

# Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by Children's Law Center | November 2017

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## Upcoming Events

**Quarterly Litigation Training: Pre-Trial Advocacy: Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-1:30pm at DC Superior Court, Family Court Conference Room (4224).**

The first Children's Law Center Quarterly Litigation Training of FY18 will focus on pretrial litigation skills and offer practical tips and guidance to enhance pretrial advocacy. Senior attorneys Allison Federoff and Lauren Birzon Harriman will present the relevant legal authorities and practice pointers with respect to discovery, motions *in limine*, pre-trial conferences, pre-trial hearings, and drafting solid joint pre-trial statements and proposed stipulated facts. **To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!**

**Federal Civil Rights Law and Child Welfare: Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-4:30pm at Children's Law Center (501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington DC 20001).**

Staff from the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (HHS), will provide participants with a primer on Federal civil rights laws that protect children and families from discrimination in the child welfare system on the basis of race, color, national origin (including language), and disability. Presenters will link key Federal civil rights principles to child welfare practice, examine discriminatory barriers found through HHS and DOJ enforcement work, and demonstrate ways the government works to help address those challenges.

**Panel presenters will be:**

Dylan Nicole de Kervor, Attorney Advisor  
Federal Coordination and Compliance Section  
Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Sarah DeCosse, Trial Attorney  
Disability Rights Section  
Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

John Thompson, Civil Rights Analyst  
Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Colleen Phillips, Trial Attorney  
Education Opportunities Section  
Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

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**Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Training: Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 12:30pm at Children’s Law Center (501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington DC 20001).**

Please join us for a comprehensive training on RSA to learn what should be happening with regard to RSA for clients and clients’ children, and the role attorneys can play at various stages of the RSA process. We’ll be joined by Christopher Nace, Supervisor of the Intake and Outreach Division of RSA, Renee John from CFSA’s Office of Youth Empowerment, and Children’s Law Center supervising attorney D.D. Davis. Through this training, we’ll learn the ins and outs of RSA, including eligibility requirements, the RSA referral process, tips for navigating RSA, CSFA’s role in facilitating youths’ linkages with RSA, and the role of an attorney in advocating for RSA services at the school- and agency-levels. The goal of this training is to better equip all case handlers to be able to be stronger advocates in securing meaningful RSA-provided services for clients and clients’ children to aid in youths’ transitions to adulthood.

**To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Tuesday, November 28. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!**

**Half Day Ethics Training, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30am to 2pm at DC Superior Court Conference Room 4440.**

**9:30-10:55—Staying Connected: The Duty to Maintain Meaningful Communication with Clients**

This interactive training centers around client communication. We will explore some of the challenges attorneys face when trying to engage hard to reach clients, best practices to engage clients of varying developmental levels in communication and legal substance, and opportunities attorneys have to empower clients through their representation. The following Rules of Professional Conduct will be incorporated into the training: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and Practice Standard C—Attorney Client Relationship.

**Presenters: Melinda Cooperman and Judith del-Cuadro Zimmerman.**

**11:05-12:30—Who Calls the Shots? Counseling v. Advocacy in the Attorney-Client Relationship**

This session will focus on how to collaborate with clients to make decisions about strategy and legal goals and how to move forward with court cases in light of Ethical Rules 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1 & 3.1. The presenters will present information from the perspectives of both stated interest and best interest representation. The session will provide a refresher of relevant Rules and leave attendees equipped to make decisions about when they must advocate for the client’s wishes, versus when they can execute a strategic decision that is in within the purview of the lawyer. **Presenters: Allison Green and Gabby Majewski**

**Majewski**

**12:45-2:00—Case Rounds Brown Bag**

Case Rounds will offer attorneys an opportunity to discuss the issues explored in the morning sessions, but will also be open to any other issues participants want to raise. **Presenter: Naïké Savain**

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**Don’t forget about Children’s Law Center’s Helpline!**

Our **Helpline** provides CCAN attorneys with legal information and advice.

- *Staffed by Children’s Law Center 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.**

## Reports and Publications

### **Pretesting a Human Trafficking Screening Tool in the Child Welfare and Runaway and Homeless Youth Systems** (Urban Institute, September 2017)

“This report describes the pretesting of a Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) for identifying youth with trafficking experiences. The tool was built based on a comprehensive review of current tools, developed with feedback from a youth advisory council, and pretested with 617 youth respondents involved in the child welfare and runaway and homeless youth systems. Responses to the HTST were correlated with several known risk factors and outcomes associated with trafficking victimization, pointing to the effectiveness of the tool, though additional testing is needed.” [Publication](#)

### **Where Do You Think DC Should Put Its Affordable Housing Dollars? Try This Interactive Tool to See** (DC Fiscal Policy Institute, August 2017)

“The neighborhood you call home has the potential to help your economic mobility and your health and well-being. That’s why it’s important to create more chances for families with low incomes to live in areas that are close to jobs and transit, with low poverty and crime, and high-performing schools. Yet these neighborhoods are the very areas where it’s most expensive to build affordable housing. The District’s housing resources, while substantial, are nowhere near enough to reach the tens of thousands of families in the city overburdened by high rents. How do you think DC should prioritize its spending to expand low-income families’ access to a wider range of neighborhoods—and create as much affordable housing as possible?” [Publication](#)

### **The Experience of Volatility in Low and Moderate-Income Households: Results from a National Survey** (The Aspen Institute, October 2017)

“The purpose of this brief is to provide a high-level overview of month-to-month income and expense volatility in low- and moderate-income (LMI) households. The brief draws upon the results of the 2016 Household Financial Survey (HFS), which was conducted as part of the Refund to Savings (R2S) Initiative. This survey is particularly valuable because it captures a wide array of financial metrics on a population often difficult to study on a large scale, and it also tracks these metrics over time.” [Publication](#)

### **Evidence on the Long-Term Effects of Home Visiting Programs** (MDRC, October 2017)

“Children from low-income families are more likely than those from higher-income families to have poor social, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and health outcomes. One approach that has helped parents and their young children is home visiting, which provides information, resources, and support to expectant parents and families with young children. This brief summarizes evidence from existing studies on the impact of early childhood home visiting on children 5 and older for four national models of home visiting.” [Publication](#)

## News

### Local

[Results mixed for DCPS extended school year program](#) (WAMU, 10/26/17)

[Fighting for universal paid leave—and workers’ rights](#) (The Washington Post, 10/25/17)

[DC mayor opens office to engage potential violent offenders before they shoot](#) (The Washington Post, 10/25/17)

[Many of DC youth who go missing are runaways. The city is trying to help.](#) (The Washington Post, 10/22/17)

[DC Council edited this homeless services bill to ease access to programs](#) (Street Sense Media, 10/23/17)

[Homeless youth are finding community at a downtown drop-in center](#) (Street Sense Media, 10/20/17)

[Almost half of DC children have suffered a traumatic experience, according to federal survey](#) (The Washington Post, 10/19/17)

[Mayor Bowser’s office awards \\$3 million to begin closing the ‘grocery gap’](#) (The Washington Post, 10/19/17)

[Every child should have a safe and loving home](#) (Above the Law, 10/18/17)

[DC's charter schools are sharply segregated. Here's what we should do about the racial and economic divide.](#)  
(Greater Greater Washington, 10/18/17)

[District line daily: Will Amazon take over four DC neighborhoods?](#) (Washington City Paper, 10/17/17)

## National

[Collaborating to sustain evidence-based interventions to reduce child neglect](#) (CBX, October 2017)

[When kids have to act like parents, it affects them for life](#) (The Atlantic, 10/26/17)

[The 'problem child' is a child, not a problem](#) (The New York Times, 10/24/17)

[DeVos rescinds 72 guidance documents outlining rights for disabled students](#) (The Washington Post, 10/21/17)

[Educators employ strategies to help kids with anxiety return to school](#) (NPR, 10/16/17)

[Study: Children from more affluent backgrounds more likely to receive autism diagnosis](#) (Channel 3000, 10/12/17)

# CLC Trainings Schedule 2017-2018

## Half and Full-Day Trainings

- Half-Day Special Education Training: February 21, 2018, 9:30am-2:00pm
- Full-Day New GAL Training: April 18, 2017, 9:30am-4:30pm
- Half-Day Advanced GAL Training: June 20, 2018, 9:30am-2:00pm
- Trial Simulation: August 15, 2018, 9:30am-4:30pm
- Half-Day Special Education Training: September 19, 2018

## Lunch and Learn Teleconferences

All Lunch and Learn Teleconferences are held from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Check Keeping Current and <http://www.childrenslawcenter.org/events> for call-in information.

- January 9, 2017, Topic TBD
- April 10, 2018, Topic TBD
- May 8, 2018, Topic TBD
- July 10, 2018, Topic TBD

## Quarterly Litigation Trainings

All litigation trainings are held from 12:00pm-1:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month.

- January 17, 2018—Topic TBD
- March 21, 2018—Topic TBD
- May 16, 2018—Topic TBD