

# Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by Children's Law Center | April 2018

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## Upcoming Events

### **Lunch and Learn Webinar: A Recipe for Litigation – How to Build your Special Education Case, Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 12pm to 1pm**

Jani Tillery, Children's Law Center Supervising Attorney, will lead this webinar training that will focus on building your special education case. This training will cover the dos and don'ts of how to develop your record strategically in order to build a strong case for special education litigation. Prior registration is not required. **To join the webinar, go to: <https://zoom.us/j/299335521> and dial (669) 900-6833.**

**Meeting ID: 299335521**

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### **Full-Day Training: Needs and Advocacy for Children 0-5 Years Old, Wednesday, April 18, 2018 from 9:30am-4:15pm, D.C. Superior Court Conference Room 4440**

**9:30-11:30: Mental Health Needs and Providers for Children 0-5:** Erica Moltz (MA, NCC) of Adoptions Together will present information on pre-verbal trauma, including long-term impacts and signs that caregivers and professionals on the case should be aware of for monitoring purposes. Dr. Meghan Sullivan from SEED will give an overview of mental health services which may be appropriate for children 0-5 years old, including services which use a family integrative model. Dr. Sullivan will also outline providers in DC and Maryland who provide these services, as well as more specific information about parents', foster parents' and other adults' involvement in these services. CCAN panel attorney Jenny Epstein will present some best practice tips for advocacy concerning young children's mental health, both from the perspective of a GAL and a parent's attorney.

**11:30- 1: Early Intervention Programs and Advocacy:** Representatives from Strong Start and Early Stages will give brief outlines of how children are connected to their respective services, including how parents and caregivers are involved in that process. Special Education Attorney Frances Shefter will share advocacy best practices for attorneys, including advice attorneys can communicate to parents, to ensure that early intervention services are timely explored and secured.

#### **1-1:30: Break**

**1:30-3: Understanding Medical Conditions and Their Long-Term Impact:** Dr. Nia Bodrick of Unity Health will provide an overview of several common medical issues facing young respondents in neglect matters: in utero drug exposure, non-accidental trauma, failure to thrive, and asthma. Dr. Bodrick will also outline the short and long-term impacts from these conditions, including warning signs that lawyers should be aware of in their advocacy. Ample time for additional medical topics and a Q & A session is included. A representative from CFSA's Healthy Horizons office will present an overview of their office and treatment of children 0-5 and answer additional questions. CLC GAL Cara Morse will present some brief advocacy "tips" in dealing with a young child's medical needs, including options that are available to parents' attorneys, as well.

**3-3:15: Break**

**3:15- 4:15: Case Rounds.** 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.

To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!

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**Self-Care, Wellness, and Boundaries: Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 3pm to 4:30pm, at Children’s Law Center (501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington DC 20001)**

Join Denise Perme, Manager in the Lawyer Assistance Program at the D.C. Bar, for this training on self-care, wellness, and setting/respecting boundaries in attorneys’ work. This session will cover how attorneys can become better equipped to deal with stress, and increase their sense of wellness, by practicing mindfulness techniques and changing how they think about stress and anxiety. Participants will learn how to use mindfulness practices to make room for feelings and set boundaries, leading to a greater sense of well-being and lower stress.

To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!

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**Quarterly Litigation Training: Evidence, Wednesday, May 16, 2018 from 12:00pm-1:30pm at DC Superior Court, Family Court Conference Room (4224)**

Join Melinda Cooperman, a Children’s Law Center attorney, and Efrain Marimon, Assistant Professor of Education and Director of the Street Law Program at Penn State Law, for an engaging training that will provide participants with a hands-on review of the most commonly used rules of evidence in evidentiary hearings. Through individual, partner, and small-group exercises, participants will hone their litigation skills and will collaborate with one another to draft useful one-page evidence guides for themselves which they can keep handy at trial.

To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!

## Reports and Publications

**Practice Kit 1: Legal Resources** (Children’s Law Center, Revised February 2018)

“This practice kit includes relevant sections from Title 4 and Title 16 of the DC Code, applicable DC Superior Court Rules, DC Superior Court Child Abuse and Neglect Attorney Practice Standards and the Special Education Practice Standards, and useful contact information directories from the DC Courts, CCAN, CFSA and the Office of the Attorney General.” [Publication](#)

**Practice Kit 2: Permanency and Placement** (Children’s Law Center, Revised February 2018)

“This practice kit includes practice guides on various permanency options (adoption, guardianship, custody), relevant sections from Title 4 and Title 16 of the DC Code related to adoption, guardianship, placement, and third-party custody, the legislative text of the Adoption Reform Amendment Act of 2010 (with related CLC Practice Memorandum), relevant DC Superior Court Rules, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, portions of the DC Code of Municipal Regulations that relate to placement, foster homes, guardianship subsidy, and the

licensing of group homes and ILPs, the Code of Federal Regulations related to foster care and adoption assistance, ICPC materials, copies of CFSA temporary licensing packets (for MD and DC), updated CFSA Board Rates, and a series of relevant DC Court of Appeals cases that relate to permanency issues.” [Publication](#)

**Practice Kit 7: Sexual Health and Teen Parents** (Children’s Law Center, Revised March 2018)

“This practice kit, developed for CCAN attorneys, includes information to help practitioners address sexual health issues with teen clients. It also highlights issues that are particularly relevant to teen clients who become parents.” [Publication](#)

**Fact Sheet: 2017 Amendments to the D.C. Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure** (Children’s Law Center, Created March 2018)

This fact sheet highlights and explains key parts of the amendments to the D.C. Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure, which became effective in June 2017. Although this fact sheet does not address every amendment or every amendment in full, it highlights the parts of the amended rules that most affect neglect and abuse practice. [Publication](#)

## News

### Local

[Schools Try New Ways to Address Discipline as D.C. Council Considers Banning Suspensions](#) (WAMU, 4/3/18)

[The D.C. Lottery is intended to give All Kids a Fair Shot at a Top School. But Does it?](#) (Washington Post, 3/29/18)

[ACLU Threatens to Sue DC police, Government over Stop and Frisk Data](#) (WUSA9, 3/28/18)

[With Three Months until Graduation, DCPS Teachers Want More Support for Student Learning](#) (WAMU, 3/22/18)

[Congress Likely to Protect Funding for D.C. College-Tuition-Aid Program](#) (Washington Post, 3/22/18)

[Report Shows “Me Too” Stories are a Constant among Homeless Women](#) (Street Sense Media, 3/21/18)

[Bills Cracking Down on Sex Work Won’t Help Trafficking Victims, but More Housing will](#) (Greater Greater Washington, 3/16/18)

[Bowser, in State of District Speech, Pledges ‘Reinforced’ Oversight of School System](#) (Washington Post, 3/15/18)

[D.C. Officials Move Closer to Overhauling School Discipline Policy](#) (Washington Post, 3/13/18)

[D.C. Public Schools Taking over All-girls Charter School in Southeast](#) (Washington Post, 3/12/18)

[The Nation is focused on Students and Gun Violence. But Kids in Urban schools want to Know, Where’s everybody been?](#) (Washington Post, 3/12/18)

[No Foster Kid Should Have to Carry Their Belongings in Trash Bags, Group Says](#) (NBC Washington, 3/12/18)

### National

[Losing Children to Foster Care Endangers Mothers’ Lives](#) (Medical Express, 3/30/18)

[Why Would Any Foster Youth Answer the LGBTQ Question?](#) (Commentary) (Chronicle of Social Change, 3/27/18)

[Black Families Matter: How the Child Welfare System Punishes Poor Families of Color](#) (In Justice Today, 3/26/18)

[Childhood Trauma: Let’s Invest in Prevention as well as Treatment](#) (Child Welfare Monitor, 3/26/18)

[Extensive Data Shows Punishing Reach of Racism for Black Boys](#) (New York Times, 3/19/18)

[Trump Taps Elizabeth Darling to Lead ACYF](#) (Chronicle of Social Change, 3/13/18)

[We Child Welfare Professionals Must Expand Our Objectives to Education \(Opinion\)](#) (Youth Today, 3/13/18)

[How to Recognize and Overcome Your Biases](#) (WAMU, 3/13/18)

[Survivors of Human Trafficking, in Their Own Words](#) (The Atlantic, 3/12/18)

[Students of Color and Armed School Staff](#) (WAMU, 3/9/18)

# CLC Trainings Schedule 2017-2018

## Half and Full-Day Trainings

- 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 Webinars

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.

- May 8, 2018, Topic TBD
- July 10, 2018, Topic TBD

### **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.**