

Keeping Current

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

DC Court of Appeals

Upcoming Oral Arguments

Tuesday, June 18, 2013, 9:30am

12-FS-1545 – In Re: Petition of S.F.; S.E., Appellant

12-FS-1546 – In Re: Petition of S.F.; S.E., Appellant

12-FS-1565 – In Re: Petition of S.F.; S.E., Appellant

Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 2:00pm

12-FS-0835 – In Re: L.B., Appellant

Wednesday, June 26, 2013, 9:30am

11-FS-1581 – In Re: Petition of R.C. & M.S.; C.W., Appellant

11-FS-1582 – In Re: Petition of R.C. & M.S.; C.W., Appellant

Child Welfare News

National Issues

The Justices Confront a Solomonic Task (The National Law Journal) This article discusses *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, a domestic relations case implicating the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) currently pending before the US Supreme Court. There is a link to the docket and briefs the article mentions embedded in the article.

Available at: <http://tiny.cc/qh8lxw>.

South Dakota Officials Miss Historic Meeting With Tribes (NPR) In a related story, South Dakota state officials failed to show up for a summit on the Indian Child Welfare Act. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/l1cmxw>.

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 and www.childrenslawcenter.org.

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IRS audits thousands of adoptive families (The Tennessean) The Internal Revenue Service is being accused of mishandling the tax returns of adoptive families. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/yv8lxw>. Taxpayer Advocate report, available at: <http://tiny.cc/ly8lxw>.

Fictional 'Mothers' reveal facts of a painful adoption process (NPR) Discussion of author's use of fiction to increase awareness of the potential challenges of the adoption process. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/i58lxw>

Foster care youth: The faces of a nation's soul in crisis (Huffington Post) Claire Pomeroy, Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of California-Davis, only recently began publicly talking about her foster care experience because she realized that speaking out would help foster youth. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/bmcmxw>.

Any Bed-Sharing Puts Baby at Risk for SIDS (MedPage Today) Sharing a bed with an adult -- even one who doesn't smoke or drink -- is associated with a five-fold increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) among younger infants, a new analysis found. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/babmxw>.

Bed Sharing Safely: Not All Co-Sleeping is Created Equal (Public News Service) Another view suggests that when it comes to the potential risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome from a mother sharing her bed with her baby, there is a push to change the message from "just don't do it" to "here is how it's done most safely." Available at: <http://tiny.cc/glcmxw>.

Filling Up an Empty Nest (New York Times) More older adults are adopting children -- either relatives or through other means. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8scmxw>.

Adult-Observed ADHD Reflects True Rate in Kids (MedPage Today) Parent- and teacher-reported rates of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder do not appear to overestimate the true prevalence of the condition, according to a new analysis of a large children's health study. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/fdbmxw>.

Poverty as a Childhood Disease (New York Times) At the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies, there was a new call for pediatricians to address childhood poverty as a national problem, rather than wrestling with its consequences case by case in the exam room. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/6ocmxw>.

Most Sex Offenders Against Children Are Family Members (Psychology Today) Unfortunately, the media's lack of attention to those typical sex offenses against children often perpetuates the myth that "Don't talk to strangers" as the preventive method to keep children safe. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/excmxw>.

Local Issues

Mayor Gray to open resource room for foster parents (The Washington Informer) Mayor Gray to open a foster parent resource room named after the late Eugene N. Hamilton, the former Chief Judge of the D.C. Superior Court. Hamilton, who died in 2011, was an adoptive father of four and foster parent to 50 children. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/26cmxw>.

Some Children May Qualify for Free Meals This Summer (NBC Washington) Free meals for kids who get free and reduced lunch during the summer. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/pfdmxw>.

Medicaid Expanded for Former Foster Youth (New America Media) Affordable Care Act mandates Medicaid for foster youth who have aged out, but only if they don't move to a new state. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/dg3sxw>.

In DC, parents miss work, lose jobs trying to get child-care subsidy (Washington Post) Noteworthy feature on the child care subsidy and what it costs local households to get it. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/rjdmxw>.

Sisters, separated as infants, reunite at high school track meet (The Grio) DC sisters who grew up separately - one in an adoptive family, the other with bio mom, foster care, and a guardian – reunite. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/kndmxw>.

Education News

What do you do if your child isn't going to college? (Washington Post) Columnist offers advice to parents who do not see college in their children's future. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/0c9sxx>.

Northern Virginia home visiting program is preschool in its earliest form (Washington Post) This article discusses home visiting as an important tool in early education interventions. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/mg5sxx>.

DCPS looks toward a new chapter on writing (Greater Greater Education) DCPS responds to editorial from tutor who said DC kids can't read very well. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/hl9sxx>.

Partnership aims for hybrid traditional-charter school in Southeast Washington (Washington Post) Kaya Henderson announces traditional-charter hybrid school at Malcolm X Elementary - it will still be a neighborhood school but run like a charter by Achievement Prep. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/dp9sxx>.

Young GED test-takers miss out on high school experience (Washington Post) Younger students are taking GEDs and missing out on high school diplomas in some areas, especially Maryland counties. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8q9sxx>.

DC schools try to shrink number of special education students (Washington Examiner) This article discusses DCPS' efforts to reduce the number of special education students from 18% of the school population to 15%. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/gt9sxx>.

Does an "equal" education promote inequality? (Greater Greater Education) This article shares the late Tupac Shakur's views on marketing education to urban youth. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3f9sxx>.

Early childhood care matters (Greater Greater Washington) This article considers the importance of daycare to childhood development, as well as to the economic and personal growth of parents. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/y1atxx>.

Mental Health News

Mental disorders affect 1 in 5 US children each year (New Scientist) As many as one in five children aged 3 to 17 years old experiences a mental health disorder each year, according to a new report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Available at: <http://tiny.cc/mqbtxx>. A related article from Boston.com includes a link the CDC report. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ntbtxx>.

The Real Problems With Psychiatry (The Atlantic) A psychotherapist contends that the *DSM*, psychiatry's "bible" that defines all mental illness, is more so a product of social science than medical science. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/beatxw>.

The Bible of the Mind Turns the Page (Washington Post) In a related story, the Post previews the new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, 5th edition. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/dlatxw>.

D.C. Mental Health System Failing City's Youth (Washington Examiner) This article discusses the city's deficits in meeting the mental health needs of area youth. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ybbtxw>.

How Foster Care can Benefit Mental Health (The British Psychological Society) Study shows that after abuse or neglect, out-of-home placements can improve the emotional health of some young people. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/wjbtxw>.

Looking for Evidence That Therapy Works (New York Times) This article discusses how many therapists are not implementing – or not effectively implementing - the therapies they purport to use. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ulbtxw>.

Upcoming Events

Full Day CCAN Trial Skills Training

Thursday, June 20, 2013, 9:00am to 5:00pm

DC Courts Center for Education, Room 613

This year's trial skills training includes sessions on admitting documents, using documentary evidence to impeach, handling difficult witnesses and cross-examining experts. Please RSVP for this informative training by emailing trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Monday, June 17th

LGBTQ Youth in Care Summit

Wednesday, June 26, 2013, 8:30 am to 5pm

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

CFSA's Connecting Rainbows initiative is proud to host this day-long summit for LGBTQ youth in care, their families and their service providers. For more information contact: connecting.rainbows@dc.gov.

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, Border Agreements, and Out-of-State Placements for Youth in Care

Thursday, June 27, 2013, 3:30 pm to 5pm

Children's Law Center, 616 H Street NW, Suite 300

Join CLC and CFSA staff for this informative training about the impact CFSA's border agreements may have on out of state youth placements. Please RSVP by emailing trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Tuesday, June 25th.

ABA Center on Children and the Law - National Conference:

"Raising the Bar: Lawyers as Partners for Family Well-Being"

Friday, July 12—Saturday, July 13, 2013

Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington, DC

The Conference will address a range of child welfare issues that emphasize family well-being and improving the skills of attorneys, judges and other advocates. It will also feature emerging child welfare policy and systemic reform issues and their effects on practice, children and families. Register online at: <http://tiny.cc/z4cbww>.

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.

Save the Date!!!

CCAN – Case Rounds

Wednesday, June 12, 2013, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
D.C. Superior Court, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Room 4224

1/2 Day CCAN Panel Training

DC Superior Court , Family Court Conference Room
July 18, 2013

National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)

36th National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law Conference

Monday, August 26—Wednesday, August 28, 2013

More information available at: www.NACCchildlaw.org.