

## Keeping Current

June 2010

In March 2010, Children's Law Center began issuing this monthly events and information update, entitled "KEEPING CURRENT." This publication, which is posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and our web page, www.childrenslawcenter.org, is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. Practitioners should also be sure to review the weekly CCAN e-mail for up-to-date information or changes. If you have suggestions or comments for future publications, please contact Nancy Drane, Training Director, at ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org or 202-467-4900 ext. 502.

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## District of Columbia Court of Appeals News



### Recently from the DC Court of Appeals:

#### **M.M. v. T-M.M., In re N.M. (Nos. 08-FS-1543, 08-FM-1542) (Decided March 31, 2010)**

M.M. appealed from an order denying his motion under Superior Court Domestic Relations Rule 60 (b) for relief from an order of paternity and permanent child support. The motion was denied as untimely where it was filed more than twelve years after the paternity judgment was entered even though M.M. had reason to believe he was not the child's father (through a paternity test ordered years later in the context of a neglect matter) but nonetheless voluntarily acknowledged paternity at the time the original paternity judgment was entered. Court affirms, holding that the trial court did not abuse its discretion when it held that twelve years was beyond the scope of reasonable time post-judgment to file a Rule 60(b) motion. Case is available at: <http://tiny.cc/8emj5>.

#### **Patterson v. D.C. (No. 08-CV-189) (Decided May 6, 2010)**

Appeal dismissed for lack of jurisdiction where Appellant failed to follow Rule 3 of the DC Court of Appeals Rules of Appellate Procedure, which sets forth the technical requirements and required information for a Notice of Appeal. Case is available at: <http://tiny.cc/uhaa3>.

#### **Upcoming DC Court of Appeals Matters of Interest:**

*In re Z.H.* (09-FS-1259) — Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 9:30 AM

Oral arguments are broadcast on the DC Court of Appeals website:

[www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp](http://www.dccourts.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp)

The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community. Children's Law Center is not vouching for the quality of the materials or events referenced herein, and CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials.

## District of Columbia Council News



Information about the DC Healthy Schools Act of 2010 is available at: <http://tiny.cc/j4998>. For a copy of the legislation, see <http://tiny.cc/7li83>

### **Upcoming DC Council Hearings of Interest:**

#### **Committee on Health, Implementation of the Youth Sexual Health Project**

Thursday, June 3 at 4:00 PM — Room 123

*The purpose of this roundtable is to hear from the Executive about efforts to address the findings of and implement the recommendations from the Committee on Health's Youth Sexual Health Project. The roundtable will feature a presentation by Youth STICC'in 2-getha, who works in partnership with STICC (the Sexually Transmitted Infection Community Coalition), as well as a photo and voice exhibit called STICC With Us, which will be held in the Atrium of the Wilson Building prior to the roundtable.*

#### **Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary, Bill 18-763, Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform Establishment Act of 2010**

Monday, June 7 at 11:00 AM — Room 500

*The stated purpose of Bill 18-763 is to establish a nine member Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform in the District of Columbia to build a transparent and unified juvenile justice system based on mutual accountability, coordination of resources and information sharing.*

*Note: Selected hearings are broadcast live on the DC Council website: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us)*

## CFSA News

Practitioners should be aware of a few new CFSA documents, all of which are available at CFSA's Online Policy Manual, available at [www.cfsa.dc.gov](http://www.cfsa.dc.gov), including the following:

#### **"Visitation" Policy** (April 2010)

Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ta2uc>

#### **"Educational Stability for Children and Youth Entering or In Foster Care" Administrative Issuance** (April 2010)

Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ubep1>

#### **"Quick Reference Guide on Applying for Disability Benefits through SSA for Committed Wards"** (2010)

Available at: <http://tiny.cc/9odiu>

## Reports and Publications

### **CHILD WELFARE and JUVENILE JUSTICE**

#### **FOSTER CARE STATE FACT SHEETS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

NRCPPFC prepared State Fact Sheets about Foster Care for the 2010 National Foster Care Month campaign. The Fact Sheets were updated in April 2010 with the most current available information as provided by the States, including information such as the number of children/youth in foster care; data on children in foster care related to age, gender, and race/ethnicity; the average length of stay in care; the percentage of children reunified with parents or primary caretakers; the number of licensed foster homes; the percentage of children living with relatives; and the percentage of children adopted by foster parents or relatives. They're available at <http://tiny.cc/2td89> or <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcp/>.

#### **CROSS-OVER YOUTH**

Courts often refer to crossover cases as those involving children and youth who have a case in the dependency as well as the delinquency court. Crossover cases may also include children and youth who have committed a status offense or a child in need of care or supervision (CHINS) offense. Collaboration and coordination – among public agencies, attorneys, judges, and CASA volunteers – are critical when dealing with crossover cases. A recent publication reviews multiple aspects of handling crossover cases. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/psikb>.

#### **EDUCATION**

Georgetown Public Policy Institute's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform has released the paper "**Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems.**" Written by Peter Leone, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, and Lois Weinberg, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, the paper reviews educational barriers encountered by youth involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems and describes recent legal and policy reforms. Promising practices and evidence-based interventions to improve educational outcomes for these system-involved youth are also provided. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/fxi7e> or <http://cjr.georgetown.edu/>.

#### **OLDER YOUTH**

"**A Discussion about Permanency for Older Adolescents**" is a free webcast offered by NRCPPFC. Effective models that empower and support youth in achieving permanency must be multidimensional. Such models include recruiting and training appropriate foster and adoptive families, many of whom were previously known by the young person prior to their adoption. Effective strategies also include connecting youth to caring adults; mentoring and building connections with extended families; and strategies to effectively address the emotional and mental health issues experienced by youth, including grief and loss. Strategies can also include community connections, family search and engagement, family connections, and caseworker and supervisor support in assessing and supporting a range of permanency options early and often in their work with youth. View this webcast in which Gerald P. Mallon, NRCPPFC Executive Director, and Pat O'Brien, Founder and Executive Director of Youth Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption & Permanency Movement, discuss strategies for permanency for older adolescents. Available at <http://tiny.cc/yicdi> or <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcp/>.

#### **FOR PARENTS IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

RISE Magazine has a web exclusive where Desiree Navarro writes about her experiences as a child in the child welfare system, her fears related to raising her own baby in foster care, and the importance of her relationship with her mother. RISE Magazine is written by and for parents involved in the child welfare system. Its mission is to help parents advocate for themselves and their children. The web exclusive is available at <http://www.risemagazine.org> or <http://tiny.cc/te9w4>.

## Reports and Publications (cont.)

### HEALTH

The District recently released its first obesity report and obesity action plan. You can find the report available at <http://tiny.cc/Oh2oi> and the action plan, "Working Towards a Healthy DC: The District of Columbia's Overweight and Obesity Action Plan," available at <http://tiny.cc/bmkai>. There are extensive discussions of child and adolescent health issues, including diet and nutrition and physical activity.

**Study: ADHD Linked to Pesticide Exposure** (CNN.com) is available at: <http://tiny.cc/f5ceh>.

**CDC Misled District Residents About Lead Levels in Water, House Probe Finds** (The Washington Post) is available at: <http://tiny.cc/uno81>.

## Upcoming Trainings and Events

### **System of Care Basic Training**, sponsored by DMH

Tuesday, June 1, 2010 from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM – DMH; 64 New York Ave. NE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room

*This workshop will provide an overview of the principles, values and definition of a System of Care, as well as some of the strategic processes essential to engaging partners in systems building.* Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DT529CV>.

### **DC Bar Family Law Section Courthouse Meeting: Domestic Violence Bench-Bar Dialogue**

Friday, June 4, 2010 from 12:30-1:30 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*Join judges from the DC Superior Court Domestic Violence Unit for an informative discussion regarding the state of the Unit and practice before the Court. Judges scheduled to participate include Presiding Judge Jose Lopez, Judge Fern Flanagan Saddler, Judge Judith Retchin, Judge Heidi Pasichow, and Magistrate Judge Diana Harris Epps. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists after brief presentations.*

### **How to Talk the Talk: What You Need to Know about Teen Dating Violence**, sponsored by DMH

Friday, June 4, 2010 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM – DMH; 64 New York Ave. NE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room

*Participants will gain a foundation of knowledge about domestic violence and how it impacts their clients. Topics will include the dynamics of domestic violence, physical and mental health impact of domestic violence, obstacles to leaving an abusive relationship, cultural competence, and legal remedies for victims of domestic violence. Participants will gain practical skills through hands-on exercises and activities.* Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DT529CV>.

### **Training the Lawyer to Represent the Whole Child**, sponsored by NITA

June 7-11, 2010 — Hofstra School of Law; Hempstead, NY

*Quality representation for children is one of NITA's top priorities. Unfortunately, each year thousands of children find themselves involved in some type of legal action (juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect, divorce, and custody disputes, among others). NITA's Child Advocacy program utilizes a variety of specially designed case files that cover such topics as dependency/neglect, delinquency and custody. By working through these files, participants learn to assemble solutions that look to the best interests of the child and focus on representing the whole child. Compelling, current subject matter and a diverse mix of instructors — from nationally recognized experts in children's issues to psychologists, social workers and mediators — combine to create a rich learning by doing environment. FEE = \$395. See [www.nita.org](http://www.nita.org) for more information.*

## Upcoming Trainings and Events (cont.)

### **Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Youth Receiving Residential Treatment**, sponsored by DMH

Tuesday, June 8, 2010 from 1:00-4:00 PM – DMH; 64 New York Ave. NE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room

*This training will discuss some of the clinical and behavioral issues that children/youth present with, often resulting in residential treatment. It will also focus on what a residential treatment facility is like and how that impacts a youth's treatment. This training will also discuss the services of the RTC program and how community stakeholders can meet the needs of children/youth in residential treatment and assist these same youth in achieving a successful transition back to the community.* Register at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DT529CV>.

### **DC Bar Family Law Section Courthouse Meeting: Collaborative Law**

Friday, June 11, 2010 from 12:30-1:30 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

### **CCAN Brown Bag: Representing Immigrant Foster Children**

Wednesday, June 16, 2010 from 12:30-2:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*The session will introduce guardians ad litem and others working with foreign-born foster children to the basics of immigration law as it pertains to these children. Staff members of the National Center will cover an overview of relevant immigration agencies and forms of relief to help noncitizen foster children obtain lawful immigration status in the U.S. Topics include best practices for working with immigrant children, an overview of relevant federal agencies, and options to help noncitizen foster children obtain lawful immigration status. The session will also include information about how the National Center can provide free legal representation and technical assistance for these cases.*

### **Family Court Monthly Training: Domestic Violence**, sponsored by the DC Family Court

Wednesday, June 16, 2010 from 4:30-6:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Juror's Lounge

*Representatives from the Domestic Violence Intake Center, Office of the Attorney, Domestic Violence Section, and SAFE (Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment) will present on domestic violence issues.*

### **Community-Based Intervention**, sponsored by DMH

Wednesday, June 17, 2010 from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM – DMH; 64 New York Ave. NE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room

*This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the philosophy and model of Community Based Intervention, as well as the policies and processes for accessing the service in the MHRS system.* Register at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DT529CV>.

### **DC Bar Family Law Section Evening Program: The New Family**

Thursday, June 17, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 PM – DC Bar; 1101 K Street NW

*This event will feature CLC's Lise Adams and attorney Michelle Zavos, discussing the different family structures we now see in the District, including same-sex parents, grandparent and kinship caregivers, etc.* Register at

[www.dcb.org](http://www.dcb.org).

### **18th Annual Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. Lecture by Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General of the United States**,

sponsored by UDC David A Clarke School of Law

Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 6:00 PM – UDC, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW, Building 38, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (Window Room). Admission is Free, but Space is Limited! Register Online:

<http://www.law.udc.edu/event/RauhLecture2010>

## Upcoming Trainings and Events (cont.)

### Children's Law Center Half-Day Trial Skills Training (open to all CCAN)

Friday, June 18, 2010 from 10:00 AM-2:30 PM — DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*During this training and workshop, participants will have the chance to discuss various trial techniques and participate in exercises to practice these skills. We'll be discussing Common Objections & Hearsay, Impeachment, and Introducing Documents.*

### DC Bar Family Law Section, Must Haves and Can't Stands: A View from the Bench

Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K St. NW

*This program is a unique opportunity to hear from the judges. What do they find persuasive and helpful? What do they find annoying and irksome? What do they want from you and, importantly, what don't they want from you? Hearing their unique perspective will be invaluable to you and your clients. Speakers: Honorable José M. López, Associate Judge, DC Superior Court (Presiding Judge, Domestic Violence Branch); Honorable Carol Ann Dalton, Associate Judge, DC Superior Court (Domestic Relations – Calendar II); Honorable Neal E. Kravitz, Associate Judge, DC Superior Court (Domestic Relations -- Calendar I); Honorable S. Pamela Gray, Magistrate Judge, DC Superior Court (Abuse and Neglect). Register at [www.dcbbar.org](http://www.dcbbar.org).*

### Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training, sponsored by Freddie Mac Child and Adolescent Protection Center, Children's National Medical Center

Friday, June 25, 2010 from 12:00-3:00 PM – CNMC, 111 Michigan Avenue NW

*Stewards of Children is a comprehensive sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The Stewards of Children program is designed for organizations that serve children and adolescents, providing prevention training for staff, volunteers, parents, and other interested adults. Core features of the training include: a video integrating segments of sexual abuse survivors relating their stories of violation and healing, with segments from the author of the curriculum and from professionals who interface daily with the problem of sexual abuse; an interactive workbook for each participant; discussion about critical issues in sexual abuse prevention and the relevance of these issues within organizations that serve children and adolescents. Led by an authorized facilitator. The 3 hour course is \$35.00 per person and includes light refreshments and materials. Participants are welcome to bring lunch. **The program will be repeated on July 23 from 9:00am-12noon and August 20 from 12:00-3:00pm.** Register with Ashley Gardella, LICSW, at 202-476-6722, or Tara Grey, at 202-476-6718.*

### CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER TRAINING: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Tuesday, July 6, 2010 from 3:00-5:00 PM – CLC, 616 H Street NW, Suite 300

*Dr. Ben Gitterman, Co-Director of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment at Children's National Medical Center, will be doing a presentation on children's health needs and risks associated with environmental health issues, such as lead and mold. For more information on MACCHE, see <http://www.childrensnational.org/MACCHE/>. CCAN attorneys interested in attending should contact Nancy Drane, CLC Training Director, at 202-467-4900 ext. 502 or [ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org).*

#### REMINDER for CCAN GAL PANEL!

Children's Law Center **HELPLINE** provides GALs with legal information and assistance!

- 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 4) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Save the Date

### **EXACT DATE FORTHCOMING DC Bar Family Law Section Evening Program: Immigration and Family Law**

**Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training**, sponsored by Freddie Mac Child and Adolescent Protection Center, Children's National Medical Center

Friday, July 23, 2010 from 9:00am-12:00pm – CNMC, 111 Michigan Avenue NW

*Stewards of Children is a comprehensive sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The Stewards of Children program is designed for organizations that serve children and adolescents, providing prevention training for staff, volunteers, parents, and other interested adults. Core features of the training include: a video integrating segments of sexual abuse survivors relating their stories of violation and healing, with segments from the author of the curriculum and from professionals who interface daily with the problem of sexual abuse; an interactive workbook for each participant; discussion about critical issues in sexual abuse prevention and the relevance of these issues within organizations that serve children and adolescents. Led by an authorized facilitator. The 3 hour course is \$35.00 per person and includes light refreshments and materials. Participants are welcome to bring lunch. **The program will be repeated on August 20 from 12:00-3:00pm.** Register with Ashley Gardella, LICSW, at 202-476-6722, or Tara Grey, at 202-476-6718.*

**Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children Sexual Abuse Prevention Training**, sponsored by Freddie Mac Child and Adolescent Protection Center, Children's National Medical Center

Friday, August 20, 2010 from 12:00-3:00pm – CNMC, 111 Michigan Avenue NW

*Stewards of Children is a comprehensive sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The Stewards of Children program is designed for organizations that serve children and adolescents, providing prevention training for staff, volunteers, parents, and other interested adults. Core features of the training include: a video integrating segments of sexual abuse survivors relating their stories of violation and healing, with segments from the author of the curriculum and from professionals who interface daily with the problem of sexual abuse; an interactive workbook for each participant; discussion about critical issues in sexual abuse prevention and the relevance of these issues within organizations that serve children and adolescents. Led by an authorized facilitator. The 3 hour course is \$35.00 per person and includes light refreshments and materials. Participants are welcome to bring lunch. Register with Ashley Gardella, LICSW, at 202-476-6722, or Tara Grey, at 202-476-6718.*

### **CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER TRAINING: BACK TO SCHOOL**

Thursday, August 5, 2010 from 3:30-5:00 PM – CLC, 616 H Street NW, Suite 300

*Attorneys from CLC's special education project will be talking about how best to monitor clients' educational progress after school is back in session in August. CCAN attorneys interested in attending should contact Nancy Drane, CLC Training Director, at 202-467-4900 ext. 502 or [ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org).*

### **CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER HALF-DAY TRAINING (open to all CCAN)**

Thursday, September 16, 2010 from 10:30 AM-2:30 PM — DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*Registration information forthcoming...*

### **Family Court Annual Interdisciplinary Conference: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

Thursday, October 21, 2010 — DC Convention Center

*Registration information forthcoming...*