-FM-0957 – C. L. Washington v. R. D. Washington  
11-FM-1231 – Maria Elena Lopez v. William Quezada

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

12-FM-0376 – Aric William Moore v. Mary Hastings Moore

### 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. Please contact [Tomar Brown](#), Training Coordinator, with comments or suggestions. *Keeping Current* is also posted on the Family Law page of [ProBono.net/dc](http://ProBono.net/dc) and [www.childrenslawcenter.org](http://www.childrenslawcenter.org).

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# Child Welfare News

## National Issues

**Challenge to MI Gay Marriage Ban Grows from Adoption Case** (NPR) The U.S. Supreme Court will consider a same-sex marriage case from Michigan that is really a same-sex adoption case. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/pt2guw>.

**Website Shows Foster Kids Their Wishes are Worthwhile** (CNN) This article talks about a website that is similar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, in that it grants the wishes of foster children. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/6z2guw>.

**From Prison to Juvenile Justice Lawyer** (SFGate) This article discusses the work of Frankie Guzman, Soros Justice Fellow at the National Center for Youth Law. Guzman has distinguished himself as a rising young leader in juvenile justice. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/b92guw>.

**Study to Examine Mental-Health Effects of Mexican Parents' Deportation on Their American Children** (eurekalert.org) How the deportation of undocumented Mexican migrants affects their American-born children, who are faced with either going with their parents to Mexico or remaining in the land of their birth without them, is an issue of paramount importance as the nation engages in discussion of comprehensive immigration reform -- and is the subject of groundbreaking new research by The University of Texas, Austin, UC Davis Health System and the National Institute of Psychiatry, Mexico. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4q3guw>.

**Persistent Crime in Low-Income Communities Can Have Devastating Effects on Teens** (metrotrends.org) This report from the Urban Institute on the impact persistent crime in low-income communities has on teens, focuses on Chicago and DC. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/id4guw>.

**Sequester Hits Special Needs Students and Students from Poor Families the Hardest** (theatlanticcities.com) The sequester's guillotine has little regard for good or bad programs as it unselectively slices spending across the country, but perhaps nowhere does its indiscriminate blade fall more harshly than within education. The students who will lose out will be the ones we should be most careful to protect: children from poor families and special needs kids. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/qp4guw>.

**Infant Bruising May Signal Later Abuse** (MedPage Today) More than one-quarter of infants diagnosed with an abusive injury had a prior "sentinel" injury such as an unexplained bruise, a retrospective case-control study determined. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8z4guw>.

**U.S. House Makes Case for Improving Foster Care and Adoption** (The Heritage Network) The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources recently held a hearing on how to boost adoptions from foster care. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/b6bhuv>

**The Foster Care System: What Parents Wish We Knew** (National Public Radio) When we talk about the foster care system, we're often responding to stories about the kids, their struggles, sometimes their triumphs. But in a recent blog post entitled "What Foster Parents Wish Other People Knew," one foster parent speaks from the other side of the table. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/2zbhuv>

**Pediatricians' Group Comes Out in Support of Gay Marriage and Adoptions by Homosexual Single Parents** (Boston Globe) For the past decade, the American Academy of Pediatrics has supported adoptions by second parents of children born to one gay parent as a way to ensure health benefits, financial security, and strong parental relationships in the event of a divorce. The new policy supporting civil marriages for couples of the same gender is based on research showing health and economic disparities in children being raised by parents who aren't married. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/0kchuw>.

**More Foster Kids Could Get Free College** (Public News Service) Too many foster kids are being left out of Maryland's tuition waiver program, according to child welfare advocacy groups in the state. The General Assembly is considering legislation this session that would expand the program to give more foster kids access to college or vocational schools. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/0ochuw>.

**Former Baltimore Colt Joe Ehrmann Speaks At Summit On Child Sex Abuse** (WAMU) During the '70s, Joe Ehrmann, the president of Coach for America, was a tackle for the Baltimore Colts. He later became a Christian minister working with inner-city youth on issues of masculinity and violence. As a high school football coach, he created the approach of "building men for others" and last year on the last page of his second best-selling book, the 63-year-old Joe Ehrman faced his greatest shame: having been sexually assaulted as a child. Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/akqsmkp>.

**Family Law Attorneys Lobby for Improvements to Adoption Process** (Washington Post) A Washington-based group representing adoption attorneys is continuing a quiet but steady quest to pass a law they say will better protect the parental rights of men who may have fathered children. One of the group's priorities in Washington is to reintroduce a bill that Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) sponsored in the last Congress that would establish a national database known as a "putative father registry." Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/bkyao6f>.

**Child Abuse Linked to Asthma in Black Women** (theGrio/NBC News) Physical and/or sexual abuse may be potential asthma causes in black women. In fact, abuse may more than double the odds of a child having asthma. Researchers have made a connection between childhood abuse suffered by African-American women and asthma, which develops later in their lives. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/fhdhuw>

## DC Children and Youth

**Sasha Bruce Youthwork Copes With Funding Cuts Amid Growing Youth Homelessness** (Huffington Post) A longtime provider of runaway and homeless youth services for DC teens is calling out the District for falling short of its commitment to help homeless youth, alleging that the mayor's office is recklessly gutting funding at a time when youth homelessness is on the rise. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/k44guw>.

**Many Homeless Adults Start their Journey in Foster Care** (Washington Informer) This article notes that many DC homeless adults are foster care alumni. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/aw4guw>.

**Henderson's DC schools plan calls for equity across the city's great divide** (Washington Post) Columnist discusses DC Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson's efforts to create "one city" in schools - equal educational opportunities across the income divide. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/if5guw>.

**Federal Budget Battles Freeze Financial-Aid Payments to More Than 1,300 DC Graduates** (Washington Post) The months-long federal budget showdown on Capitol Hill has forced District officials to freeze DC TAG funds, leaving graduating students struggling to pay tuition and make ends meet. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/eq5guw>.

## Reports and Publications

**Infographic: youth incarceration in the US** (The Annie E. Casey Foundation) This infographic provides information on youth incarceration in the United States, visualizing the national and state drop in youth confinement, racial disparities within the juvenile justice system and the type of offenses committed by youth. In addition, the piece highlights five responses communities can take to support better services for these youth. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/7ebhuw>.

## Education News

**Marion Barry wants DC to Fund Tuition for DC Students at UDC's Community College** (Washington Examiner) Councilmember Barry is planning to ask Mayor Vincent Gray to include funding in his fiscal year 2014 budget, slated for release later this month, for scholarships for residents who attend the community college. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8m6guw>.

**Tackling Truancy, Part 1: Must we Prosecute Parents?** (Greater Greater Education) Blog post discusses Councilmember Catania's plan to address student truancy. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/nu6guw>.

**KIPP Proposes New High School in Southwest** (Washington Post) KIPP DC officials initially said as part of their proposal to build a new high school that they plan to open a medical clinic to be operated by Georgetown University, but no agreement has been finalized. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/806guw>.

**35% of Gates Foundation scholarships go to Friendship Charter students** (Washington Examiner) Gates Foundation gives a total of 316 DC students scholarships for college, but 35% of them go to Friendship Charter students. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/d46guw>.

**Preschool Daze** (Washington City Paper) Washington Post staffer Justin Moyer shares his personal quest to find the right preschool for his daughter among the wide variety of choices. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/y57guw>.

**Charter school awarded for being 'Safe School'** (Washington Examiner) E. L. Haynes PCS gets an award for preventing bullying and otherwise being a safe school. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/uf8guw>.

**District Digest: Truants and toddlers need more school** (Georgetown Voice) Blog includes brief on preschool and truancy in DC. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/hl8guw>.

**Study: Charter scores up, DCPS' down in math, reading** (Washington Examiner) Student proficiency test reveals gap between charter and traditional schools - scores at a median charter have gone up, while scores of a median traditional have gone down. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/up9guw>.

**What school choice means to parents with 'bad' kids** (Washington Post) This article offers a view into what kids with behavioral issues face with tough charter school discipline. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/1x9guw>

## Mental Health News

**1 in 50 Kids Has Autism, CDC Says** (MedPage Today) The percentage of children and teens ages 6 to 17 diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder increased in recent years, according to a nationally representative survey of parents. Article available at: <http://tiny.cc/0zahuw>. A copy of the report cited available at: <http://tiny.cc/i1ahuw>

## Upcoming Events

### **CCAN – Case Rounds**

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 1:00pm to 3:00pm  
DC Superior Court, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Room 4224

### **Marginalized Girls: Creating Pathways to Opportunity**

Thursday, April 11, 2013, 3:00pm to 5:30pm

Georgetown University, Gewirz Student Center 600 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20001, 12th Floor

**PANEL 1: POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES ACROSS SYSTEMS: CHILD WELFARE AND EDUCATION**

*Featuring Articles by: Karen Worthington and Karen Baynes-Dunning, "Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Foster Care"; and Dr. Barbara Gault and Rhiana Gunn-Wright, "Improving Outcomes for Marginalized Girls in the Secondary Education and Workforce Development Systems"*

*Discussants: BB Otero, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Washington DC; and Lara Kaufmann, Senior Counsel & Director of Education Policy for At-Risk Students, National Women's Law Center*

**PANEL 2: GIRLS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

*Featuring Articles by: Professor Peter Edelman and Elizabeth Watson, "Improving the Juvenile Justice System for Girls: Lessons from the States"; and Dr. Lawanda Raviara and Vanessa Patino Lydia, "Strategic Training and Technical Assistance: A Framework for Reforming the Juvenile Justice System's Treatment of Girls and Young Women"*

*Discussants: Liz Ryan, President and CEO, Campaign for Youth Justice; and Malika Saada Saar, Executive Director, Human Rights Project for Girls. Please RSVP at: <http://bit.ly/PovertySymposium2013>*

### **Full Day Advanced GAL Training**

Thursday April 18, 2013, 9:00 am to 5pm  
DC Superior Court, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Room 4224

### **2013 District of Columbia Judicial and Bar Conference – Poverty Law in the Court of Appeals**

Friday, April 19, 2013, 8:30 am to 8:00pm

International Trade Center/Ronald Reagan, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20004

*This joint conference of the DC courts and the DC Bar is an opportunity for judges, practitioners, and other members in the profession to gather and discuss topics of particular interest to the community. The full conference ticket option entitles you to a full day of quality programming, including a plenary panel, a keynote luncheon, seminar programs, a membership forum, networking breaks, and a closing reception honoring members of the judiciary in the District of Columbia. For more information and to register for the conference, visit: <http://www.dctbar.org/conference/index.cfm>.*

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

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

- *Staffed by CLC 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.**

### **2013 Certificate Programs at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform**

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute recently announced its 2013 Certificate Programs. In addition to the weeklong certificate programs in multi-systems integration, CJJR now offers shorter certificate programs of intensive study in information sharing, youth in custody, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. CJJR programs target public and private sector leaders working in the juvenile justice, child welfare, judiciary, behavioral health, education and other systems that serve youth in, or at-risk of becoming involved in, the juvenile justice system. Certificate programs at CJJR take a multi-systems and multi-disciplinary approach to policies, programs, and practices that improve outcomes for this population -- including a focus on "crossover youth". Participants apply the knowledge they gain by completing a capstone project—a practical reform agenda they implement in their organization or community for positive change. Applicants from the same jurisdiction should apply as teams to enhance cross systems change efforts after returning from the program. Individuals are also welcome in most programs. Programs include:

**Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program:** September 23-27, 2013 (applications due April 23, 2013)

**Youth in Custody Certificate Program:** August 19-23, 2013 (applications due April 23, 2013)

Application information available at: <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu>

### **2013 National Association of Counsel for Children Conference**

Join the national community of child advocates this summer in Atlanta! At a time when children's legal rights are being debated all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, your colleagues will be at the 36th National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law Conference to shape the future of children in our country's legal systems. What you will hear, see, and learn there can change your career and forever alter how you advocate for children and families.

For more information see:

[http://www.naccchildlaw.org/resource/resmgr/2013\\_conference/nacc-conf2013-brochure-email.pdf](http://www.naccchildlaw.org/resource/resmgr/2013_conference/nacc-conf2013-brochure-email.pdf)

## Save the Date!!!

**National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA)—Building Trial Skills: DC**

**Monday, June 3— Saturday, June 9, 2013**

More information available at: <http://tiny.cc/qlxdrw>