

Keeping Current

Monthly Training Newsletter for CCAN

March 2010

Starting this month, Children's Law Center will issue a monthly events and information update for CCAN practitioners, entitled "KEEPING CURRENT." This publication, which will be 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. CCAN practitioners should also make sure to review the weekly CCAN e-mail for up-to-date information. 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:

Reports and Publications	2
Upcoming Training and Events	4
News	6
Save the Date!	7



District of Columbia Court of Appeals

430 E Street NW

Upcoming Family Court Matters:

In re B.L., 08-FS-1329—Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 9:30 AM

In re Petition of L.A.M., 09-FS-1113 — Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at 9:30 AM

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

www.dcappeals.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp



Council of the District of Columbia

Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Upcoming Hearings:

Adoption Reform Amendment Act of 2009 (Bill 18-0547) — March 4, 2010 at 2:00 pm, Room 500
 State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Oversight Hearing — March 5, 2010 at 10:00 AM, Room 412

Department of Mental Health (DMH) Oversight Hearing — March 10, 2010 at 10:00 AM, Room 412

Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Oversight Hearing — March 11, 2010 at 1:00 PM, Room 500

DC Public Schools (DCPS) Oversight Hearing — March 15, 2010 at 10:00 AM, Room 500

Note: Some hearings are broadcast live on the DC Council website: www.dccouncil.us

The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community. Children's Law Center is not vouching for the quality of the materials or events referenced herein, and CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials.

Reports and Publications

CHILD WELFARE and JUVENILE JUSTICE

Intentions and Results: A Look Back at the Adoption and Safe Families Act

Twelve years after the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), was enacted, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) in partnership with the Urban Institute co-sponsored this series of papers to examine effects of the ASFA law and its implementation, which is available at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001351_safe_families_act.pdf

Children's Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey

This report from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is available at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/>

Employment Needs of Foster Youth: Findings from the Midwest Study

This Chapin Hall study describes what young people said about their current and prior participation in the labor force, including work-related training or services they received, and is available at:

<http://www.chapinhall.org/>

*The National Association of Counsel for Children just completed a comprehensive **Evaluation of the Guardian Ad Litem System in Nebraska**. You can find the summary and report in its entirety at: <http://www.naccchildlaw.org/news/35016/NACC-Study--Evaluation-of-the-Guardian-Ad-Litem-System-in-Nebraska.htm>*

Assessing Lesbian and Gay Prospective Foster and Adoptive Families: A Focus on the Homestudy Process

This article, which draws on research literature, practice wisdom from 34 years of child welfare experiences, and case examples, offers child welfare professionals guidelines for competent assessment with prospective foster or adoptive parents who identify as lesbian or gay, and is available at: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/>

Report Addresses Disparities in Juvenile Justice

The W. Haywood Burns Institute has published a report on systemic problems involving juvenile justice systems which concern racial and ethnic disparities in youth detention and provides recommendations for addressing them, and is available at: www.burnsinstitute.org/downloads/BI%20Keeper%20Kept.pdf

National Resource Center Offers Information on Placement Stability

The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections released an information packet this month on placement stability. This resource outlines legislative policies and goals for placement stability in child welfare, as well as statistics on the extent of placement changes and their causes. It also describes best practices and model programs, and suggests some online resources, and is available at:

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Placement_Stability_Info_Pack.htm

Implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008

This is a reference for stakeholders interested in locating policy, guidance and other implementation activities related to the Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351). It will be updated as appropriate, and is available at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/implementation_foster.htm

Addressing the Needs of Crossover Youth

This resource discusses the connection between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency, and is available at:

http://www.childrenslawinstitute.org/ws_docs/2_Addressing_the_Needs_of_Crossover_Youth_PP.pdf

Reports and Publications (continued)

EDUCATION

CFSA Practice Guide for School-Aged Children and Youth

This CFSA publication is for parents, foster parents, attorneys, and social workers, and is available at:

http://cfsa.dc.gov/cfsa/frames.asp?doc=/cfsa/lib/cfsa/sw_forms/ed_practice_guide_final_1.13.10.doc

Improving Educational Continuity and School Stability for Children in Out-of-Home Care

This Casey Family Programs resource is available at: <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/#bsc>

Helping Your Children Succeed in School

Children who have been in foster care often face difficulties succeeding in school, may act out or have trouble learning due to fear or sadness or fall behind if they switch schools. Parents may not know how to access school-based services. In this issue of Rise magazine, parents write about how they advocate for the supports their children need to succeed in school. Rise magazine is written by and for parents involved in the child welfare system, and is available at: http://www.risemagazine.org/PDF/Rise_issue_14.pdf

HEALTH

Potential Impacts of Alternative Health Care Reform Proposals for Children with Medicaid and CHIP Coverage

In this brief, the authors estimate the number of children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP whose coverage would have been affected had provisions in the House and Senate health reform bills been implemented in 2007. The authors discuss the tradeoffs involved with shifting children from CHIP into Medicaid or new exchange plans under health reform, highlight that some may be at risk for slipping through the cracks and becoming uninsured. The report is available at: <http://www.urban.org/publications/411993.html>

Progress Enrolling Children in Medicaid/CHIP: Who's Left & Prospects for Covering More Children

In this updated brief, the authors examine characteristics of children who were eligible for Medicaid/CHIP in 2007, and is available at: <http://www.urban.org/publications/411981.html>

The Impact of CHIP on Children's Insurance Coverage: Analysis Using National Survey of America's Families

This article examines the effect of expansions in CHIP on the health insurance coverage of children, and is available at: <http://www.hsr.org/hsr/abstract.jsp?aid=44201512136>

OTHER

*The D.C. Consortium of Legal Services Providers and the D.C. Access to Justice Commission have issued a joint report entitled: **Rationing Justice: the Effect of the Recession on Access to Justice in the District of Columbia**. The report describes the devastating impact of the recession on our client community, the increased need for legal services, and the decreased resources our legal services network has available to respond. Based on data gathered from Consortium members, funding for legal assistance in the District is down \$4.5 million, or more than 25%; 21 fewer lawyers are working for legal services programs; legal services programs have lost 30 paralegals, social workers and others who provide critical support to clients. These funding cuts are resulting in cuts in critical legal services. It is available at:*

<http://www.legalaiddc.org/documents/RationingJusticeReport..pdf>

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.

Upcoming Trainings and Events

DATE FORTHCOMING Must Haves and Can't Stands: A View from the Bench, sponsored by the DC Bar Family Law Section

March 2010 – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

This program (which is being rescheduled from February 2010) is a unique opportunity to hear from the judges who are deciding your Domestic Violence, Domestic Relations, and Abuse and Neglect cases. What do they find persuasive and helpful? What do they find annoying and irksome? What do they want from you and, importantly, what don't they want from you? Hearing their unique perspective will be invaluable to you and your clients. Don't miss it! Speakers: Honorable José M. López, Associate Judge, DC Superior Court (Presiding Judge, Domestic Violence Branch); Honorable Carol Ann Dalton, Associate Judge, DC Superior Court (Domestic Relations – Calendar II); Honorable Neal E. Kravitz, Associate Judge, DC Superior Court (Domestic Relations -- Calendar I); Honorable Lori E. Parker, Magistrate Judge, DC Superior Court (Abuse and Neglect). Moderated by Avi Sickel, DC Superior Court and Mariela Olivares, Georgetown Law Center. Register at www.dcbbar.org

Essential Trial Skills Series, sponsored by the DC Bar

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 from 6:00-9:15pm – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

The series includes lectures, discussions, and demonstrations that emphasize the rules, practices, and procedures in local and federal courts in the Washington metropolitan area. This fourth session in this series will focus on opening statements and cross examination. Both civil and criminal trial considerations will be discussed.

FEE = \$89. Register at www.dcbbar.org.

Evidentiary Foundations Brown Bag, sponsored by the Washington Council of Lawyers

Friday, March 5, 2010 from 12:00-2:30 p.m. – Arnold & Porter LLP, 555 12th Street NW

Mary Kennedy (Training Counsel at Arnold & Porter LLP), Todd Edelman (Georgetown University Law Center), and Jennifer Di Toro (Children's Law Center), will open the program with presentation and demonstration. The second half of the program will be devoted to questions and working through several hypothetical situations. No preparation is necessary. Just bring your lunch and your questions. Drinks and dessert will be provided. The fee for the training is \$20 for WCL non-members and \$15 for WCL members. To register, go to

<http://www.wclawyers.org>.

Upcoming Trainings and Events (continued)

Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute, sponsored by the Bar Association of DC

Monday, March 8 and Tuesday, March 9, 2010 – UDC, David A. Clarke School of Law

For a copy of the Institute agenda, see http://www.badc.org/files/NDPI/NDPI_2010_agenda.pdf

Thursday's Child on Helping Public Housing's Most Vulnerable Families, sponsored by the Urban Institute and Chapin Hall

Wednesday, March 11, 2010, Time TBD – Urban Institute, 2100 M Street NW, 5th Floor

As local governments and housing authorities seek to revitalize troubled inner-city neighborhoods, helping public housing's most vulnerable families -- those with physical and mental health problems, weak employment histories, low literacy levels, drug or alcohol abuse, criminal histories, and serious credit problems -- calls for a unique set of responses. The Chicago Family Case Management Demonstration may have some innovative answers. Program information available at: <http://www.chapinhall.org/events/thursday>

Teleconference: What Children's Lawyers Need to Know about Mandatory Drug Testing, sponsored by the ABA CLE Center

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 1:00-2:30pm

Drug testing has been expanded recently in delinquency cases, where it is often a condition of probation even if the child was not charged with a drug offense and in education cases with athletics and to monitor kids in school. This drug testing opens the door to more law enforcement. Lawyers need to know how to advocate for their clients around this challenging and pervasive issue. Faculty will discuss the particular challenges posed by children with mental issue issues and co-occurring substance abuse issues including the lack of programs. We will also focus on the policy implications of mandatory drug testing, including in the context of juvenile drug court. Program Faculty: Jane Broder, Defender Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; Theshia Naidoo, Drug Policy Alliance - Office of Legal Affairs, Berkeley, CA; Dr. Leslie Paik, The City College of the City University of New York, New York, NY; Lourdes Rosado (Moderator). Register at: <http://www.abanet.org/cle/>

AVAILABLE TO FOSTER PARENTS AND PRACTITIONERS! Deciding if Disruption is the Best Choice, sponsored by the Post-Permanency Family Center

Thursday, March 18, 2010 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Post-Permanency Family Center, 900 Varnum Street, NE

One of the most challenging aspects of working with adoptive and foster families is the possibility of disruption, which occurs in 10–15% of adoptions and foster care situations. As professionals, we want to provide our clients with the very best coping strategies and alternatives. Research indicates that parents who utilize social and community resources have higher success rates in surviving the threat of disruption. This training will provide you with the tools necessary to help avert threatened disruption and/or cope with disruptions should they occur. Call Chaz Holmon at 202-629-0206 to register.

Upcoming Trainings and Events (continued)

Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop, sponsored by the DC Bar

Friday, March 19, 2010 from 9:30am-4:30pm – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

This essential course for both new and seasoned attorneys teaches participants how to recognize and correct common writing problems. Through a series of interactive exercises, attorneys will learn how to fix those problems and make dull and bureaucratic language clear and concise. Participants also will learn about the writing process, including how to untangle sentences and how to turn ordinary writing into crisp, sharp and convincing prose. This class will help lawyers communicate effectively with clients and others in the legal process. FEE = \$279. Register at www.dcb.org.

What You Need to Know about Domestic Partnerships, Same-Sex Marriage in DC, MD, and VA, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesday, March 23, 2010 from 6:00-9:15 p.m. – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

The changing legal landscape on domestic partnerships and same-sex marriage has many implications. This course is ideal for estate planning lawyers, family law practitioners, and anyone who wants to better understand this developing area of law. This class will provide practical guidance on the law in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. The course will arm you with the information you need to better serve your clients on issues for same-sex couples, including estate planning, domestic partnership (not just for same-sex couples) requirements, health care decision making, death and inheritance, tax issues, property law issues, employee benefits, and divorce/separation matters. FEE = \$89 (but \$39 discount if you also attend April 1 event entitled, Primer on Parentage Rights of Same-Sex Couples in DC, MD, and VA)

News

A [new blog](#) from WASHINGTON POST education writer Bill Turque focuses on DC education issues.

It can be found at:

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dcschools>

In a Tough Job Market, Teens are Suffering Most (TIME) Article includes DC Office of Employment Services, and is available at: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1952331,00.html>

Unadoptable as Child, Man Gets New Parents at 23 (CNN.com) Article features young man who aged out of California's foster care system when he was 18, but was adopted five years later, and discusses upswing in adoptions for young adults between 14 and 20. It is available at: <http://www.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/12/28/teen.adult.adoption/index.html>

What Makes a Good Teacher? (THE ATLANTIC) Article profiles some DCPS teachers, and is available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/>

Poor Children Likelier to Get Antipsychotics (NY TIMES)

Available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/12/health/12medicaid.html?_r=2&hp

Psychiatrists Propose Revisions to DSM (PBS.org) Feature on the new DSM V is available at: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/health/jan-june10/mentalillness_02-10.html

Interested in getting the latest in DC politics and news?

Subscribe to *Loose Lips*, a daily e-mail publication of the WASHINGTON CITY PAPER.

Sign up at: <http://washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/citydesk>

Save the Date

Family Law Section Courthouse Meeting: Family Law and the Military

April 2, 2010 from 12:30-1:30pm – DC Superior Court

What Every Lawyer Should Know about Immigration Law Series, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2010 from 5:30-8:45 p.m. – DC Bar, 1101 K St NW

This four part series is designed to address the primary areas of immigration law that attorneys encounter regardless of their specialties.

More details on each session online. FEE = \$249 for entire series. Register at www.dcbbar.org

Children's Law Center Advanced GAL Training

Monday, April 12, 2010 from 10:00am-4:00pm

Panel Discussion on Family Law Task Force, sponsored by the DC Bar Family Law Section

April 16, 2010 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. – DC Superior Court

Join the co-chair and other members of the recently created Family Law Task Force for a listening session and lunch at the courthouse to discuss how services for litigants in the Domestic Relations and Paternity and Child Support Branches of the Family Court can be improved.

FREE – No Registration Required.

Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop, sponsored by the DC Bar

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 9:30am-4:30pm – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

This essential course for both new and seasoned attorneys teaches participants how to recognize and correct common writing problems. Through a series of interactive exercises, attorneys will learn how to fix those problems and make dull and bureaucratic language clear and concise. Participants also will learn about the writing process, including how to untangle sentences and how to turn ordinary writing into crisp, sharp and convincing prose. This class will help lawyers communicate effectively with clients and others in the legal process. FEE = \$279. Register at www.dcbbar.org

Family Law Section Evening Program: Family Court Bench-Bar Dialogue

April 22, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Arnold & Porter, 555 12th Street NW

Family Law Section Courthouse Meeting: Caselaw and Legislation Update

May 17, 2010 from 12:30-1:30pm – DC Superior Court

DATE FORTHCOMING Family Law Section Evening Program: Immigration and Family Law

May 2010 – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

Family Court Self-Help Center Volunteer Training Session, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. – DC Bar, 1101 K St NW

The DC Family Court Self-Help Center provides volunteer attorneys an opportunity to assist pro se litigants with matters in the Domestic Relations and Paternity & Support Branches of the Family Court of DC Superior Court. This is a great opportunity for attorneys to provide direct pro bono legal services to individual pro se litigants while making a predictable time commitment. Trainees will be asked to commit to volunteering for three morning or afternoon shifts at the Center within approximately six months. FEE = \$10. Register at www.dcbbar.org

Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop, sponsored by the DC Bar

Friday, May 14, 2010 from 9:30am-4:30pm – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

This essential course for both new and seasoned attorneys teaches participants how to recognize and correct common writing problems. Through a series of interactive exercises, attorneys will learn how to fix those problems and make dull and bureaucratic language clear and concise. Participants also will learn about the writing process, including how to untangle sentences and how to turn ordinary writing into crisp, sharp and convincing prose. This class will help lawyers communicate effectively with clients and others in the legal process. FEE = \$279. Register at www.dcbbar.org.

DATE FORTHCOMING Family Law Section Courthouse Meeting: Domestic Violence Bench-Bar Dialogue

June 2010 – DC Superior Court

DATE FORTHCOMING Family Law Section Evening Program: The New Family

June 2010 – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

Children's Law Center Half-Day Trial Skills Training (for all CCAN)

Friday, June 18, 2010 from 10:30am-2:30pm

Children's Law Center Half-Day Training (for all CCAN)

Thursday, September 16, 2010 from 10:30am-2:30pm