

# Keeping Current

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

[Upcoming Events](#) | [News](#) | [Reports & Publications](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Half Day Education Training, Wednesday, September 19, 2018 from 9:30am-2:00pm, D.C. Superior Court Conference Room 4440**

**9:30-11:00 – Ethical Issues for Special Education Attorneys**

Ever wondered how best to navigate some of the thornier issues of representing educational decision-makers within the context of court-involved cases? Please join Elizabeth Jester as she provides an in-depth analysis of the Rules of Professional Conduct and their applicability to scenarios attorneys frequently encounter when serving as court-appointed special education attorneys in the context of abuse and neglect cases. ***This session will count toward CCAN ethics training requirements.***

**11:00-12:00 – Representing Court-Involved Students with Special Education Needs**

Join Sarah Comeau and Claire Nilsen Blumenson, Co-Founders of School Justice Project (SJP), to discuss legal strategies and resources for representing older court-involved students with special education needs. This training is designed for practitioners using special education law to improve court and school outcomes for students involved in D.C.'s court system.

**12:15-1:15 – New Legislation, Policies, and Programs for the 2018-2019 School Year**

Please join members of Children's Law Center's policy team to learn about recent legislative and policy changes that will affect the landscape of education in DC for the coming school year. In particular, our presenters will address the Student Fair Access to School Amendment Act of 2018 (Act 22-398), a new law which ensures children with disabilities, children of color, and children in the foster care system will no longer be marginalized by being regularly sent home from school instead of receiving the educational supports they need to stay in the classroom and continue learning. This training will discuss what changes attorneys should expect to see and when, as well as what attorneys should do if those changes are not seen. Additionally, this training will also cover new legislation expanding transition planning requirements and definitions for early intervention eligibility, as well as new evaluation timelines. Lastly, the training will include a brief overview of the school-based mental health services that will be piloted in certain DCPS schools beginning in October 2018.

**1:30-2:00 – Case Rounds**

Seeking brainstorming partners with which to troubleshoot case-specific issues? This is your chance! Children's Law Center attorneys will facilitate an open discussion in which participants are invited to present cases of their choosing and gather collective wisdom and input from fellow attendees.

**Interested participants are welcome to join all or some of the individual sessions! Please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!**

# Reports and Publications

## **Practice Kit 3: Common Objections and Hearsay** (Children’s Law Center, Revised July 2018)

This practice kit developed for CCAN attorneys includes helpful trial materials related to common objections and hearsay, including a list of common objections, a chart with commonly used objections and relevant statutory and case support, a chart with a summary of hearsay-related issues and relevant statutory and case support, and links to the Federal Rules of Evidence and a number of applicable DC cases. [Publication](#)

## **Practice Kit 5: Appellate Practice in DC Abuse and Neglect Cases** (Children’s Law Center, Revised July 2018)

This practice kit covers general appellate principles, including appellate jurisdiction, scope of appeal, standard of review, and procedural matters, with a particular focus on neglect, guardianship, termination of parental rights (TPR), and adoption cases. It also includes an Appendix with a table with relevant case law summaries and the cases themselves. Finally, there is an Additional Resources section, primarily consisting of reference materials created by the D.C. Court of Appeals. [Publication](#)

## **Practice Kit 9: Post-Secondary Education** (Children’s Law Center, Revised July 2018)

This practice kit identifies some of the primary challenges for students exiting the neglect system and attempting to succeed in college. The kit shares helpful information for identifying appropriate educational institutions. The kit also provides detailed information about the sources of financial and other support for college, including federal financial aid, DC specific programs, and scholarships. Finally, it identifies non-financial supports to help develop a full support system around the student to improve their chances for success in college. [Publication](#)

## **Practice Kit 11: Teens Aging Out** (Children’s Law Center, Revised July 2018)

This practice kit includes information for practitioners who advocate for teen clients aging out of the foster care system. It provides information regarding finances, services, housing, legal services, employment, and various other supports adults face on a daily basis. Finally, throughout this practice kit attorneys can see practice pointers for their advocacy with various agencies, including CFSA, on behalf of their teen clients who approach the age of 21. [Publication](#)

## **Practice Kit 12: DC Court of Appeals Case Law Index** (Children’s Law Center, Revised August 2018)

The purpose of this practice kit is to equip attorneys with a basic foundation of case law regarding several regularly recurring legal issues and doctrines at the appellate level in abuse and neglect, guardianship, custody, and adoption matters. Opinions from the D.C. Court of Appeals are organized by specific topic, and within each subject area, opinions are listed chronologically. [Publication](#)

## **Fact Sheet: Changes to the Law on Expert Witnesses** (Children’s Law Center, Created August 2018)

This fact sheet highlights and explains changes to the law on expert witnesses in D.C., pursuant to *Motorola Inc. v. Murray*, a 2016 D.C. Court of Appeals case. [Publication](#)

# News

## Local/Regional

[The Homeless Children’s Playtime Project Prepares to Move out of D.C. General](#) (Washington City Paper, 8/9/18)

[Lead Discovered In Soil at D.C. General, Prompting Renewed Calls to Halt Demolition](#) (WAMU, 8/9/18)

[In Effort to Rein In Child Care Costs, D.C. Set to Expand Subsidies, Cap What Families Pay](#) (WAMU, 8/7/18)

[DC Won't have New Credit Recovery Regulations in Place for Upcoming School Year](#) (The DC Line, 8/3/18)  
[DC Offers Help for Parents behind on Child Support](#) (WTOP, 7/31/18)  
[Restorative Justice Program for Juveniles aims to Foster Empathy, Heal Trauma](#) (The DC Line, 7/27/18)  
[DBH Trains People in Recovery for Careers Helping their Peers](#) (Street Sense Media, 7/27/18)  
['The Streets Are Dangerous:' What It's Like To Be Undocumented and Homeless In D.C.](#) (DCist, 7/25/18)  
[Applying a Racial Equity Analysis: Maternal Mortality in the District of Columbia](#) (CHF, 7/24/18)  
['They Say We Can't Play': What Life is like for D.C.'s Forgotten Homeless Kids](#) (Washington Post, 7/19/18)  
[DC Officials Look to Hone New School Report Cards for December Release](#) (The DC Line, 7/19/18)  
[D.C. Council Approves Commission to Investigate Maternal Mortality](#) (NBC Washington, 7/18/18)  
[Councilman Wants to 'Double Down' on D.C.'s 'Sanctuary' Status with Extortion Bill](#) (Washington Post, 7/17/18)  
[In First-Ever Veto, Bowser Rejects Diploma Reprieve for Chronically Absent Students](#) (Washington Post, 7/12/18)  
[Access to Technology in DC Public Schools Is Deeply Unequal](#) (Washington City Paper, 7/12/18)  
[Some Immigrant Toddlers Held In the D.C. Region Still Separated, Advocacy Group Says](#) (WAMU, 7/11/18)  
[DC Weighs Criminalizing Sextortion, which Disproportionately Affects Kids](#) (WTOP, 7/11/18)  
[D.C. Council Gives Evicted Tenants 7 Days to Move Belongings](#) (Washington Times, 7/10/18)

## National

[Appeals Court Throws out Challenge to Indian Child Welfare Act, Calling it 'Moot'](#) (Tucson News, 8/7/18)  
[Paid Leave from Work Can Help Domestic Violence Victims Leave Abusers](#) (The Atlantic, 8/4/18)  
[A Public School That Not Only Keeps Children Safe, But Heals](#) (Nonprofit Quarterly, 8/3/18)  
[I Was in Foster Care. Family Separation Isn't Just a Problem at the Border](#) (Time, 8/2/18)  
[A Migrant Boy Rejoins His Mother, but He's Not the Same](#) (New York Times, 7/31/18)  
[When Medicines Affect a Child's Mind and Behavior](#) (New York Times, 7/30/18)  
[Hospitals Gear Up For New Diagnosis: Human Trafficking](#) (NPR, 7/24/18)  
[What Toxic Stress does to a Child's Brain — and How to Heal it](#) (Salon, 7/22/18)  
[How 'Empathy Gap' among Social Workers can affect Services for People of Color](#) (USC News, 7/18/18)  
[Why We Need To Collect Data on LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care](#) (Commentary) (Chronicle of Social Change, 7/16/18)  
[Why Children Have the Most to Lose in the Latest Battle over LGBT and Religious Rights](#) (Deseret News, 7/10/18)  
[A Split Over Safe Havens](#) (US News and World Report, 7/10/18)  
[Just Thinking of the Kids Isn't Enough](#) (Opinion) (Washington Post, 7/10/18)  
[Expert Says Immigrant Children Will Spend Years in U.S. Foster Care](#) (Tucson News Now, 7/6/18)

## CLC Trainings Schedule 2018

### Half and Full-Day Trainings

- Full Day Trial Simulation: September 28, 2018

#### 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.**