

Keeping Current

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

DC Court of Appeals

Upcoming Oral Arguments

Tuesday, May 7, 2013, 2:00pm

12-FM-0550—Deborah Morris v. Ruthven Morris

Tuesday, May 14, 2013, 9:30am

12-FM-0023—Tanikka Watford-Cunningham v. Bryant Cunningham

12-FM-0514—Tanikka Watford-Cunningham v. Bryant Cunningham

12-FM-1325—Bryant Cunningham v. Tanikka Watford-Cunningham

Legal News

Sequestration Impact on Federal Public Defenders Could Force Courts To Use More Expensive Lawyers (Huffington Post) Sequestration means public defenders may have to rely more on panel lawyers, which are more expensive. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/zez9vw>.

In Special Education Cases, Complaints Over Fees Persist (Legal Times) A new report details ongoing problems with how the District of Columbia school system reimburses lawyers who successfully represent the families of students with special needs. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/vmz9vw>. "A Review of the District of Columbia Public Schools' Process for Reimbursing Attorney Fees in IDEA Cases," is the article cited in the report. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/cqz9vw>.

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.

In This Issue

DC Court of Appeals	1
Legal News	1
Child Welfare News	2
Education News	3
Upcoming Events	4
Save the Date!	6

Child Welfare News

National Issues

'The Door' Opens to a New Life for at Risk Teens (Medpage Today) A free clinic in New York City offers teens contraception and other health services while teaching them to be better healthcare consumers. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/z619vw>.

Reimagining the Future for Foster Youth (Huffington Post) Foster care alum participating in the Clinton Global Initiative University meeting shares his story, emphasizes more resources are needed for foster kids to succeed. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/0a29vw>.

State-owned, State-run Children (Worldmag.com) A MSNBC promo has drawn a lot of criticism from conservatives because it says "kids belong to whole communities". Available at: <http://tiny.cc/fd29vw>. Another perspective on the same story was released by the Huffington Post. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/pg29vw>.

CDC: Lead Levels in Half Million Kids Too High (Medpage Today) More than half a million young American children in 2010 had blood lead levels exceeding 5 mcg/dL, now set as the new threshold for concern, the CDC reported. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/0819vw>.

Young Adults With Autism Can Thrive In High-Tech Jobs (NPR) This news-story discusses the success persons with autism have had finding employment in the technology sector. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ok29vw>.

Advocates for VOCA Get Vocal on Capitol Hill (Public News Service) The Victims of Child Abuse Act, or VOCA, has been eliminated in President Barack Obama's 2014 budget proposal. The same thing happened for the 2013 budget year, and the funding was restored only after an uproar from law enforcement and victims' advocates. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/6l3aww>.

U.S. Born Latinos More Likely to be in Foster Care (ABC News) Hispanic youth used to represent a disproportionately small number of all the children in foster care. Unfortunately, they're catching up. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4n3aww>.

HelpUsAdopt.org Seeks LGBT Applicants for Adoption-Assistance Grants (Huffington Post) HelpUsAdopt.org, gives out individual grants of up to \$15,000 to help families with the expenses associated with adopting children. Currently, of the approximately 400 applications the organization receives each semiannual cycle, only about 10 to 12 are from gays and lesbians. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3v4aww>.

Affordable Care Act Rules Differ for Former Foster Kids (CNN Health) While many young adults covered by the Affordable Care Act are able to remain on their parents' insurance until age 26, the rules are different for those who grew up in the foster care system. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4x4aww>.

Investigating Effectiveness of Clinical Interventions Needed for Maltreated Children (News-Medical.Net) Children who have experienced maltreatment are at serious risk for a host of mental health and other problems that can persist throughout childhood and adulthood. Yet the results of a new systematic review of interventions with maltreated children under age 15 reveals striking limitations in the scientific evidence supporting these approaches. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/904aww>.

Education News

Memo warns of rampant cheating in DC public schools (USA Today) This article examines rediscovered memo on widespread cheating at DC schools under Michelle Rhee. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ex29vw>.

'Learning disabilities' movement turns 50 (Washington Post) This article commemorates an important historical event that opened doors for generations of students with learning differences. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/w129vw>.

LGBT rights and DC schools: How do we prepare for change? (Washington Post) This article discusses how to support LGBT students in DC schools. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/u529vw>.

DC, Prince George's Battle to Shape up Public Schools (Afro.com) Columnist says DC and PG County school reform is "welcome chaos" because of the attention it brings to education. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/j929vw>.

DC Schools Brace for Population Boom (Washington Examiner) Population boom of kids under 5 means DC schools might have trouble accommodating them all. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/jd39vw>.

Birth boom driven by real estate costs, crime rates (Washington Examiner) Related story on reasons for area birth boom. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/cg39vw>.

Believing self-control predicts success, schools teach coping (Washington Post) DC Prep is featured in this article on schools that add coping skills and social emotional learning to the curriculum to help students learn self-control. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ti39vw>.

Education Leaders Want to End Application "Madness" (Greater Greater Education) This article focuses on common application for all DC public schools. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/rw39vw>.

DC Tuition Grants May Face Budget Cuts (Washington Post) Local tuition assistance grants are uncertain again - likely they will be reduced, but it's unclear how much. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/u039vw>.

The GED is changing. Is DC ready? (Greater Greater Education) This article looks at what the changes to the GED test will mean for DC residents. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/mf49vw>.

No Rich Child Left Behind (N.Y. Times) Columnist writes that the worse achievement gap is income-based and not race-based. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/z82aww>.

DC summer school switches to invitation only (Washington Post) DC summer school is now invite-only, and students who are struggling the most are not invited. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/fe3aww>.

Shadows Of An Unfinished Education (WAMU) This news series focuses on school dropouts as adults. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/xk49vw>.

Creative Classes: An Artful Approach To Improving Performance (NPR) Federal Turnaround Arts Initiative is available to students in Savoy Elementary in DC. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/np49vw>.

Upcoming Events

Child Support Fundamentals and Intersection with Custody, Abuse and Neglect Cases

Thursday, May 9, 2013, 3:30 pm to 5pm

DC Courts Center for Education and Training, 616 H Street NW, rooms 609-611

Children's Law Center proudly hosts this training on the fundamentals of child support cases, and how child support issues can impact your custody or abuse and neglect practice. The speakers will be Lise Adams, Managing Attorney with the DC Bar Pro Bono Program, and Su Sie Ju, Legal Clinic Supervisor with Bread for the City. Space is limited. Please RSVP for this informative training by emailing trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Tuesday, May 7th

Transition Planning for Foster Youth with Special Education Needs

Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 3:00pm to 5:30pm

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

Join the attorneys at Children's Law Center for this informative training on the vocational and independent living support resources available to teens and older foster youth disabilities. Specifically, participants will learn about the resources available to youth eligible for transition services on their IEPs and youth eligible for DDS services, as well as what advocacy can be done to ensure that such youth are linked to the appropriate services. Speakers include Andrew Reese, Deputy Director, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and Angela M. Spinella, Transition Coordinator, Office of Special Education, DCPS. Please RSVP for this informative training by emailing trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Friday, May 17th

Special Education Law Primer

Wednesday, May 29, 2013, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

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

Children's Law Center's Senior Special Education Attorneys, Megan Dho and Lynne DeSarbo, will lead this 4-hour introductory training on special education law and practice in the District of Columbia. Topics to be covered include:

- Sources of special education law
- Key special education terminology and legal concepts
- The legal process for accessing special education services in DC,
- The legal obligations of DC charter schools
- Procedural protections available to parents, and
- The legal processes available to resolve special education disputes

This training opportunity will provide a refresher for experienced attorneys who work on behalf of children with special needs, as well as provide a solid introduction to special education law for attorneys and law clerks who are new to the practice. SPACE IS LIMITED! Please RSVP for this new training opportunity by emailing trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Wednesday, May 15th

Special Education New Attorney Panel Training

Thursday, May 30—Friday May 31, 2013

Public Defender Service Training Room, 600 E Street NW

*This training, designed to meet the training requirements for new SEA panel attorneys, has **limited openings** for any CCAN attorney. Co-sponsored by Children's Law Center and The Public Defender Service, this two-day training consists of "advanced" sessions, designed to support practitioners who already understand the fundamentals of special education law. If you are interested in attending this training, and special education law is not a practice area with which you are familiar, you are encouraged to register for both the Special Education Law Primer and the Special Education New Attorney Panel Training. RSVP by emailing trainings@childrenslawcenter.org by Wednesday, May 15th*

National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) – Building Trial Skills: DC

Monday, June 3— Saturday, June 9, 2013

Georgetown University Law School, 600 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC

As a participant in Building Trial Skills you will use NITA's learning by doing method to practice and perfect your skills in the challenging arts of trial advocacy and persuasion. In a simulated trial setting you will be performing:

- *Opening statements and closing arguments*
- *Direct & cross-examinations*
- *Impeachment*
- *Expert witness examinations*
- *Oral advocacy skills*
- *Case theory and strategy*

Following your live and videotaped performances you will be given feedback and critique from the renowned NITA faculty. To conclude the program you will execute a full jury trial, getting to watch real jurors deliberate via closed circuit TV. When they return their verdict you will have a chance to ask them questions and hear their feedback. Whether you are a recent graduate or a seasoned professional, Building Trial Skills will change the way you approach trials, improving your performance exponentially. This program is currently waitlisted. To add your name to the waitlist, please send an email to: customerservice@nita.org.

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>.

2013 Certificate Programs at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute recently announced its 2013 Certificate Programs. In addition to the weeklong certificate programs in multi-systems integration, CJJR now offers shorter certificate programs of intensive study in information sharing, youth in custody, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. CJJR programs target public and private sector leaders working in the juvenile justice, child welfare, judiciary, behavioral health, education and other systems that serve youth in, or at-risk of becoming involved in, the juvenile justice system. Certificate programs at CJJR take a multi-systems and multi-disciplinary approach to policies, programs, and practices that improve outcomes for this population -- including a focus on "crossover youth". Participants apply the knowledge they gain by completing a capstone project—a practical reform agenda they implement in their organization or community for positive change. Applicants from the same jurisdiction should apply as teams to enhance cross systems change efforts after returning from the program. Individuals are also welcome in most programs. Application information available at: <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu>.

Programs include:

- **Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program:** September 23-27, 2013 (applications due April 23, 2013)
- **Youth in Custody Certificate Program:** August 19-23, 2013 (applications due April 23, 2013)

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.

Training the Lawyer to Represent the Whole Family

Monday, June 3rd – Friday, June 7, 2013

Maurice A. Deane School of Law, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

Quality representation for children and families is one of NITA's top priorities. Unfortunately, each year thousands of families find themselves involved in some type of legal action (abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, divorce, and custody disputes, among others). This program develops the skills necessary to be a competent and skillful attorney for families and children involved in these proceedings. You will work with a faculty made up of nationally recognized experts in family and children's legal issues - including attorneys, judges, mental health professionals, and mediators - while going through a series of learning-by-doing workshops. A portion of the program will also be dedicated to ethical matters when working with children, families and child protection agencies.

Save the Date!!!

**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.**