

## Keeping Current

October 2010

This publication, which is posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and our web page, [www.childrenslawcenter.org](http://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](mailto:ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org) or 202-467-4900 ext. 502.

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### District of Columbia Court of Appeals News

***In re C.A.B. & H.N.B.*** (09-FS-858) *Trial court granted foster parents' adoption petition and denied grandparent's petition (to which mother had consented). Court rejects various arguments raised by appellees regarding standing and justiciability but upholds decision. Discussion of legal standard, sufficiency of the evidence.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/a7lqo>.

#### **Upcoming DC Court of Appeals Matters of Interest:**

*In re* A.T. (10-FS-124) — Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 9:30 AM

*In re* K.B. (09-FS-290), *In re* Petition of V.F.A. (10-FS-560) — Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 9:30 AM

*In re* Petition of H.J., D.J. (09-FS-914, 09-FS-915) — Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 9:30 AM

*Oral arguments are broadcast on the DC Court of Appeals website:*

[www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp](http://www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp)



### District of Columbia Council News

Practitioners should be aware of the **Foster Care Youth Identity Protection Amendment Act of 2010**, which contains provisions relevant to abuse and neglect practice. The Act has passed Congressional review and is in effect. The law is designed to help foster children protect themselves from identity theft and related fraud, and is based on some research showing foster children and youth as being at particularly high risk of fraud perpetrated both by their biological families and the various individuals who come across their personal information while they are in foster care. To address this problem, the Act includes the following provisions: For children under 18, CFSA must request a credit report from the three national credit agencies when a child appears close to leaving foster care, which the statute defines as: (a) When an adoption petition is filed; (b) When a guardianship motion is filed; or (c) When CFSA "anticipates that the jurisdiction of the Family Court will be terminated" – that is, when the child is close to reunification. For youth 18 and older, CFSA must "assist" the youth in getting a credit report before termination of the Family Court's jurisdiction – that is, before exit to reunification, adoption, guardianship or emancipation. Because the youth is 18 or older, it is the youth's decision whether to seek a credit report. When CFSA receives a credit report, it must turn it over to the youth's GAL within 30 days. This gives GALs an opportunity to help clients resolve credit issues before they leave foster care. When CFSA receives a credit report that indicates that identity theft may have occurred, CFSA should refer the youth to a credit counseling organization. Referring youth to credit counseling organizations and informing GALs is CFSA's only obligation under the law. CFSA must promulgate rules to implement this law – that is expected to happen in the next several months.

## DCPS and DC Schools News

**The State of the District of Columbia Public Schools 2010: A Five Year Update** (Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/o6hoa>.

**DCPS Chancellor's Notes: Back to School in DCPS** (DCPS Newsletter) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/twe8v>.

**DCPS Awarded \$75M in "Race to the Top" Grants** (DCPS Announcement) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/exv72>.

**Parkside-Kenilworth Wins Promise Grant** (Washington Post) *This Ward 7 community aspires to create the District's version of the Harlem Children's Zone and has won a \$500,000 grant from the US Department of Education.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/zeyjq>.

## Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice in DC

**A DC Family Works to Reunify, In and Out of Court** (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/v17pj>.

**Mental Health An Issue Among DC's Young Offenders** (Washington Post) *Many of the young people who are arrested in the District have mental health issues that to go unaddressed by the juvenile justice system, according to a report authored by a group representing local mental health providers.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3wqgl>.

**Overcrowding Hurts DC Juvenile Center** (Washington Post) *Overcrowding is hurting the effectiveness of the highly touted rehabilitation program at New Beginnings, the District's 15-month-old juvenile detention center in Laurel.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/6si9a>.

**Isolation Cases of Jailed District Youth Skyrocket** (Washington Examiner) *There was a 75 percent jump in the number of cases in which youths were placed in isolation each month at the District's two juvenile detention centers in recent months.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/5rbly>.

### 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

Call (202) 467-4900 (Option 4) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Reports and Publications

### CHILD WELFARE

**The Nation's Children 2010** (Child Welfare League of America) *This brief provides data on the status and well-being of children in the United States. Statistics are shared from 2007-2008 on: the number of children, child abuse and neglect cases, the poverty rate for children and income support, the number of children exiting out-of-home placements, kinship support for children, the number of children accessing child care and head start, pregnancy and parenting among adolescents, newborn health and infant mortality, the incidence of HIV/AIDS among children, child and youth mental health, the mental health of children in foster care, the number of children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, substance abuse and child welfare, outcomes of adolescents who have aged out of foster care, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, funding of child welfare services, and characteristics of the child welfare workforce.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/7vld7>.

**2010 State Fact Sheets** (Child Welfare League of America) *The State Fact Sheets provide descriptive information on the condition of vulnerable children in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, using indicators of child protection, health, child care, education, and income support.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/pmsc6>.

**Introduction to Parent-Child Visits** *Child Welfare Information Gateway and the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCRFC) partnered to provide this free, self-guided online training on facilitating visits between parents and children involved with the child welfare system.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/rzxaz>.

**Loving Letters: Reconnecting with My Mom through the Mail** (YouthSuccessNYC) *In this article, the youth author shares how she and her mother used letters to catch up on lost time and heal from their painful pasts together. She describes how she and her mother have both changed over time and are growing together, getting to know one another through letters, and discussing dealing with challenges, such as anger, and the pain of having experienced abuse.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/6xueg>.

**Supporting Parents of Young Children in the Child Welfare System** (National Center for Children in Poverty) *This report explores the challenges and opportunities of improving mandated parent training for parents of young children in the child welfare system. Drawing on lessons from research and practice, it calls on states, courts and communities to use more intentional, cost effective, and strategic approaches to required parent training.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/epez>.

**Grandparents Increasingly Fill Need as Caregivers** (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8h0eh>. *The full report by the Pew Research Center, "Since the Start of the Great Recession, More Children Raised by Grandparents," is available at: <http://tiny.cc/lasx0>.*

**Concurrent Planning for Permanency for Children: Summary of State Laws** (Child Welfare Information Gateway) *This resource provides summary information on state laws pertaining to concurrent planning for children. Approximately 42 States and the District of Columbia have statutes that address the issue of concurrent planning.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/xkchx>.

**Helping Families Support Their Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Children** (National Center for Cultural Competence) *This practice brief was developed for families, caretakers, advocates, and providers to provide basic information to help families support their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/rho94>.

## Reports and Publications (cont.)

### AGING OUT AND OLDER YOUTH

**Foster Club's Transition Toolkit** (Foster Club, the National Network for Young People in Foster Care) *This transition toolkit is a great resource on youth transition out of foster care.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/vkdxw>.

**Foster Youth Transition Checklist** (Alliance for Children's Rights) *This checklist is designed to help professionals ensure foster youth are prepared for their transition to independent living. Questions that should be considered before a youth's foster care case is closed in Dependency Court are listed. The questions address: contact information for the child welfare agency and agencies that may be able to provide assistance, completion of the Transitional Independent Living Plan, health needs, educational needs, housing, credit and finances, legal issues, and sibling visitation. A list of resources for transitioning youth is provided.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/o3jtb>.

**Number of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Continues to Rise** (Fostering Connections Resource Center) *This fact sheet reports a number of statistics related to youth aging out of foster care.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/oz2up>.

**What Works For Older Youth During the Transition to Adulthood: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Intervention** (Child Trends) *This examines the role that programs designed to serve older youth can play in promoting positive development and subsequent self-sufficiency.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/rrwa8>.

### EDUCATION AND FOSTER CARE

**Caregivers, School Liaisons, and Agency Advocates Speak Out about the Educational Needs of Children and Youth in Foster Care** (National Association of Social Workers) *Children in foster care comprise a population of students at great risk for school failure. The child welfare agency, schools, and home must all work together to provide the services and supports required to achieve better results.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/dqmx0>.

**Ready to Succeed: Improving Educational Outcomes for Children and Youth in Foster Care** (Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/nm5ne>.

**Foster Youth Education Initiative Releases Report on Improving Opportunities for Foster Youth** (National Center for Youth Law) *Foster youth frequently lack parent advocates; as a consequence, they often fail to receive the opportunities necessary to succeed in school. This report examines an emerging strategy designed to ensure that foster youth receive the opportunities they need: the creation of educational advocacy systems for foster youth. It also offers concrete recommendations for working to improve the educational and life outcomes of these children.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3waud>.

### POVERTY

**Poverty and Mother's Depression Linked** (Washington Post ) Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/2dvez5j>.

**Rising Poverty and the Social Safety Net** (NY Times) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/1uhu9>.

**Infants of Depressed Mothers Living in Poverty: Opportunities to Identify and Serve** (Urban Institute) *This brief offers a national look at the characteristics, access to services, and parenting approaches for infants living in poverty whose mothers are depressed.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/itfgn>.

## Reports and Publications (cont.)

### MENTAL HEALTH

**Child's Ordeal Shows Risks of Psychosis Drugs for Young** (NY Times) *This article follows a troubled toddler's journey from one doctor to another, from one diagnosis to another, involving several prescriptions for drugs. He was eventually weaned off the drugs through a program affiliated with Tulane University that is aimed at helping low-income families whose children have mental health problems.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ay3ra>.

**A Child Psychiatrist Responds** (NY Times) *Dr. Mary Margaret Gleason, a child psychiatrist at Tulane University, took questions from readers as part of a discussion concerning an article published in The New York Times, "Child's Ordeal Shows Risks of Psychosis Drugs for Young" (listed above) about a young boy's misdiagnosis and medications.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3jms0> and <http://tiny.cc/n36w7>.

**Infant Mental Health Starter Kit** (Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health) *This kit includes standards for infant mental health practice, guidelines and a manual for infant mental health program development, social and emotional learning tools for professionals and parents, infant mental health assessment guidelines and several publications for specialized work with infants and toddlers who come to the attention of the courts.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/lrect>.

**Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Youth in Care** (Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center ) *Designed for foster and adoptive parents, this tip sheet explains the difficulties youth in care may have experienced and the need for mental health services to help them with various emotional and behavioral concerns. Types of therapy that can be used with children are described, as well as the role of foster parents, potential barriers in finding a good provider, and when to suggest a change in therapist. Red flags to watch for in a therapist are identified, and a list of additional resources for foster and adoptive parents is provided.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/f5xvh>.

**Hit on All Fronts: Parenting with Mental Illness** (Rise Magazine) *Parents with mental illness face extraordinary obstacles to reuniting with children placed in foster care. In the Summer 2010 Issue of Rise Magazine, parents write about how they have struggled to overcome these obstacles and safely raise their children at home.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/sbzqj>.

### ADOPTION

**PBS POV (Point of View) Series on Adoption** *PBS is presenting a series on adoption, both foreign and domestic. Links to the videos and/or viewing schedule are available at:* <http://tiny.cc/6avtx>.

**Leaving our Mark on a New Generation** (Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute) *This organization, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about foster care and international adoption issues, and providing orphaned children with a voice on Capitol Hill, just released its 2010 Foster Youth Intern Report, "Leaving Our Mark on a New Generation."* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3bcm4>.

**Ethics and Family Recruitment** (New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children) *This paper explores the ethical issues involved in photo listing children as a method of adoption recruitment.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/hazjy>.

**Better Preparation Needed for Post-Adoption Contact Agreements** Available at: <http://tiny.cc/pc9c4>.

## Reports and Publications (cont.)

### AGING OUT AND OLDER YOUTH

**Fostering Connections: New Notification Requirements May Help Fathers and Paternal Relatives Become Involved With Their Children** (American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8skzl>.

**A Father's Fight** (The Sun News) *About the ICPC and Parent's Rights*. Also available at: <http://tiny.cc/1etl7>.

**Two Rulings by Ohio Supreme Court May Increase Birth Fathers' Rights** *Two recent rulings by the Ohio Supreme Court in favor of birth fathers may weaken the state's putative father registry, reports the Columbus Dispatch in "Adoption Rulings May Boost Birth Father's Rights." In the first case, the father registered within the specified timeframe; in the second case, the father had not registered but did have an established relationship with his daughter.* Available at: <http://tiny.cc/sxznd>.

## Upcoming Trainings and Events

**Addiction 101 – Understanding Substance Abuse**, sponsored by CCAN/Volunteer Lawyer's Project Brown Bag  
Thursday, October 14, 2010 from 12:30-2:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 1500

*The CCAN Office and the D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project are sponsoring this brown bag on understanding substance abuse. CFSA substance abuse specialist, Richard Davis, will address the issues such as: signs that a person may be abusing substances, the effects of illegal substances including how they typically affect parenting, what drug tests show, what drug treatment programs are available in DC, and what the rates of success are for these programs. He will also talk about the effects of PCP which has been seen increasingly in this area.*

**DC Family Law Section Brown Bag: Family Law from a Military Perspective**

Friday, October 15, 2010 from 12:30-1:30 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*More of our clients (and our opposing parties) are active duty members of the military. What special issues should you be aware of when dealing with military personnel? Where are the mine-fields and how should you navigate them? Come benefit from the expertise of a JAG-turned-Family Law Attorney, Bruce Avery of Avery & Upton, who is well-versed in military-speak and can explain the ins and outs of this specialized area of law. FREE.*

**Public Benefits Series: TANF and GAC, Cash Assistance for Poor Families**

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 12:00-2:00 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

*As times are tougher, the stress on families increases. Join Jennifer Mezey (Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia) to learn about the essential safety net programs of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and General Assistance for Children (GAC) as well as how to spot and fight TANF sanctions. FREE. Lunch is not provided, but feel free to bring your lunch. Registration required by e-mail to Jeremy Strauss at [jstrauss@legalaiddc.org](mailto:jstrauss@legalaiddc.org).*

## Upcoming Trainings and Events (cont.)

### **Pretrial Skills Series**, sponsored by DC Bar

Thursdays, October 14, 21, 28, 2010 from 6:00-9:15PM — DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
*Taught by experienced litigators, this introductory series addresses critical pretrial topics in civil litigation, including depositions, written discovery, and motions practice, with a focus on strategies and effective practice techniques. Emphasis will be placed on the rules, practices, and procedures of the local and federal courts in DC.*  
**Part 1: Taking and Defending Depositions (October 14)** This session will examine the practical considerations and tactical techniques available to the litigator in taking and defending depositions, including preparation, use of depositions at trial, and significant cases about depositions. Ethics issues relating to depositions also will be examined. Faculty: Michael F. Williams, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

**Part 2: Effective Use of Interrogatories, Document Requests, and Requests for Admission (October 21)** The second part of the series will explore effective ways of drafting and responding to written discovery requests, tactical considerations, discovery motions, use of written discovery at trial, and ethical issues relating to discovery. Faculty: Kevin M. Dinan, King & Spalding LLP

**Part 3: Substantive and Procedural Motions (October 28)** This session will survey commonly used motions, including motions for a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, dismissal, summary judgment, expedited appeal, summary reversal, and stay/injunction pending appeal. Our experts will discuss strategies and effective practice tactics, as well as ethics issues raised in motions practice. Faculty: Charles L. Eisen, K&L Gates LLP; David T. Fischer, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.; Brian L. Schwalb, Venable LLP.

FEE for entire series = \$179. Register at [www.dcbar.org](http://www.dcbar.org).

### **Divorce Practice in DC, Maryland and Virginia – Practical Advice and Comparisons**, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 6:00-8:15 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
*This course will focus on the basics of divorce practice in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. It will address key substantive and procedural differences among the three jurisdictions and offer pointers for effective practice in each of the major courts in the D.C. metropolitan area. The course is geared toward attorneys possessing some familiarity with the basics of family law such as equitable distribution, support, and custody, and who are interested in the state of the law on these issues in the three jurisdictions-whether or not they are admitted in each. Attendees will receive a synopsis of current laws on major family law topics in each jurisdiction. Speakers: Eric Glass, Clark & Glass LLP; Daniel Gray, Cooper Ginsberg Gray PLLC; and Anne Jackson, Ain & Bank P.C. FEE = \$89. Register at [www.dcbar.org](http://www.dcbar.org).*

### **Primer on Domestic Violence Practice**, sponsored by DC Bar Family Law Section

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
*Join speakers Laurie Kohn from George Washington University Law Center, Yvette Missri from the Office of the Attorney General and Karina Kirana Vollmer from WEAVE for an overview of domestic violence practice in the District of Columbia. Register at [www.dcbar.org](http://www.dcbar.org).*

### **Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop**, sponsored by the DC Bar

Friday, October 22, 2010 from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 limited to 24 registrants. FEE = \$279. Register at [www.dcbar.org](http://www.dcbar.org).*

## Upcoming Trainings and Events (cont.)

### **Trusts and Estates in DC: Recent Developments**, sponsored by the DC Bar

Monday, October 25, 2010 from 6:00-8:15 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

*This course is designed to provide the trusts and estates practitioner with a practical update on estates and trusts developments in the District of Columbia such as recent court decisions, legislative developments, and changes to court rules. Issues to be discussed include court-approved fees for fiduciaries and attorneys, enforceability of premarital agreements, fraudulent “Petitions for Probate” and the relief granted, and testamentary capacity adjudications. FEE = \$99. Register at [www.dcbbar.org](http://www.dcbbar.org).*

### **DC Bar Family Law Section Judicial Reception**

Thursday, October 28, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 PM – Howrey LLP, 1299 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

*This social event is an opportunity to mix and mingle with the DC Superior Court Family Court Judges. The DC Bar Family Law Section will be honoring Judge Milton C. Lee, Jr. who presides over the Fathering Court. Registration information forthcoming. FEE = \$20 for Non-profit employees, \$35 for Section members, and \$45 for Non-Section members. Fee includes appetizers and cocktails.*

### **Secrets of the Great Brief Writers**, sponsored by the DC Bar

Friday, October 29, 2010 from 9:00 AM-1:15 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

*Attend this fast-paced, highly acclaimed, and interactive workshop to improve your brief and motions writing skills using dozens of examples of trial and appellate filings. Our faculty expert will arm you with specific techniques and strategies drawn from the nation's great brief and motions writers-the ones who give judges what they want. In particular, you will learn three ingredients for a compelling introduction, nine ways to add interest to your sentences, the best way to draft headings, and four ways to structure sections in opening briefs and in replies or oppositions. You also will walk away with four ways to integrate case law concisely, plus 90 words and phrases to make your prose flow. In addition, you will master three ways to use examples and analogies effectively and three ways to make fact sections more compelling and persuasive. By the end of this class you will learn to communicate more clearly and avoid common annoyances to judges. Speaker: Ross Guberman, Founder, Legal Writing Pro. FEE = \$199. Register at [www.dcbbar.org](http://www.dcbbar.org).*

## Save the Date

### **A Lawyer’s Guide to Statutory Interpretation and Statute Drafting**, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesday, November 9, 2010 from 6:00-9:15 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

*This introductory course will cover the fundamentals of dealing with statutes, statute drafting, and statutory interpretation. The course will discuss the theories, principles, and methods of drafting and interpreting statutes in a way that is practical and relevant to practicing lawyers. The objective is to develop certain methodologies that practitioners can apply in dealing with statutes and statutory interpretation. Speakers include Nicholas Karambelas, Sfikas & Karambelas LLP. FEE = \$89. Register at [www.dcbbar.org](http://www.dcbbar.org).*

### **Public Benefits Series: MEDICARE: Medicare Parts A, B, C, & D & QMB**

Tuesday, November 17, 2010 from 12:00-2:00 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

*To prepare for Medicare Part D’s annual open season, join Jennifer Mezey (Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia) and Erin Loubier (Whitman-Walker Clinic) for an overview of Medicare eligibility and benefits and how to help clients choose the right Medicare Part D prescription drug plan for 2011. We will discuss the importance of an annual drug plan “check up” for all who get their prescriptions through Part D. Also, we will discuss options to lower Medicare beneficiaries’ out-of-pocket costs through the QMB program. FREE. Lunch is not provided, but feel free to bring your lunch. Registration required by e-mail to Jeremy Strauss at [jstrauss@legalaiddc.org](mailto:jstrauss@legalaiddc.org).*

## Save the Date (cont.)

### **Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop**, sponsored by the DC Bar

Friday, November 19, 2010 from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 limited to 24 registrants. FEE = \$279. Register at [www.dcbbar.org](http://www.dcbbar.org).*

### **Public Benefits Series: Food Assistance—SNAP / Food Stamps, WIC, and Other Food Resources**

Tuesday, December 8, 2010 from 12:00-2:00 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
*In this tough economy, the need for food assistance is increasing. Join Alexandra Ashbrook (DC Hunger Solutions) to learn about SNAP / Food Stamps and other nutrition programs to assist low income DC residents. FREE. Lunch is not provided, but feel free to bring your lunch. Registration required by e-mail to Jeremy Strauss at [jstrauss@legalaiddc.org](mailto:jstrauss@legalaiddc.org).*

### **DC Bar Family Law Section Holiday Party**

Wednesday, December 9, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 PM – Location TBA  
*Join the members of the Family Law community, including attorneys and judges practicing in the DC Family Court, to celebrate the holiday season in a festive atmosphere. Registration information forthcoming.*

### **Public Benefits Series: Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits**

Wednesday, December 15, 2010 from 12:00-2:00 PM – DC Bar Conference Center, 1101 K St. NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
*Eligibility for public benefits for non-citizens is complicated. Su Sie Ju (Bread for the City) will provide an overview of immigrant eligibility for public benefits. FREE. Lunch is not provided, but feel free to bring your lunch. Registration required by e-mail to Jeremy Strauss at [jstrauss@legalaiddc.org](mailto:jstrauss@legalaiddc.org).*

### **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, 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>.*