

# **The Training and Coordination Project For Guardians *Ad Litem* and Attorneys for Minor Children In Family Matters**

## **AGENDAS**

- A.1. DAY 1: UNDERSTANDING THE LAW AND THE ROLES
- A.2. DAY 2: UNDERSTANDING FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND ADULTS
- A.3. DAY 3: INTERVIEWING AND GATHERING INFORMATION
- A.4. DAY 4: PARENTING PLANS
- A.5. DAY 5: REACHING RESOLUTION
- A.6. DAY 6: SURVIVING AND THRIVING IN THE COURTROOM

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

- B. BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS

## **INDEX TO READINGS**

### **DAY 1: UNDERSTANDING THE LAW AND THE ROLES**

#### Homework:

- 1. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 46b-56 Custody and care of minor children
- 2. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 46b-56a Joint Custody, Parental Responsibility Plans
- 3. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 45a-132 Appointment of Guardian *ad litem*
- 4. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 46b-54 Counsel for minor children. Duties
- 5. Rudolewicz v. Rudolewicz, Superior Court, Aug. 20, 1986 (Arena, J.)
- 6. Basic Differences: GALs and AMCs in Connecticut (Kaas)
- 7. Connecticut Reality: Players and Places (M. Murphy)
- 8. Connecticut Family Lawyer, June 2007 issue
- 9. Guidelines for Child Advocates (Training Committee)
- 10. Meet the Gavell Family–Memo to File

#### Speaker Materials:

- 11. Steve Grant Powerpoint

#### Additional Resources:

- 11.a. Glossary
- 11.b. Family Case Chronology
- 12. Overview of Quest for Defining the Roles of GALs/AMCs (Dumond)
- 13. Family Relations/Family Services (Connecticut Judicial Branch – CSSD)
- 14. What Matters in Custody: A Primer (Robson)
- 15. Traveling in Toyland (Robson)
- 16. Children’s Bill of Rights (Emery, *The Truth About Children and Divorce*, at 82-83 (2004))

## **DAY 2: UNDERSTANDING FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

### Homework:

17. Thread of Child Development (Garon, ABA A Judge's Guide: Making Child-Centered Decisions in Custody Cases, at 179-181 (2008))
18. ABA Center on Children and the Law Judge's Guide - Chapter 3, Developmental Considerations

### Speaker Materials:

19. Howard Krieger Powerpoint re: Child Development and Psychopathology
20. Howard Krieger Powerpoint re: Adolescent Development and Psychopathology
21. Linda Santos Smith Powerpoint re: Adult Development and Psychopathology
- 21.a. Sam Moy Powerpoint re: Substance Abuse and Families
- 21.b. Sam Moy re: National Drug IQ Test
- 21.c. Sam Moy re: NIDA Chart of Commonly Abused Drugs

### Additional Resources:

22. Mary-K O'Sullivan The Road to Addiction chart
23. Primary School Age Development (Shapiro)
24. Adolescent Development and Psychotherapy (Hamburg and Wortman)
25. Family Development and Life Cycle (Sholevar)
26. Overview: Ethnicity and Family Therapy (McGoldrick, Giordano, Garcia-Preto)
27. Systems of Family and Marital Psychotherapy (Skygger)

## **DAY 3: INTERVIEWING AND GATHERING INFORMATION**

### Homework:

28. Conducting Developmentally Appropriate Child Interviews (Saywitz)
29. Practice Tips: Improving Your Interviews with Children (AFCC-Mitnick)
30. The Art of Interviewing Young Children in Custody Disputes (ABA Family Advocate Magazine, 2008-Saywitz)
31. Watch Videos at <http://jud2.ct.gov/GAL/>  
(User Name = lambda\guardianadlitem Password = streamingvideo)  
Gavell Full Interview  
Guardian *ad litem* phone interview  
Attorney Dembo interview of minor child  
Attorney Murphy interview of Mona Gavell
36. Materials from Washington State GAL Guide: Chapter 12: Cultural Competence
37. Materials from Utah Multi-Agency Cultural Competency Curriculum (UMAAC) Participant Manual Module Two
38. Materials from Utah Multi-Agency Cultural Competency Curriculum (UMAAC) Participant Manual

After reading (or at least skimming), complete the following exercises:

32. Self-Exploration Exercise (bring written answers to class)
- 32.a. Reeves Cultural Competence Exercise (Identify an appropriate interaction (with a client, not colleague or customer) for these exercises beginning at the bottom of the first page. Be prepared to discuss these exercises with a classmate.)

Speaker Materials:

33. Horowitz/Krieger Powerpoint re: Interviewing Children
34. Grossman/Hayre Five Myths About Undocumented Immigrants

Additional Resources:

- White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack (McIntosh) (readily found on the Internet)
35. Materials from Washington State GAL Guide: Chapter 5: Interviewing

**DAY 4: PARENTING PLANS**

Homework:

39. Carrubba v. Moskowitz, 274 Conn. 583 (2005)
40. In re Tayquon H., 76 Conn. App. 693 (2003)
41. Knock v. Knock, 224 Conn. 776 (1993)
42. Developmental Guidelines for Residence and Visitation Arrangements (Baris and Garrity, Children of Divorce)
- 39.a. Parenting Plans: How to Get Them Right for Kids (Deutsch)
43. Parenting Capacities (Deutsch)
- 43.a. The Alienated Child-(Kelly and Johnston, *Family Court Review*, 249-266 (2001))
44. ABA Center on Children and the Law Judge's Guide - Chapter 4, Parenting Considerations
45. Gavell File: Memo to File and Basic Facts
46. Gavell FRO Report (courtesy FRC Allison Kaas)

Speaker Materials:

47. Sharon Dornfeld Powerpoint re:
- 48.a. Carrie Kaas Powerpoint re:

Additional Resources:

49. Materials from Washington State GAL Guide: Chapter 7, Child Development and Residential Schedules
50. Materials from Washington State GAL Guide: Chapter 9, Child Abuse and Neglect
- 50.a. Materials from Washington State GAL Guide: Chapter 10, Domestic Violence

51. Things to Think About When Plotting a Parenting Plan (Dornfeld)
52. What Goes Into a Parenting Plan (Armata and Krieger)
- 52.a. Qualities of a Successful Co-Parent (www.fatherhood.org)

### ***DAY 5: REACHING RESOLUTION***

#### Homework:

53. Excerpt from “Getting to Yes” (Fisher and Ury, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 1991)
54. Watch negotiation videos  
(Username: lambda\guardianadlitem Password: streamingvideo)  
The Gavells’ Parent Meeting with Sandy Lax  
The Gavells’ Parent Meeting with Dave Griffin  
The Gavells’ Parent Meeting with Anne Epstein

#### Speaker Materials:

- 55.a. Stover Powerpoint: Intimate Partner Violence and Child/Family Development
55. Kaas Powerpoint: Facilitating Interest-Based Negotiation as GAL/AMC:  
*Borrowing from the Mediator’s Toolkit*
56. Dornfeld Powerpoint: Practical Suggestions for “Negotiation” as an AMC/GAL

#### Additional Resources:

57. Excerpt from “The Practice of Mediation” (Stark and Frenkel, 2008)
58. Visitation Outline and Needs of Children Charts (Contributed by Sharon Dornfeld and Terry Sharpe; sources unknown)

### ***DAY 6: WHEN YOU DON’T GET TO “YES”***

#### Homework:

59. Special Masters at RFTD– Elizabeth S. Thayer, Ph.D., David Griffin, J.D.
60. Gennarini v. Gennarini, 2 Conn. App. 132 (1984)
61. Gil v. Gil, 94 Conn. App. 306 (2006)
62. Rule of Evidence §8-3 re Hearsay
63. C.G.S. §46b-62 re Attorneys Fees

#### Speaker Materials:

64. Horowitz Powerpoint: Psychological Evaluations in High Conflict Custody Matters

#### Additional Resources:

65. American Psychological Association Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings  
<http://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/child-custody.pdf>

66. AFCC Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation  
<http://www.afccnet.org/pdfs/Model%20Stds%20Child%20Custody%20Eval%20Sept%202006.pdf>
67. AMC/GAL Case Annotations (Dornfeld, Dembo, Dumond)
68. Evidence 101 Admissibility Annotations (Dornfeld)
69. Privilege Annotations (Dornfeld)
70. Fees Annotations (Dornfeld)
- 70.a. Rubenstein v. Asselin-Connelly (In re Rubenstein), Bk. No. No. 09-22124, Adv. . No. 09-2056 (Bankr. D.CT. 3/12/2012) (order denying summary judgment and affirming non-dischargeability of Guardian *ad litem* fees)
71. Lamacchia v. Chilinsky, 79 Conn. App. 372 (2003) (GAL fees)
72. Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 509 U.S. 579 (1993)
73. State v. Porter, 241 Conn. 57 (1997)

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## REFERENCE MATERIAL

### **Samples:**

74. Sheet for Information Gathering/"Quizzing" the Parents\*
75. Sample Introductory Letters for use as GAL or AMC\*
76. Sample Fees Letters for use as GAL or AMC\*
77. Sample Questionnaires and Releases\*
78. Sample Pleadings Gavell v. Gavell\*
79. Sample AMC Proposed Orders\*#
80. Sample GAL Recommendations\*#
81. Sample Stipulation as to Custody and Visitation\*#
82. Sample Motion for Protective Order\*
83. Sample Motion for a Retainer\*
84. Sample Motion for Fees at Judgment\*

### **Caselaw:**

85. Rudolewicz v. Rudolewicz, Superior Court, Aug. 20, 1986 (Arena, J.)
86. AMC/GAL Case Annotations (Dornfeld, Dembo, Dumond)
87. Evidence 101 Admissibility Annotations (Dornfeld)
88. Privilege Annotations (Dornfeld)
89. Fees Annotations (Dornfeld)

### **Statutes and Practice Book Rules:**

90. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 46b-56 Custody and care of minor children
91. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 46b-56a Joint Custody, Parental Responsibility Plans
92. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 45a-132 Appointment of Guardian *ad litem*
93. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 46b-54 Counsel for minor children. Duties
94. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-3 re Family Relations
95. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-6 re Family Relations
96. P.B. § 25-60 re Family Relations Reports
- 96.a P.B. § 25-60A re Psychological Evaluations and Reports
97. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-174(b) re medical records
98. P.B. §25-55 re medical records
99. P.B. §7-18 re medical records
100. Conn. Gen Stat. § 17a-28(f) (as amended by P.A. 11-167 §1) re DCF records
101. Conn. Gen Stat. § 10-15(c) re school records
102. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-62 Orders for Payment of Attorneys Fees in Certain Actions

\* These samples are not endorsed or approved by any one person or entity. They are a compilation provided for your consideration.

# Please note that these are NOT intended to represent the "correct" parenting plan for the Gavell children; they are merely illustrations of form

**Ethical Rules:**

- 103. Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5 Fees
- 104. Rule of Professional Conduct 1.8(f) Conflict of Interest

**Miscellany:**

- 105. Materials from Washington State GAL Guide: Chapter 11: Personal Safety
- 106. Bibliography–Suggested Readings for GALs/AMCs, Parents and Children
- 107. Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect, and Custody Proceedings Act (not currently adopted in Connecticut)