

# Keeping Current

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

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## Upcoming Events

### **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!

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### **Lunch and Learn Webinar: The Dynamics of Interacting with Unrepresented Parties, Thursday, May 24, 2018, 12pm to 1pm.**

Join Lauren Birzon Harriman, Senior Attorney at Children's Law Center, and Vanessa Batters-Thompson, Managing Attorney at the DC Bar Pro Bono Center, for a lively discussion about the challenges and best practices for interacting with unrepresented parties. The training will feature relevant ethical considerations, recommendations on effective communication and negotiation with pro se parties, and practical guidance on courtroom advocacy when the opposing party is not represented. Although the training will focus on family law practice, the principles will be helpful across a broad spectrum of practice areas. Prior registration is not required. *Information to join this training coming soon!*

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### **Intimate Partner Violence Training, Part 2: Thursday, May 24, 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)**

Through this training, participants will gain insight into the domestic violence survivor's experience in the legal system, trends in civil and criminal cases nationally, and the complexities of representing survivors. Panelists include Sarah Connell (Office of the Attorney General), Trisha Monroe (Supervising Attorney at Family Law Domestic Violence United and Director of Legal Aid's Domestic Violence Enter Southeast Project), and Sasha Drobnick (DV Leap).

To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!

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**Half Day Advanced GAL training, Wednesday, June 20, 2018 from 9:30am-2:00pm, D.C. Superior Court Conference Room 4440 – exact times and descriptions of sessions to follow**

**9:30-11:30: Child and Family Wellbeing through Civil Rights Compliance**

*Presenters:*

*Carla Carter, Kevonne Small, & John Thompson (Office for Civil Rights, US Department of Health and Human Services)*

*Dylan Nicole de Kervor (Federal Coordination and Compliance Section, Civil Rights Division, US Department of Justice)*

*Sarah DeCosse (Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, US Department of Justice)*

**11:30- 11:45: Break**

**11:45-12:45: Case Rounds**

*Presenters: Allie Federoff and Adrienne Clarke (Children’s Law Center)*

**12:45-1: Break**

**1-2: Effective GAL Advocacy for Youth with Delinquency Cases**

*Presenters: Brittany Mobley, Clare Kruger, additional presenters TBA (Public Defender Service)*

**Interested participants are welcome to join all or some of the individual sessions! Please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!**

## Reports and Publications

**Practice Kit 10: LGBTQ Youth Advocacy** (Children’s Law Center, Revised April 2018)

“LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in foster care and experience increased rates of discrimination, bias, and violence during their time in care. This practice kit aims to provide essential, basic information to help attorneys better support and advocate for LGBTQ youth in foster care. It includes an overview of the legal rights and protections afforded to youth in a variety of topical areas, including education, health care, and juvenile justice, and explores problems and areas of concern for LGBTQ youth in those areas.” [Publication](#)

**How Life Outside of a School Affects Student Performance in School** (Brookings Institution, March 2018)

“This report presents findings from a unique partnership between the University of Michigan and the State that allowed us to match the universe of child maltreatment records in Michigan with educational data on all public school children in the state. We find that roughly 18 percent of third-grade students have been subject to at least one formal investigation for child maltreatment. In some schools, more than fifty percent of third graders have experienced an investigation for maltreatment. These estimates indicate that child abuse and neglect cannot simply be treated like a secondary issue, but must be a central concern of school personnel.” [Report](#)

## News

### Local/Regional

[DC Puts Limits on Student Suspensions](#) (WTOP, 5/2/18)

[Are Black Girls Unfairly Targeted for Dress-Code Violations at School? You bet they are](#) (Washington Post, 4/26/18)

[DC Leads Nation in Early Education Investment; Md. and Va. Trail](#) (WTOP, 4/22/18)

[Dual Language Charter Schools Attract the Longest Waiting Lists in D.C.](#) (Washington Post, 4/17/18)

[Stopping Sexual Abuse Before It Starts: What Local Schools Are Doing To Keep Kids Safe](#) (Kojo, 4/17/18)

[Montgomery County Could Offer Legal Aid to those Facing Deportation](#) (WTOP, 4/16/18)

[First of its Kind Program Walks DC Police through City’s African-American History](#) (WTOP, 4/16/18)

[D.C. is Misspending Millions of Dollars Intended to Help the City's Poorest Students](#) (Washington Post, 4/14/18)  
[Why Are Arrest Rates Rising For D.C.'s Girls?](#) (Kojo, 4/12/18)  
[Metro, DC Dealing out SmarTrip Cards Next Year for Kids Ride Free Program](#) (WTOP, 4/12/18)  
[Youthful March for Our Lives Revives Push to Lower Voting Age to 16 in D.C.](#) (Washington Post, 4/10/18)  
[CFSA Should Make Protecting Children its First Order of Business](#) (*Opinion*) (Washington Post, 4/8/18)  
[Teachers Walk Out, Cancel Classes for an Hour at D.C.'s Anacostia High](#) (Washington Post, 4/4/18)  
[Maryland Needs to Stop Forcing Foster Children to Pay for Their Own Care](#) (*Op-Ed*) (Baltimore Sun, 4/2/18)

## National

[Without Family, U.S. Children in Foster Care Easy Prey for Human Traffickers](#) (Reuters, 5/3/18)  
[For a Former Foster Kid, "Poverty Porn" Is Personal](#) (Slate, 5/2/18)  
[Every Time Foster Kids Move, They Lose Months of Academic Progress](#) (Milwaukee Times, 4/26/18)  
[These States Want to Make LGBT Adoption as Hard as Possible](#) (*Commentary*) (The Daily Beast, 4/24/18)  
[Racial Disparities in School Discipline are Growing, Federal Data Show](#) (Washington Post, 4/24/18)  
[Foster Kids, Wronged by the Courts](#) (*Commentary*) (American Enterprise Institute, 4/20/18)  
[Research Shows Effects of Brain Trauma on Children](#) (*Commentary*) (Newnan Times-Herald, 4/19/18)  
[Dear Therapist: Should I Contact my Birth Mom?](#) (The Atlantic, 4/18/18)  
[The Silence: The Legacy of Childhood Trauma](#) (The New Yorker, 4/16/18)  
['Does She Know Her Real Mom?' The Complexities of Open Adoption](#) (U.S. News and World Report, 4/16/18)  
[5 Groundbreaking Bills to Protect Child Wellbeing in the US](#) (IVN, 4/13/18)  
[Protecting Defenseless Children is Not an Immigration 'Loophole'](#) (*Opinion*) (Washington Post, 4/13/18)  
[Are Pregnant Women on Drugs Child Abusers?](#) (The Express, 4/11/18)  
[The Never-Ending Task of Shielding Black Kids from Negative Stereotypes](#) (The Atlantic, 4/9/18)  
[Experts find Connection to Poverty, Child Abuse](#) (News Press Now, 4/7/18)  
[Advocates Express Concern, Hope about Revolutionary Changes to Foster Care System](#) (Youth Today, 4/4/18)  
[The Devonte Hart Case Highlights a Profound Racial Disparity in the Treatment of Child Abuse](#) (Slate, 4/3/18)

## CLC Trainings Schedule 2017-2018

### Half and Full-Day Trainings

- 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.

- July 10, 2018: Attachment 101

### 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.**