

Keeping Current

January 2011

This publication, which is posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and our web page, www.childrenslawcenter.org, is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. Practitioners should also be sure to review the weekly CCAN e-mail for up-to-date information or changes. If you have suggestions or comments for future publications, please contact Nancy Drane, Training Director, at ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org or 202-467-4900 ext. 502.

Inside this issue:	
DC Court of Appeals	1
Child Welfare News	2
Reports & Publications	2
Upcoming Trainings	5
Save the Date	6



District of Columbia Court of Appeals News

In re A.T. (No. 10-FS-124) (December 16, 2010) — This recent decision discusses administrative law issues, including review of administrative decisions, in a context of particular relevance to our work. The opinion is available at: <http://tiny.cc/yv3vc>.

Upcoming Oral Arguments of Interest:

January 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. — No. 08-AA-1105, Victor Kolawole v. Child and Family Services Agency of DC

January 19, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. — No. 10-FS-17, In re: Petition of A.E., Aplt.; No. 10-FS-867, In re: Petition of A.E.; S.E., Aplt.; No. 10-FS-882, In re: Petition of T.W.M.; T.B., Aplt.; No. 10-FS-920, In re: Petition of T.W.M., T.E., Aplt.; No. 10-FS-966, In re: Petition of T.W.M., S.E., Aplt.

February 17, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.— No. 10-FM-430, Olga Sulla v. Victor Sulla

February 22, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. — No. 10-FS-38, In re: J.R.; T.R., Aplt.

February 23, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. — No. 10-FS-772, In re: T.M.; TO.M., Aplt.; No. 10-FS-773 In re: T.D.; TO.M., Aplt.

*Audio of oral arguments are broadcast on the DC Court of Appeals website:
www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp*

The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community. 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.

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice in DC

U.S. District Court Approves New *LaShawn A.* Implementation and Exit Plan

On December 17, 2010, Judge Thomas Hogan approved a new Implementation and Exit Plan for the ongoing *LaShawn A.* class action litigation involving Child and Family Services Agency. The plan, which covers the remainder of 2010 and all of 2011, is available at <http://tiny.cc/kyvo3>. **NOTE:** In light of this recent development, Children's Law Center will be updating its *LaShawn A.* Practice Kit. Look for an announcement about its availability in the upcoming months.

At Adoption Day Ceremony, DC Superior Court Judge Officially Becomes a Mother to her Foster Son

(Washington Post) This article is available at: <http://tiny.cc/g0302>.

Report on Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect in DC (DC Inspector General) This recent report, *Lack of Awareness, Policies and Procedures, Training Requirements, and Oversight Mechanisms Regarding the Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect in District Entities*, is available at: <http://tiny.cc/6l7iu>.

DYRS Director Robert Hildum to Leave DYRS (Washington Post) This article is available at <http://tiny.cc/998p7> as is another related article, available at <http://tiny.cc/yu6rc>. Hildum's memo to staff is available at <http://tiny.cc/p83o5>.

Reports and Publications

CHILD WELFARE—EDUCATION

Identifying Learning Problems in Adopted Children

This article and report is available at <http://tiny.cc/lxmab>.

Child Welfare/Education Collaborations, State Examples

The Fostering Connections Act builds on prior law by adding a requirement that case plans ensure the educational stability of the child in foster care and by also requiring that Title IV-E state plans show that each child receiving a Title IV-E foster care, adoption, or guardianship payment is a full-time school student, or is incapable of attending school due to a documented medical condition. The documents listed below serve as a tool for State peer-to-peer sharing about successful education and child welfare collaborations to meet these requirements:

The first document highlights child welfare/education collaborations in Delaware, Nebraska, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin, and is available at <http://tiny.cc/65vhx>.

The second document provides information on the status of efforts to meet the education requirements of Fostering Connections in 35 States and the District of Columbia, providing information on policies, practices, and approaches to collaborations between systems, and is available at <http://tiny.cc/5epvt>.

Reports and Publications (cont.)

KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

Fostering Connections Kinship Toolkit

The Fostering Connections Kinship Toolkit was designed to assist States considering applying for Guardian Assistance Program funding. The toolkit was developed by the Resource Center's Kinship Network, which is led by the Children's Defense Fund and Child Focus, and features tools to help assess any impact of the GAP, common myths and facts, as well as sample State legislation to help implement the program. Identification and notice tools, such as a sample letter for notice to relatives, also are included. To view the toolkit, visit the Fostering Connections website at www.fosteringconnections.org.

Waiving Foster Care Licensing Standards for Kin

A new report from the Center for Law and Social Policy and the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law presents an overview of how States are handling the waivers of foster care licensing standards, and it includes recommendations to help States make the best use of the new legislation. *Relative Foster Care Licensing Waivers in the States: Policies and Possibilities* provides background information on waivers, eligibility for title IV-E funds, and Fostering Connections licensing requirements. Find the report at <http://tiny.cc/13bni>.

ADOPTION

Unpacking the "No" of Permanency for Older Adolescents: Planning for Youth Transitioning from Foster Care to Adulthood

This PowerPoint presentation covers statistics, permanency definitions, compelling reasons, strategies which support permanency, the concept of permanency for youth, various pathways to permanency, what youth say they need, and more, and is available at <http://tiny.cc/jabj5>.

Successful Older Child Adoption: Lessons from the Field

This article discusses proven strategies to increase adoptions of older youth. The article describes the results of conversations with leaders in states that had particular success in increasing adoptions of older children and teens. It lists key strategies that resulted in significantly increased adoptions for the states and provides specific examples for each strategy, highlighting successful experiences of individual states. It is available at <http://tiny.cc/a6308>.

Children in Public Foster Care on September 30th of Each Year Who are Waiting to be Adopted

This document provides a breakdown of the number of children in public foster care waiting to be adopted by State for each year (2002-2009), and is available at <http://tiny.cc/7ggw6>.

Adoptions of Children with Public Child Welfare Agency Involvement by State

This document provides a breakdown of the number of adoptions of children with public child welfare agency involvement by State for each year (2002-2009), and is available at <http://tiny.cc/flcl>.

PARENTS

Cookies, Stockings, Lights and Love: Rise December 2010 Web Exclusive

In this December 2010 web exclusive from *Rise* Magazine, Sylvia Perez writes about holiday experiences, both when her daughter was in foster care and when she returned home from foster care, as well as her own childhood experiences. *Rise* magazine is written by and for parents involved in the child welfare system. The article is available at <http://tiny.cc/26qzg>.

Reports and Publications (cont.)

JUVENILE JUSTICE

REPORT ON RIGHTS OF YOUTH IN DETENTION OR FOSTER CARE (Center for HIV Law and Policy)

This report and guide focuses on the rights of youth in detention and foster care facilities to comprehensive sexual health care, including sexual medical care, sexuality education, and staff training on sexual orientation and the needs and rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. The report, entitled *Juvenile Injustice: The Unfulfilled Rights of Youth in State Custody to Comprehensive Sexual Health Care*, analyzes the foundation of this right and the sexual health care needs of youth in out-of-home care, and is available at <http://tiny.cc/v41px>.

REPORT ON CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT (OJJDP)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published *Youth's Characteristics and Backgrounds: Findings From the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement*. The bulletin, part of OJJDP's Survey of Youth in Residential Placement series, describes the characteristics, family and educational backgrounds, offense histories, and expectations of youth in residential placement, and is available at <http://tiny.cc/trt8q>.

NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE PODCAST

The Juvenile Law Center recently launched a podcast series entitled *Pursuing Justice*. It was launched as a new means of shedding light on critical issues facing children nationwide who are involved in child welfare and justice systems. These issues include aging out of foster care, sexting, juvenile life without parole, etc. To listen to the podcast visit: <http://www.jlc.org/podcast/>. This winter the Juvenile Law Center will be debuting a mini-series about Luzerne County and the Luzerne County, PA "kids-for-cash" scandal, among others. It will focus on the past two years since the scandal broke and on what's currently happening—or needs to happen—to ensure this kind of injustice can never happen again. The podcast series is intended to be informative, intriguing, and thought-provoking.

REMINDER for CCAN GAL PANEL!

Children's Law Center **HELPLINE** provides GALs with legal information and assistance!

- 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

Upcoming Trainings and Events

Mr. Mayor! Here's What Research Says About the Challenges Facing the District of Columbia, sponsored by the Urban Institute

Tuesday, January 4, 2011 from 12:00-1:30 PM – Urban Institute, 2100 M St. NW, 5th Floor or WEBCAST
Vincent Gray takes the helm in the District of Columbia January 2 as its sixth mayor. The District's unique role as a state and a city means he will have to contend with both the challenges facing many big-city mayors – such as citizen concerns about crime and public safety, and a tumultuous housing market in which many hard-pressed families face foreclosure — and the big fiscal and policy issues of health care and budget balancing that confront new governors. And unlike any other city, county, or state leader, the District's chief executive must deal with the additional layer of congressional oversight and veto. Join us just two days after the Gray administration's debut for a fact-filled discussion about what recent research has to say about the District, its residents, local programs and services, and ways to make life better for the 600,000 people who call the District of Columbia home. Panelists include Jocelyn Fontaine, deputy director, District of Columbia Crime Policy Institute, Urban Institute; Olivia Golden, Institute fellow and former director, Child and Family Services Agency, District of Columbia, and author, Reforming Child Welfare (moderator); Barbara Ormond, senior research associate, Health Policy Center, Urban Institute; Alice Rivlin, senior fellow, Brookings Institution and director, Brookings Greater Washington Research, and former chair, District of Columbia Financial Management Assistance Authority; and Peter Tatian, senior research associate, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, Urban Institute and director, Neighborhood Info DC. Lunch will be provided at 11:45. To attend in person, RSVP online at <http://www.urban.org/events/FirstTuesdays/rsvp.cfm>, or e-mail publicaffairs@urban.org. To watch the video webcast, go to <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/urban-institute-events>.

So Little Time, So Much Paper: Effective Time Management Techniques for Lawyers, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesday, January 4, 2011 from 6:00-9:15 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor
A time management consultant and attorney will show you how good organization and time management can help you attain your goals, making you a more effective lawyer. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcb.org.

Ethics for DC Litigators, sponsored by DC Bar

Wednesday, January 5, 2011 from 6:00-9:15 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor
Using a hypothetical set of facts, this course will explore the ethical dilemmas that arise in litigation and trial-related contexts. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcb.org.

Intervention Proceedings, Guardianships and Conservatorships in the District of Columbia, sponsored by DC Bar

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 from 6:00-9:15 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor
Caring for an aging and incapacitated adult poses many difficult challenges and issues, and DC law governing guardians and conservators of incapacitated adults can be confusing and complicated. This course will help attorneys guide their clients through the process of establishing a guardianship or conservatorship, and explain how to set up and administer a conservatorship and guardianship after appointment. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcb.org.

Upcoming Trainings and Events (cont.)

Introduction to Health Law Series, sponsored by DC Bar

Thursdays, January 13, 20, 27 and February 3, 10, and 17, 2011 from 6:00-9:15 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor

Join us for this introduction to the multifaceted field of health law, as follows: January 13, Introduction to the US Health Care System; January 20, Introduction to Medicare; January 27, Introduction to Medicaid; February 3, Compliance Issues and Privacy (including HIPAA); February 10, Health Care Transactions and Managed Care Contracting; February 17, Health Care Quality and Patients' Rights. For more information about the courses and Registration information, go to www.dcbar.org.

Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop, sponsored by DC Bar

Friday, January 21, 2011 from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor

This essential course for new or seasoned attorneys teaches participants how to recognize and correct common writing problems. Through a series of interactive exercises, you will learn how to fix those problems and make dull and bureaucratic language clear and concise. You also will learn about the writing process, including how to untangle sentences and how to edit. The course includes 10 tips for turning ordinary writing into crisp, sharp and convincing prose. This class will help you communicate more effectively with your clients and others in the legal process. Class is limited to 24 registrants. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcbar.org.

Meet the New Presiding Judges, sponsored by the DC Bar Steering Committee on Courts, Law and the Administration of Justice

Tuesday January 25, 2011 from 12:30 to 2:00 PM — D.C. Superior Court, Room 200

This event will feature the Court's new presiding judges: Hon. Stephanie Duncan-Peters (civil), Hon. Russell Canan (criminal), Hon. Reid Winston (probate/tax), Hon. Jose Lopez (domestic violence), and Hon. Zoe Bush (family). Judge Melvin Wright will moderate. The judges will tell the audience a little about their way of working and their agendas for their divisions, and the panel will take questions from the audience. The event is free; participants are welcome to bring lunch. No registration is required.

Save the Date

Essential Trial Skills Series, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2011 from 6:00-9:15 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor

This series is a great introduction to and overview of the trial skills a lawyer must possess in the courtroom, as follows: February 1, Jury Selection; February 8, Opening Statements and Closing Argument; February 15, Witness Preparation and Direct Examination; February 22, Cross-Examination. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcbar.org.

Save the Date (cont.)

Advanced Negotiation Skills Workshop, sponsored by DC Bar

Wednesday, February 2, 2011 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor

This workshop builds on basic negotiation skills to address challenging issues that attorneys encounter on a regular basis in the negotiation process. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcbar.org.

Bench-Bar Dialogue with DC Family Court Abuse and Neglect Judicial Officers, sponsored by the DC Bar Family Law Section

Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:00 PM – DC Superior Court (location TBA)

Please save the date for this unique opportunity to have a informal dialogue between abuse and neglect practitioners and the judicial officers that preside over abuse and neglect cases.

Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop, sponsored by DC Bar

Friday, February 11, 2011 from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor

This essential course for new or seasoned attorneys teaches participants how to recognize and correct common writing problems. Through a series of interactive exercises, you will learn how to fix those problems and make dull and bureaucratic language clear and concise. You also will learn about the writing process, including how to untangle sentences and how to edit. The course includes 10 tips for turning ordinary writing into crisp, sharp and convincing prose. This class will help you communicate more effectively with your clients and others in the legal process. Class is limited to 24 registrants. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcbar.org.

Adoption Law and Process in DC, MD and VA, sponsored by DC Bar

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 from 9:30 AM-12:45 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW, First Floor

Learn how to guide your client through the adoption process in Virginia, Maryland and DC. For more information about the course and Registration information, go to www.dcbar.org.

Growing Up Online: Helping Teens with Learning Disabilities Navigate Emotions, Behavior, and Relationships in the Digital Age (Part of Lab School of Washington's 2010-2011 Lecture Series for Parents and Professionals)

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. – Lab School of Washington, 4759 Reservoir Road NW (Theater)

This lecture will present a framework to help parents and teachers understand and respond to the social demands placed on today's youth. Strategies to help teens make sense of - and be safe in - this complex social arena will be discussed. Speaker: Doug Fagen, Ph.D., Director of Psychological Services, The Lab School of Washington; Nancy Rowland, M.Ed., Associate Head of the Junior High, The Lab School of Washington.

Single lecture: \$15.00. There is no reserved seating. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Register at: <http://www.labschool.org/content/lectureregistrationform>.

Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute

March 7-8, 2011 — Washington, DC

National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law

March 27-30, 2011 — Reno, Nevada

Save the Date (cont.)

Ready for Take-off: Getting your Teen with ADHD or LD Off to College (Part of Lab School of Washington's 2010-2011 Lecture Series for Parents and Professionals)

Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. – Lab School of Washington, 4759 Reservoir Road NW (Theater)
This presentation will help parents evaluate their current interactions to make sure they are helping - not hindering – their child's readiness and successful transition to college. Learn strategies to help teens slowly and systematically develop the skills needed for life in college. Speaker: Patricia Quinn, M.D., Developmental Pediatrician and Director, The National Center for Girls and Women with ADHD, Co-Editor: ADDvance: A Magazine for Women with ADD, Co-Author, Ready for Take-off: Preparing your Teen with ADHD or LD for College. Single lecture: \$15.00. There is no reserved seating. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Register at: <http://www.labschool.org/content/lectureregistrationform>.

Child Welfare League of American Annual Conference: The State of Children and Families, Building an Effective National Voice

March 27-30, 2011 – Washington, DC
For registration details, go to: <http://bit.ly/9yz8da>.

One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare

June 8-10, 2011 — Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Geared for professionals reflecting the multiple disciplines in child welfare, this conference is designed for practitioners, policy makers and administrators alike. For more information, see <http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/onechild/index.html>