

# Keeping Current

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

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## 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.

**1:15-2:00 – 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!**

**Full Day Trial Simulation, Friday, September 28, 2018 from 9:30am to 4:30pm, D.C. Superior Court Conference Room 4224**

At this interactive full-day trial simulation, participants will use a fact pattern from a competing adoption case to enhance their trial skills. Participants will get a chance to prepare, practice, and receive feedback on direct and cross examinations of lay and expert witnesses. Please see the full agenda below:

- 9:30-9:45: **Overview of Agenda and Case Assignments**
- 9:45-10:15: **Expert Testimony: Parent Child Interaction Study:** discussion regarding nuts and bolts and best practices for presenting strong expert witness testimony, including relevant case law and FRE 702
- 10:15-11:00: **Preparation for Expert Testimony Exercise: Cross and Direct Examinations**
- 11-12:30: **Direct and Cross Examinations of Expert Witness: Parent Child Interaction Study**
- 12:30-1:30: **Lunch Break**
- 1:30-2:30: **Preparation for Direct and Cross Examination of Social worker and Competing Petitioner**
- 2:30-4:30: **Direct and Cross Examination of Social worker and Competing Petitioner**

Interested participants are welcome to join all or some of the individual sessions! Please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!

## Reports and Publications

**Practice Kit 6: Education Toolkit** (Children's Law Center, Revised August 2018)

This practice kit contains school contact information, calendars, enrollment and stability information for DC and Prince George's County schools. There are also chapters on regulations and policies regarding school discipline, attendance and truancy, and special education provisions. There is also an overview of early intervention and preschool programs. [Publication](#)

**NEW: Practice Kit 15: Domestic Violence** (Children's Law Center, Created September 2018)

This practice kit is intended as a guide for lawyers who are working with families affected by domestic violence. In particular, this practice kit aims to provide a baseline understanding of domestic violence and the intersection with child welfare and custody, as well as provide various resources and references regarding working with families impacted by domestic violence. [Publication](#)

# News

## Local/Regional

[Immigrant Students Fight Their Fears to Stay in School](#) (WAMU, 9/6/18)

[Mayor Bowser launches Maternal and Infant Health Summit](#) (WJLA, 9/5/18)

[Attorneys: Social Services Again Illegally Keeping Baltimore Foster Children Overnight in Offices](#) (Washington Post, 9/4/18)

[Thousands of DCPS Students' Private Information Posted Online](#) (WJLA, 9/4/18)

[Parents say D.C. Buses for Special-Ed Students are Unreliable at Start of Year](#) (Washington Post, 9/2/18)

[Women in D.C. Face Obstacles at Every Step of Pregnancy and Childbirth](#) (Washington City Paper, 8/30/18)

[Maryland Student Scores Rise Modestly, but More than Half Fail Statewide Tests](#) (Washington Post, 8/28/18)

[DC Leaders must Pay Attention when Students Explain what they Need](#) (*Opinion*) (The DC Line, 8/20/18)

[‘It Feels Great to go Back’: The District’s Students Return to School](#) (Washington Post, 8/20/18)

[How much Affordable Housing does D.C. have? The City Can’t Say for Sure](#) (Curbed, 8/17/18)

[In D.C. High Schools, Few Students are Passing National Standardized Test](#) (Washington Post, 8/17/18)

[Helping Kids—And Parents—Cope with Back-To-School Anxiety](#) (The Kojo Nnamdi Show, 8/16/18)

[What Life Is Like—Still—In D.C.’s Public Housing](#) (Washington City Paper, 8/16/18)

[App Helps Victims of Domestic Violence Find Safe Place to Stay](#) (NBC Washington, 8/15/18)

[DC Sued over Failure to Help Children with Mental Health Troubles](#) (Washington Examiner, 8/15/18)

[Numerous Children have been Poisoned by Lead in Homes approved by D.C. Housing Inspectors](#) (Washington Post, 8/14/18)

## National

[How Well-Intentioned White Families Can Perpetuate Racism](#) (The Atlantic, 9/4/18)

[The Child-Separation Crisis No One Sees](#) (*Opinion*) (Washington Post, 8/23/18)

[Playtime May Bolster Kids’ Mental Health](#) (The Atlantic, 8/22/18)

[Foster Parents Often Struggle to Find Doctors to Treat the Kids in their Care](#) (NPR, 8/22/18)

[Babies Born Dependent on Opioids Need Touch, Not Tech](#) (NPR, 8/16/18)

[Early Child Care and Education would Face Steep Cuts under the Trump Administration’s Budget Proposal](#) (Urban Institute, 8/6/18)

### 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.**