

Keeping Current

March 2011

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 Nancy Drane, Training Director, with comments or suggestions. *Keeping Current* is also posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and www.childrenslawcenter.org.

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D.C. Court of Appeals

New Opinions from the D.C. Court of Appeals:

CFSA Child Protection Registry Appeal

V.K. v. C.F.S.A. (No. 08-AA-1105), decided February 17, 2011, available at: <http://tiny.cc/ul75i>. This case involves the appeal of a fair hearing decision regarding a CFSA child protection registry entry.

Civil Procedure

Farrow v. J. Crew Group, Inc. (No-08-CV-1564), decided January 20, 2011, available at:

<http://tiny.cc/umm4v>. This case includes a discussion of a number of rules of civil procedure, including Rule 59 (e) and 60 (b) motions, tolling motions (motions that toll the running of the time within which to note an appeal), and when an order is final for purposes of the appeal period starting to run.

Upcoming Oral Arguments of Interest:

March 15, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. — In re: M.L. (R.Y., Appellant) (No. 10-FS-423)

Attorneys involved: Thomas P. O'Toole, Esquire; Anna Adamczyk, Esquire; Tobey K. Oliver, Esquire

March 23, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. — In re: Petition of R.E.S. (D.F., Appellant) (No. 08-FS-451)

Attorneys involved: Laurie P. McManus, Esquire; Sharon Singh, Esquire; Stacy Anderson, Esquire

Audio of oral arguments are broadcast at:
www.dccappeals.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp

Child Welfare News (Local and National)

Juvenile Arrest Trends in the District of Columbia (2007-2010) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/k4hit>.

Gray Selects Celebrated Ward 8 Resident to Lead Youth (Washington Informer) This article profiles the appointment of Cedric Jennings, former CFSA and Progressive Life Center social worker, to be leader of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, and is available at: <http://tiny.cc/d85bn>.

D.C. Social Worker Offers Brutal Choice to Homeless Mother (Washington City Paper) This article focuses on the intersection of homelessness, residency and child welfare, and is available at: <http://tiny.cc/9l8dq>. A response from CFSA is available at: <http://tiny.cc/lblm6>.

Court Hears Arguments on Foster Children's Right to Legal Representation (NPR) This article highlights a recent legal argument before the Washington State Supreme Court on the issue of whether foster children have a constitutional right to a lawyer in parental termination cases. A video link is available at: <http://tiny.cc/yijrm>.

Education News (Local and National)

Q&A with DCPS Interim Chancellor Kaya Henderson (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/c5u6e>.

Nearly 4,000 Truant from District Schools Last Semester (Washington Examiner) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/vyslm>.

Study Finds Funding Gap Between D.C. Specialty and Neighborhood Schools (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/pzj0u>.

Rhee's Firing of 75 D.C. Teachers in 2008 Was Improper, Arbitrator Says (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/wg3sn>.

Principals Say Fired Teachers Missed Weeks of Class, Told Students to "Go to Hell" (Washington Examiner) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/6240a>.

In DCPS, Labor-Management not so Collaborative (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/j41td>.

Rhee Didn't Play by the Rules (Washington Post, Local Opinion) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/qb6l8>.

D.C.'s "Zombie" Teachers Don't Stay Fired (Washington Examiner) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/matoz>.

Reform and the Teacher's Union (NY Times Editorial) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/y8gxc>.

Other News (Local)

D.C. Bleeding Millions a Week in Lost Medicaid Funds (Washington Examiner) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/7s4ru>.

Is the D.C. Government Funding Abortions (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/9h5yy>.

D.C. Court Program Teaches Absent Fathers to be Good Dads (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/s4ni8>.

D.C. to Assess Low HPV Numbers in Schools (WAMU) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/uafox>.

Reports and Publications

CHILD ABUSE

Shaken Baby Syndrome

New York Times Magazine recently featured an article on shaken baby syndrome. The article points out that some experts are uncertain how to pin down when the brain injury occurred and whether it was caused by shaking or some other cause. The article is available at: <http://tiny.cc/u6g9s>.

FEDERAL CHILD WELFARE

Child Maltreatment 2009 Released

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently released *Child Maltreatment 2009*, the 20th in a series of reports designed to provide national statistics on child abuse and neglect. The report provides State-level data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, and includes information on reports of abuse and neglect made to CPS agencies, the children involved, types of maltreatment, CPS responses, child and caregiver risk factors, services, and perpetrators. The full report is available at: <http://tiny.cc/gS3za>.

Congress Reauthorizes CAPTA

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Reauthorization Act of 2010 (S.3817) was signed into law on December 20, 2010 as Public Law 111-320. The act includes provisions for several new studies and reports to Congress on such topics as: shaken baby syndrome; efforts to coordinate different organizations' programs and activities related to child abuse and neglect; the effectiveness of citizen review panels in examining State and local child protection agencies; and how provisions for immunity from prosecution facilitate and inhibit individuals' reporting of child abuse or neglect.

Helping Immigrant Families in the Child Welfare System

The Migration and Child Welfare National Network recently issued a toolkit entitled, *A Social Worker's Tool Kit for Working With Immigrant Families: Healing the Damage, Trauma and Immigrant Families in the Child Welfare System*. The toolkit offers guidelines to assist child welfare and community-based agencies responding to the needs of immigrant families exposed to child maltreatment and other sources of traumatic stress. The toolkit is available at: <http://tiny.cc/84nwc>.

National Look at Transforming Virginia's Child Welfare System

A new case study from the Annie E. Casey Foundation tells the story of the great strides taken in the last 3 years to reform Virginia's child welfare system. The results of the State's efforts have been striking: in the 3 years since reform began, child permanency rates increased to more than 80 percent, the number of children in congregate care was cut almost in half, and total expenditures of local, State, and Federal government dollars were reduced by 5.8 percent. To learn more about child welfare reform in Virginia, read *Back on Track: Transforming Virginia's Child Welfare System*, available at: <http://tiny.cc/y7l57>.

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010: Categorical Eligibility for Free Meals to Foster Children

Signed into law by the President on December 13, 2010, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 allows the US Department of Agriculture, for the first time in over 30 years, the chance to make real reforms to the school lunch and breakfast programs by improving the critical nutrition and hunger safety net for millions of children. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 provides categorical eligibility to foster children for free meals served under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. More information is available at: <http://tiny.cc/yxefv>.

Reports and Publications (cont.)

FEDERAL CHILD WELFARE (cont.)

Future Directions in Fostering, Adoption and Kinship Care for LGBT Families: What is Possible When We Move Forward Together?

This participatory leadership symposium brought together LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) adoptive and foster parents and prospective parents, researchers, policymakers, service providers, community-based organizations and advocates to discuss how they can move together in tough economic times with shrinking resources to promote and sustain progressive policies and best practices in adoption, fostering and kinship care for LGBT parents and families. Materials from the symposium are available at: <http://tiny.cc/cikvx>.

Advocating for Very Young Children in Dependency Proceedings: The Hallmarks of Effective, Ethical Representation

This practice and policy brief from the ABA Center on Children and the Law is available at: <http://tiny.cc/rqayx>.

OLDER YOUTH

Charting a Better Future for Transitioning Foster Youth: Report from a National Summit on the Fostering Connections to Success Act

The American Bar Association Commission on Youth at Risk recently released a report with over 55 recommendations aimed at improving the lives of the 30,000-plus youth who every year age out of state and local child welfare systems. A copy of the report is available at: <http://tiny.cc/8nja7>.

Youth Law News

The National Center for Youth Law issues a monthly newsletter called the *Youth Law News*, which is available at: <http://tiny.cc/tdftr>.

PARENTS

Quality Representation of Parents Helps Children

The University of Chicago did a study of the Washington State Office of Public Defenses Parents Representation Program. The study asked the question whether quality representation of parents in dependency and termination proceedings speeds the timing of permanency outcomes including reunifications, adoptions, and guardianships. The study is available at: <http://tiny.cc/i7cnb>. The study complements prior studies done by OPD which concluded that the number of reunifications also increased significantly with the Parents Representation Program. These prior studies are available at: <http://www.opd.wa.gov/>.

Reports and Publications (cont.)

KINSHIP CARE

Fostering Connections and Relative Foster Care Placement

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act includes a number of provisions designed to help children maintain connections with their families of origin, including a requirement to identify and provide notice to all adult relatives when children enter care, an option to provide continuing support to children who exit care to live with relatives, and a provision that allows States to waive non-safety-related licensing standards, on a case-by-case basis, for relatives who wish to become licensed as foster parents.

Relative Foster Care Licensing Waivers in the States: Policies and Possibilities, a new publication from the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, provides an overview of States' current foster family home licensing policies and rules pertaining to waivers. It is available at: <http://tiny.cc/x26se>.

Cultural Competence with Kinship Caregivers

The November 2010 issue of *Training Matters*, a publication of the North Carolina Department of Social Services Child Welfare Services Statewide Training Partnership, provides information and resources on culturally competent child welfare practice with kinship caregivers. The resources include training materials, research articles, and a film; content summaries are included. To access this issue of *Training Matters*, visit: <http://tiny.cc/up7bs>.

HEALTH

Improving the Lives of Young Children: The Role of Developmental Screenings in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP)

This publication, offered by the Urban Institute, is available at: <http://tiny.cc/u15g6>.

OTHER

Child Support Plays an Increasingly Important Role for Poor Custodial Families

This publication, offered by the Urban Institute, is available at: <http://tiny.cc/4t5lc>.

REMINDER for CCAN PANEL

Children's Law Center **HELPLINE** provides CCAN attorneys 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

CLC Training: Attachment and Child Development (Janice Goldwater, Adoptions Together)

Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 3:30-5:00 PM – CLC Staff Lounge, 616 H Street NW, Suite 300

This training will address the impact of broken attachments on child development, and will integrate new research on brain development. CCAN attorneys interested in attending should contact Nancy Drane at ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org or 202-467-4900 ext. 502.

The Art of Working With, or Opposing, Expert Witnesses, sponsored by the D.C. Bar Family Law Section

Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 6:00-8:00 PM – D.C. Bar Conference Center, 1101 K Street NW, 1st Floor

Preparation is the key to successfully presenting or opposing an expert witness. Join the DC Bar Family Law Section for this informative program where a panel will discuss the art of choosing, selecting and preparing expert witnesses, the process of assessing and investigating the experts and expert opinions being proffered by opposing counsel, and preparing for examination, cross examination and/or voir-dire. Speakers: The Honorable J. Michael Ryan, Associate Judge, D.C. Superior Court; Sean Staples, Senior Supervising Attorney, Children's Law Center; and Jeff Lowinger, New & Lowinger, P.C. Register at www.dcbar.org.

Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute

Monday, March 7, 2011 and Tuesday, March 8, 2011 — UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

Registration material available at: <http://www.badc.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>.

Teleconference - Counseling Children and Youth in Times of Crisis: Tips to Achieve Success and Avoid Pitfalls

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 from 1:00-2:30 PM

Counseling is a critical component of representing child clients. This training will provide lawyers with techniques and strategies to enhance the lawyer's counseling skills, including establishing a rapport with child clients; conveying complex information in an understandable way; working with child clients to determine the goals of the legal representation; and ethically responding when the client is asking for an outcome that the lawyer believes to be unsafe. Faculty: Lauren Girard Adams (Moderator), Independent Legal Services Professional, BuckleySandler LLP, Norwich, VT; Sacha M. Coupet, Ph.D., J.D., Assistant Professor, Director of Research, Civitas ChildLaw Center, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL; Maisley Paxton, Ph.D, Child and Adolescent Psychologist, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Denver, CO; and Robin Walker Sterling, Assistant Professor, University of Denver Sturm College of Law. FREE. Register by phone at: 1-800-285-2221 (event code is cel1ccy).

The Intersection of Sexuality and Disability, sponsored by D.C. Quality Trust

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 — D.C. Superior Court, Room 3300

To register, contact Lee Stein at 202-448-1466 or lstein@dcqualitytrust.org.

Monthly Family Court Training: Medicating Children in Foster Care

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 from 4:30-6:00 PM – D.C. Superior Court, Juror's Lounge

Panel will be led by Deputy Attorney General Andrew Reese.

Upcoming Trainings and Events (cont.)

The District's FY 2012 Budget: How Will the District Address Spending Pressures?, sponsored by D.C. Bar D.C. Affairs Section

Friday, March 18, 2011 from 12:30-2:00 PM — Wiley, Rein, 1776 K Street, NW

While the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report gave the District a clean bill of fiscal health again this year, we are still expecting enormous spending pressures in the coming year's budget. Come hear from the experts for insights into the FY 2012 budget discussions. Speaker(s): Eric Goulet, Director of the Mayor's Office of Budget and Finance; Jennifer Budoff, Budget Director, D.C. Council. Register at: www.dcb.org.

2011 Youth Law Fair: Cyberbullying, sponsored by D.C. Superior Court and D.C. Bar Litigation Section

Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 9:00AM-4:00PM — D.C. Superior Court

This free, full-day educational event at the D.C. Superior Court brings students, lawyers, judges, educators and community leaders together to explore issues facing students in the D.C. area. Planned Activities: Mock Trial(s); Court Tours, including judge's chambers and holding cells; Speak Out Sessions; Raffle/Door prizes; Exhibitors; and much more! If you are interested in volunteering and/or have questions, please contact the D.C. Bar Sections Office at (202) 626-3463 or e-mail outreach@dcb.org. Check the 2011 Youth Law Fair web page for updates: http://www.dcb.org/for_lawyers/sections/litigation/youth_law_fair/index.cfm.

Special Considerations in Family Court for Children with Special Needs, sponsored by the D.C. Bar Family Law Section

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 from 6:00-8:00 PM — D.C. Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1st Floor

Speakers: John Spiegel, J.D. and Judith Glasser, Ph.D. They will give practical recommendations for working with children with special needs in family court proceedings, including developing effective parenting plans for children with special needs in divorce proceedings. The presenters also will offer guidance on working with adult clients with learning disabilities, ADHD, Asperger's syndrome, or autism spectrum disorders because in many families the parents, as well as the children, have these special needs which require thoughtful accommodation. Register at www.dcb.org.

Brown Bag: Immigration and Family Law, sponsored by the D.C. Bar Family Law Section

Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 12:30-1:30 PM — D.C. Superior Court, Room 3300

Speakers include: David Rothwell, Partner, O'Toole, Rothwell, Nassau & Steinbach and Cecelia Friedman Levin, Supervising Attorney, Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE). FREE.

National Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law

March 27-30, 2011 — Reno, Nevada

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

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

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 PM – 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>.

Save the Date

Children's Law Center Advanced GAL Training

Friday, April 8, 2011 from 10:00 AM-4:30 PM — D.C. Superior Court, Room 3300

Please stay tuned for more details...

Brown Bag: Innovative Court Programs in Domestic Relations, sponsored by the D.C. Bar Family Law Section

Thursday, April 12, 2011 from 12:30-1:30 PM — D.C. Court of Appeals, Historic Courthouse, 430 E Street, N.W., Multi-Purpose Room

Join representatives from the Family Court Self-Help Center, the PAC Program, the Office of the Parent Coordinator and the Attorney Negotiator Program to discuss these helpful initiatives in the Domestic Relations Branch. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists after brief presentations. As an event in the Courthouse Meeting series, please feel free to bring your own lunch.

Monthly Family Court Training: Expert Witnesses in Neglect and Juvenile Matters

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 from 4:30-6:00 PM — D.C. Superior Court, Juror's Lounge

Judge J. Michael Ryan will head up a panel to discuss this issue.

Domestic Relations Branch Bench-Bar Dialogue, sponsored by the D.C. Bar Family Law Section

Thursday, April 28, 2011 from 6:00-8:00 PM — TBA

Join Judicial Officers from the D.C. Superior Court Domestic Relations Branch and other family law practitioners for a discussion of the state of the domestic relations docket. Registration information will soon be available at: www.dcbbar.org.

Healing the Hurt: Help for Traumatized Children, sponsored by Adoptions Together

Friday, April 29, 2011 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM -- Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD (see www.owenbrowncommunityassociation.org)

Children who have experienced trauma and disrupted attachments can present with a complex array of psychological and behavioral issues that require a comprehensive relationship-based treatment approach. The formation of healthy attachments is critical to social, emotional and cognitive development in children, but the unfortunate reality is that traumatized children often struggle to make these connections. Professionals must be skilled at establishing an authentic alliance that will foster the capacity for attachment in these children, and allow them to more successfully integrate into a family system. Participants will learn the principles of Attachment Focused Family Therapy and will also be taught specific interventions that can be used in practice. The core components of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy provide a framework that can be applied in a number of different settings and at various stages of treatment. Conference Speaker: Arthur Becker-Weidman, Ph.D., the Director of the Center for Family Development in Williamsville, New York where he practices an evidence-based attachment focused treatment method for families struggling with attachment challenged children. Free parking available in community center parking lot. FEE = \$99/individual (includes CEUS); Agencies/organizations registering 3 or more individuals will receive a \$15 discount per person. Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch & all supplies & materials. Register at:

<https://www.123signup.com/register?id=vvbbd>.

Family Court NITA Training, sponsored by D.C. Superior Court

May 19-20, 2011 – D.C. Superior Court

The Family Court will be holding a two-day trial skills training taught by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA). This will be similar to the NITA training held at the court last year. Applications will be available soon. This training will be open to CCAN and GAL Panel attorneys. In addition, a few slots will go to OAG and CLC attorneys. Preference will go to attorneys who did not attend last year.

Save the Date

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

June 8-10, 2011 — Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

For more information, see <http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/onechild/index.html>.

Monthly Family Court Training: Overview of Mental Illness

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 from 4:30-6:00 PM — D.C. Superior Court, Juror's Lounge

Dr. Sonali Mahajan will head up a panel to discuss this issue.

14th Annual American Bar Association National Conference on Children and the Law

July 15-16, 2011 — Washington D.C.

The Conference will address a range of child welfare issues with an emphasis on improving skills of attorneys, judges, and advocates. It will also feature emerging child welfare policy and systemic reform issues, most importantly their effects on practice, children and families. Registration information forthcoming.

Monthly Family Court Training: Forensic Interviews of Children

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 from 4:30-6:00 PM — D.C. Superior Court, Juror's Lounge

The presenters will be forensic specialists from Safe Shores and attorneys involved in the process.

2011 National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit

August 29-31, 2011 — Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C.

The Children's Bureau recently announced that it will be hosting the 2nd National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit, which will build on previous conversations, tackling new questions about evaluation practice and further exploring important issues raised by state and tribal public agency administrators, program directors, academic researchers, program evaluators, advocates, Federal staff, and partners from other fields during the first Summit in May 2009. This event is designed for professionals interested in strengthening evaluation practice in child welfare, building evidence about intervention, implementation, and dissemination, and, forging partnerships that improve evaluation, decision-making, and practice.

2011 National Association of Counsel for Children Annual Conference

August 29-September 1, 2011 — Hotel de Coronado, San Diego, CA

Registration opens in May, 2011.

Putting the Pieces Together for Children and Families: The National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Courts

September 14-16, 2011 — Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Washington, D.C. area

Children and Family Futures is proud to present this conference, featuring the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and their 8th Annual Gathering. The conference will focus on family based models, the effects of health care reform, ensuring sustainability of effective programs in the midst of a changing fiscal climate and the role of substance use disorders as a central issue in child protection and related child serving agencies. They anticipate a nationwide representation of service providers and professionals, including: child welfare providers, substance abuse treatment providers, juvenile and family court judges and attorneys, law enforcement, prosecutors, probation officers, prevention specialists, maternal and child health agencies, physicians, nurses, researchers and evaluators, educators, Tribal communities, community organizations serving youth and children, and adult mental health providers. Visit the conference website for additional information on the conference. The website includes an Exhibitors page for organizations, vendors, and publishers interested in showcasing their products and services, and is available at:

<http://www.cffutures.org/conference2011>.