



# NEGLECT & DELINQUENCY PRACTICE INSTITUTE

30 YEARS OF LEGAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



2018



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## MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018

**8:30 AM REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:15 – 11:45 AM SESSION 1: IMPEACHMENT – Moot Court 518 (2.5 C, J, S)**  
• Hannah C. McElhinny, Esq. • Howard Margulies, Esq.

**11:45 – 12:00 PM BREAK**

**12:00 – 1:30 PM LUNCH – Rooms 515 & 516**

*Luncheon Speaker:*

• Honorable Carol A. Dalton, D.C. Superior Court, Presiding Judge of Family Court  
• Harvey M. Schweitzer, Esq.

**1:30 – 1:45 PM BREAK**

**1:45 – 3:15 PM SESSION 2: CONFIDENTIALITY & MENTAL HEALTH WAIVERS – Room 505 (1.5 C, J, S)**  
• Harvey M. Schweitzer, Esq. • Karen A. Bower, Esq.

**SESSION 3: GAL ROLE IN DECIDING BETWEEN SHELTER CARE & CONDITIONAL RELEASE  
Room 506 (1.5 C)**

• Megan Conway, Esq. • Lauren DeAnna, LICSW

**SESSION 4: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN JUVENILE JUSTICE – Room 507 (1.5 C, J, S)**

• Eduardo R. Ferrer, Esq.

**3:15 – 3:30 PM BREAK**

**3:30 – 5:00 PM SESSION 5: TA.L. – HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CASE & LAY THE GROUNDWORK – Room 505 (1.5 C)**  
• Rosie J. Ricchiuto, Esq. • Errika M. Jefferson, Esq.

**SESSION 6: MID-ATLANTIC JUVENILE JUSTICE REPORT – Room 506 (1.5 C, J, S)**

• Timothy M. Curry, Esq.

**SESSION 7: IMPACT OF DETENTION ON EDUCATION – Room 507 (1.5 C, J, S)**

• Claire N. Blumenson, Esq. • Sarah Comeau, Esq.

*Institute sessions qualify for CLE Credits in Pennsylvania and Virginia.  
Key: CCAN/GAL (C); Juvenile Family Court/PINS (J); and Special Education (S).*



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## TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

**8:30 AM REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM SESSION 1: TA.L. – HOW TO PREVAIL AT THE HEARING – Room 505 (1.5 C)**  
• Rosie J. Ricchiuto, Esq. • Errika M. Jefferson, Esq.

**SESSION 2: GAL HOT TOPICS – Room 506 (1.5 C)**  
• Allie Federoff, Esq. • William E. Ecenbarger, Jr., Esq.

**SESSION 3: SPECIAL EDUCATION CASE LAW REVIEW – Room 507 (1.5 C, J, S)**  
• Kimberly S. Glassman, Esq. • Alana M. Hecht, Esq.

**10:30 – 10:45 AM BREAK**

**10:45 – 12:00 PM SESSION 4: REPRESENTING FATHERS – Room 506 (1.25 C, S)**  
• Lauren Schwartz, Esq. • Sonali L. Khadilkar, Esq.

**SESSION 5: PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS/TECHNOLOGY FOR SOLE PRACTITIONERS – Room 505 (1.25 C, J, S)**  
• Rochelle D. Washington, Esq.

**SESSION 6: POST-DISPOSITION ADVOCACY FOR COMMITTED YOUTH – Room 507 (1.25 C, J, S)**  
• Penelope Spain, Esq. • Whitney T. Louchheim, Esq.

**12:00 – 1:15 PM LUNCH – ON YOUR OWN**

**1:15 – 2:15 PM SESSION 7: ETHICS: PART I – Room 515 (1.0 C)**  
• Hope C. Todd, Esq. • Erika L. Stillabower, Esq.

**2:15 – 2:30 PM BREAK**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM SESSION 8: ETHICS: PART II – Room 515 (1.0 C)**  
• Hope C. Todd, Esq. • Erika L. Stillabower, Esq.

**SESSION 9: PREPARING AND ADVOCATING FOR PARENTAL FITNESS – Room 505 (1.0 C, J, S)**  
• Abraham E. Sisson, Esq. • Marissa Gunn, Esq.

**SESSION 10: COMMUNITY STATUS REVIEW HEARINGS: NUTS & BOLTS – Room 507 (1.0 C, J, S)**  
• Clare N. Kruger, Esq.

**3:30 – 3:45 PM BREAK**

**3:45 – 5:00 PM SESSION 11: APPELLATE PROCESS – Room 518 (1.25 C, J, S)**  
• Rosanna Mason, Esq.

**5:00 – 7:00 PM 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION**



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## SPEAKER BIOS

### CLAIRE NILSEN BLUMENSON

Claire has focused her career on the intersection of juvenile justice and education. After graduating from University of Virginia Law in 2011, Claire joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia as an Equal Justice Works Fellow. Through this two-year fellowship, sponsored by Greenberg Traurig, Claire provided post-disposition special education representation to youth ages 18-22 who had been placed in DC's secure juvenile facility. To continue this work, she co-founded and launched School Justice Project (SJP) in August 2013. SJP is a special education legal services nonprofit for older court-involved youth in DC.

Prior to working at PDS, Claire received her Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University, majoring in government, sociology, and psychology. Claire earned her Masters in Teaching while serving as a corps member of Teach for America in Brooklyn, New York. Claire taught third and fourth grade at Excellence Boys Charter School, part of the Uncommon Schools, Inc.

Claire is an attorney admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### KAREN BOWER

Karen Bower has been representing parents as member of the CCAN panel since 2011. She also has a private practice in which she represents students with mental illness in higher education, focusing on students who have been charged with disciplinary action, have been placed on involuntary leave of absence, or have been denied reasonable accommodations. From 2004 to 2011 she worked as a senior staff attorney at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law Center where she conducted impact litigation and federal class action litigation on a broad array of issues that affect people with mental illness, including discrimination, de-criminalization and community integration. She previously was a clinical professor in the DC Law Students in Court Program where she taught trial practice and procedure and supervised third year law students in the representation of indigent clients in landlord-tenant and consumer cases in the D.C. Superior Court. She was also a staff attorney at the ACLU National Prison Project where she undertook federal class action litigation challenging unconstitutional practices and conditions of confinement. She just became a member of the mental health panel.

### SARAH COMEAU

Sarah graduated from American University's Washington College of Law (WCL) cum laude in 2011. Prior to co-founding the School Justice Project, Sarah was an associate at a District of Columbia law firm that specialized in special education advocacy, representing students and families of students involved in both the juvenile justice and abuse and neglect systems. After graduating from law school, Sarah was awarded a JD Distinguished Fellowship at the Juvenile Services Program at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

Sarah focused her law school career on indigent representation and the protection of civil and human rights. She was a student defense practitioner at WCL's Criminal Justice Clinic, a law clerk at a Maryland law firm that specialized in post-conviction representation, and an advocate for international human rights. Sarah received her bachelor's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from Ithaca College's Roy H. Park School of Communications.

Sarah is an attorney admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and an inactive member of the New York Bar. Sarah is a member of the District of Columbia Superior Court Special Education Attorney Panel.



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## SPEAKER BIOS

### MEGAN CONWAY

Megan is a senior attorney with the Guardian ad Litem Project at the Children's Law Center where she represents children and their best interests in abuse and neglect proceedings. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame. In her personal capacity, Megan is a member of the DC Citizen Review Panel for Child Abuse and Neglect.

### TIM CURRY

Tim joined the National Juvenile Defender Center in 2012. In his capacity as the Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Tim regularly works with front-line defenders, policymakers, and justice system stakeholders across the country to help support and develop specialized juvenile defense practice that is developmentally-appropriate, draws from national best practices, and provides youth with the highest-quality representation available. Prior to joining NJDC, Tim was the Supervising Attorney at D.C. Law Students in Court and an E. Barrett Prettyman Post-Graduate Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center. In both of those positions, he defended juveniles and adults accused of crimes in Washington, D.C. while also supervising the practice of third-year clinical students and teaching law school seminars on juvenile defense and trial skills. Prior to earning his law degree, Tim worked with various humanitarian relief and refugee organizations in Africa and had a career in journalism. Tim holds an LL.M. in Advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center, a J.D. from American University Washington College of Law, and a B.S. in Broadcast Journalism from Syracuse University.

### HON. CAROL ANN DALTON

Judge Carol Ann Dalton was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 2008.

Judge Dalton is the Presiding Judge of the Family Court. From January 2014 through December 2016, Judge Dalton was the Deputy Presiding Judge of the Family Court. Since her appointment as an Associate Judge, she has served on the Mental Health, Private Adoptions, Juvenile Behavioral Diversion, Domestic Relations and Child Abuse and Neglect Calendars.

From 2002 until her appointment as Associate Judge in 2008, Judge Dalton was a Magistrate Judge in the Family Court presiding mainly over child abuse and neglect matters. From 2000 until her appointment as a Magistrate Judge in 2002, Judge Dalton was Director of the D.C. Superior Court's Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect Office.

Over the years Judge Dalton participated as a member of a number of committees tasked with improving court procedures and practices in the area of family law. These committees included: Family Court Training; Family Court Implementation; Family Court Advisory Rules and Practice Standards; Superior Court Domestic Relations; Neglect and Abuse Subcommittee; Initial Arraignments Working Group; Mental Health Stakeholders and Mental Health and Habilitation Subcommittee.

Prior to Judge Dalton's tenure with the Superior Court, she maintained a private legal practice that included child abuse and neglect, probate, and corporate law.

Judge Dalton received a B.A. from the City College of the City of New York, a J.D. from New York Law School, and a LL.M. from the George Washington University's National Law Center.

Judge Dalton has been a resident of the District of Columbia for 30 years. She is a former D.C. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner. Judge Dalton served as Chair of several committees of the D.C. Women's Bar Association and volunteered with Whitman-Walker and other local not for profit organizations.



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### LAUREN DEANNA

Lauren is a social worker in the Guardian ad Litem Project at the Children's Law Center where she provides clinical support to Guardians ad Litem on some of their most complex cases. Prior to joining the Children's Law Center, Lauren worked as a case carrying social worker in therapeutic foster care. Lauren also has experience working with individuals experiencing homelessness and survivors of domestic violence in the District of Columbia. A native Washingtonian, Lauren became a social worker out of a desire to serve the children and families in DC. She has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master's of Social Work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Lauren is clinically licensed in Washington, DC.

### BILL ECENBARGER

Bill Ecenbarger is a solo practitioner who primarily serves as a Guardian ad Litem in dependency cases before the D.C. Superior Court. Bill previously worked as a staff attorney in the Guardian ad Litem Project at Children's Law Center. Prior to joining CLC, Bill practiced commercial maritime law in New York City and Philadelphia. Bill is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School where he received his JD and the University of Pittsburgh where he received his BA. Bill has also represented children and youth with respect to immigration matters and is fluent in Spanish.

### ALLISON FEDEROFF

Allison ("Allie") Federoff is a senior attorney in the Guardian ad Litem Program at the Children's Law Center. Allie represents the best interests of children in abuse and neglect proceedings. Allie is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, where she earned her JD, CUNY Hunter College, where she earned her MS in Elementary Education, and Vanderbilt University, where she earned her BA in Psychology and Spanish. During law school, Allie worked as a student attorney in the Juvenile Justice Clinic representing children charged with delinquency offenses. She also had legal internships at the Children's Law Center, Advocates for Children of New York, and Kids in Need of Defense. Prior to law school, Allie was a third grade general education teacher in the Bronx, NY.

### EDUARDO FERRER

Eduardo "Eddie" Ferrer, Esq. is a founding member of DCLY and currently serves as its Legal & Policy Director, overseeing DCLY's research, policy, and direct representation work. Eddie also regularly serves as a supervising attorney in the Georgetown University Law Center's Juvenile Justice Clinic. Eddie currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of DC127 and served previously as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Campaign for Youth Justice and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Next Step Charter School. Eddie was a member of the 2012-13 class of the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington's Future Executive Director Program and served as the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District 1B10 from 2009-2010.

Eddie was awarded the 2013 Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project's "Defender of Innocence Award" for his work securing the release of David Boyce, a innocent man wrongfully convicted in Virginia in 1990, and was recognized in 2008 by Legal Bisnow Magazine as a top "30 under 30" attorney in the District of Columbia. Eddie is also a Certified Trainer in the National Juvenile Defender Center's Juvenile Immersion Training Program (JTIP).

Prior to joining DC Lawyers for Youth full-time, Eddie worked in private practice at Howrey LLP where he worked on a variety of matters, including juvenile justice policy, immigration law, constitutional law, civil rights law, writs of habeas corpus, white-collar criminal defense, and antitrust law. Eddie received his B.S. in Business Administration from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University in 2002 and his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2005.



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## SPEAKER BIOS

### KIMBERLY GLASSMAN

Kimberly Glassman practices in Maryland and the District of Columbia, primarily representing parents in special education and neglect matters, and is currently a Special Projects Attorney for the School Justice Project. She has represented over 200 parents and guardians in all phases of special education matters, including IEP meetings, manifestation determinations, disciplinary hearings, mediations, due process hearings and appeals. Kim currently serves as a co-chair of the Special Education Attorney Roundtable, sits on the Education Working Group for the District of Columbia Superior Court, and is on the District of Columbia Superior Court Special Education Attorney, Person in Need of Supervision, and Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect Panels. Before entering private practice, Kim was a Staff Attorney for the Legal Aid Bureau in Riverdale, Maryland, where she represented indigent clients in a wide range of civil matters and a Skadden Fellow at the National Women's Law Center, working on issues related to Family Economic Security. She is admitted to the bars of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the United States District Court, District of Maryland and District of Columbia. She earned her J.D. from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, in May 2003, magna cum laude, and earned a B.A., cum laude, in History and Political Science from SUNY Geneseo in May 2000.

### MARISSA GUNN

Marissa is a senior supervising attorney who represents children in custody cases when their family stability is threatened by domestic violence, allegations of abuse or high conflict between their parents. She also handles adoption, guardianship, and third-party custody. She also supervises the Covington Associate, and trains and mentors pro bono attorneys. Marissa joined Children's Law Center in 2009 as an attorney in the Guardian ad Litem Program. As a law student, she interned with the National Partnership for Women and Families. Prior to Law School, Marissa helped connect low income and indigent clients and families to various services and supports as an AmeriCorps Volunteer with Bread for the City in Washington, DC.

### ALANA M. HECHT

Alana M. Hecht is an attorney admitted to practice in Washington, D.C. and Florida. Throughout her career, she has focused on working with the most vulnerable and needy residents of the District. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Ms. Hecht attended the Honors Program at The University of Florida, graduating in 2001 with Highest Honors, earning a Bachelor's of Science in Marketing with minors in Sociology and Education. Ms. Hecht received her JurisDoctor from The George Washington University School of Law, graduating with Honors, in 2005. While in law school, Ms. Hecht worked at Bread for the City and The Legal Aid Society of D.C. Following law school, she received a Covington & Burling Fellowship and worked for Neighborhood Legal Services Program, an organization that represents low income clients in legal matters. After two years, Ms. Hecht practiced Civil Rights Law, representing employees in employment discrimination matters. Subsequently, Ms. Hecht worked, for two years, at Brown & Associates, the largest Special Education Law Firm in Washington, D.C. representing low income residents of the District against D.C. Public Schools and Charter Schools. Ms. Hecht is the founder of D.C. Disability Law Group (DCDLG), a small Special Education and Advocacy Law Firm, located in Northeast Washington, D.C. The firm was established in August, 2012 and litigates cases on behalf of parents of students with disabilities and adult-students who are not receiving appropriate special education and related services.

### ERRIKA JEFFERSON

Errika M. Jefferson is an attorney in private practice and serves as counsel for parents in CCAN abuse and neglect, guardianship, and adoption matters. In addition to CCAN, she is a member of the GAL and PINS panels. Ms. Jefferson serves on the board of the Family Court Trial Lawyers Association as President and is a member of the Abuse and Neglect Subcommittee for DC Superior Court.



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### SONALI KHADILKAR

The owner of Khadilkar Law, Sonali Khadilkar, has committed her career to family law for many years. Ms. Khadilkar moved to Washington, D.C. to attend law school, and graduated from the Washington College of Law. After graduation, she joined a practice focused in family law and criminal defense. After a few years, Ms. Khadilkar served in a judicial clerkship, and then as a prosecutor, protecting victims of domestic violence. Subsequently, Ms. Khadilkar joined a private firm in the District of Columbia, as the primary domestic relations attorney. Ms. Khadilkar founded Khadilkar Law PLLC so she could take cases that really mattered to her, and to provide guidance to clients facing personal decisions. Khadilkar Law is a firm counseling clients in Washington, DC and Northern Virginia. The practice is focused on family law, including divorce, custody, child support, domestic violence, and abuse/neglect.

Ms. Khadilkar is barred in both the District of Columbia and Virginia, and is a member of the D.C. Bar, Virginia Bar, and Fairfax County Bar. Ms. Khadilkar also teaches as an adjunct professor at her alma mater, Washington College of Law. Additionally, Ms. Khadilkar is involved in the following leadership positions: Member of the Family Law Section of the D.C. Bar, Member of the Law Related Education Committee of the Fairfax Bar Association, Co-Chair of the Editor for the Women's Bar Association, and an Appointed Member of the Practice Management Services Committee of the D.C. Bar. Ms. Khadilkar is also an appointed member of the CCAN, GAL, and probate panels for the DC Superior Court.

### CLARE KRUGER

Clare Kruger is a staff attorney at the Juvenile Services Program (JSP) within the Community Defender Division at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). In this role, Clare advocates for committed and detained youth at the Youth Services Center (YSC) and at New Beginnings Youth Development Center. Clare represents youth in commitment revocation hearings, litigates habeas petitions and Article VI oppositions in Superior Court, and addresses conditions of confinement issues inside of the youth detention facilities. Prior to her position at PDS, Clare represented juvenile clients in Superior Court through her fellowship with D.C. Lawyers for Youth. Clare received her B.A. in political science from UCLA in 2009 and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2014. At Georgetown Law, Clare was a Public Interest Law Scholar and a Public Interest Fellow. As a law student, Clare clerked at PDS, as well as in the Juvenile Division of the San Francisco Public Defenders Office, and at the National Center for Youth Law in Oakland, CA. Clare was also a student attorney in the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic. Before beginning her legal career, Clare tutored and mentored young inmates at a juvenile probation camp in Los Angeles, spent time working at a juvenile detention facility in Peru, and led creative writing workshops for young inmates in juvenile halls throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.





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## SPEAKER BIOS

### WHITNEY LOUCHHEIM

Whitney Louchheim is an impassioned advocate for the rights and well-being of youth in the deep end of the juvenile justice system. As a defense attorney, she works every day with youth who are struggling to navigate the complexities of the justice system or who yearn to come home from incarceration to be with their families. Her passion for this began while she was a law student at American University. As a law clerk, Whitney was horrified to see a small child, shackled and scared, standing alone in juvenile court. And then to see it again, and again. She began to understand the enduring racial injustice and the generations of violence and poverty that so many of DC's children must overcome. She became determined to forge a career that would right these wrongs. Whitney soon joined her close friend, Penelope Spain, in mentoring incarcerated youth at Oak Hill, a facility rife with violence and appalling conditions. The value of a meaningful human connection – as both a mentor and an advocate – became paramount. She realized the critical need for youth to have an attorney by their side during these traumatic years – to combat inhumane conditions of confinement, to ensure fairness in a system with few written rules, and to defend the youths' ability to remain with their families. Upon graduation, Whitney and Penelope founded Open City Advocates to do just that. As Chief Operating Officer of Open City Advocates and as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown Law, Whitney provides her clients with long-term, holistic representation. Her defense team includes law students who develop unique relationships with each client. Finally, Whitney is grateful to have learned how to take care of her own well-being as well. She loves traveling to new places, running (especially in the rain), meandering through DC's parks, and going on adventures with her husband and two young boys.

### HOWARD MARGULIES

Howard Margulies is an attorney in private practice, representing adults and children in D.C. Family Court. He is a member of the D.C. Family Court CCAN, Juvenile, PINS and Special Education panels. Mr. Margulies is barred to practice law in the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland. Previously, he worked as a trial attorney for the Maryland Public Defender, representing indigent clients charged with felonies in Baltimore City as well as investigating and litigating post-conviction cases on a statewide basis.

### ROSANNA MASON

Rosanna Mason has been with the Central Legal staff of the D. C. Court of Appeals since 1992. She is currently Staff Counsel for the Court. Prior to coming to the court, Rosanna worked at University Legal Services in the District of Columbia where her focus was on landlord and tenant issues, mortgage fraud issues, and low income housing development. Prior to that she worked at Maryland Legal Aid focusing on family law, child abuse and neglect, and education issues. Rosanna is a graduate of Antioch School of Law.

### HANNAH MCELHINNY

Hannah McElhinny, Esq. is the Deputy Trial Chief, Juvenile Section, at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). She joined PDS in 1999, after clerking for the Honorable Warren Matthews, Chief Justice of the Alaska State Supreme Court, and has been representing juvenile and adult clients in delinquency and criminal cases ever since.

In her capacity as Deputy Trial Chief, Ms. McElhinny represents indigent juveniles in delinquency cases and youth charged as adults in serious felony cases and manages the Juvenile Section at PDS. She is responsible for the training and supervision of all PDS attorneys practicing in juvenile court. Ms. McElhinny currently serves on several D.C. Family Court committees and is a member of the District's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Executive Committee. She is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz and earned her J.D. from Yale Law School.



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### ROSEMARIE RICCHIUTO

Rosemarie Ricchiuto is an active member of the CCAN, GAL, Special Education Advocate and PINS Panels. Ms. Ricchiuto has significant experience in the field of abuse and neglect through her representation of parents and children. She currently serves on the board of FCTLA as Vice President. Ms. Ricchiuto has presented on a variety of topics related to parent representation law and special education law at D.C. Superior Court trainings, trainings for new CCAN/GAL panel members, the Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute, and trainings provided through Children's Law Center. Ms. Ricchiuto's litigation experience includes discovery practice, pretrial issues, trial practice and appellate advocacy in the areas of abuse and neglect trial, termination of parental rights proceedings, guardianships, and adoption matters.

### LAUREN SCHWARTZ

Lauren Schwartz is an active member of the CCAN and GAL Panels, where she has substantial experience representing parents and children in child abuse and neglect cases in the District of Columbia. Ms. Schwartz also represents foster parents in guardianship and adoption matters, advising her clients on the pros and cons for each permanency option. Ms. Schwartz has presented on a variety of topics, and has also assisted in training the CCAN panel. She attended the 2016 National Association of Counsel for Children Conference in Philadelphia, PA, and upon her return, presented to the CCAN Panel.

Ms. Schwartz was previously a judicial law clerk for two Magistrate Judges at the D.C. Superior Court. Ms. Schwartz is licensed in the District of Columbia, and is a member of the Litigation Section, Family Law Section, and Courts, Lawyers and Administration of Justice Section of the D.C. Bar.

### HARVEY SCHWEITZER

After serving in the Marines, Mr. Schweitzer graduated from San Francisco State University and UCLA Law School. He is a partner in the firm of Schweitzer & Scherr, LLC and is of counsel to Savit & Szymkowitz, LLP. Mr. Schweitzer has been involved in child welfare, foster care, adoption and related issues since 1980 when he helped create the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect Office at the D.C. Superior Court. Currently, he advises child-serving agencies regarding social welfare law and practice, risk-management, liability and insurance, practice standards, and service delivery. He regularly engages in trial and appellate litigation. In addition, he has taught juvenile law at Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, American University, Washington College of Law and now teaches legal research and writing at St. Francis School of Law, a nonprofit online law school. He is a legal adviser to the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council and a consultant to the Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Center. A member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, Mr. Schweitzer co-authored, *FOSTER CARE LAW: A PRIMER*, (Carolina Academic Press, 2004). He and his wife are "weekend puppy raisers" for America's Vetdogs.

### ABRAHAM SISSON

Abraham joined Children's Law Center in 2013, and is a Supervising Attorney in both CLC's Appellate Project and its Guardian ad litem Program. As a law student, he spent a year with the University of Michigan's Child Advocacy Law Clinic, representing children and parents in child protective cases. Abraham placed first in the 88th Annual Henry M. Campbell Moot Court Competition while in law school, and received Michigan Law's Rockwell T. Gust Advocacy Award. Prior to law school, he worked on political campaigns in Virginia, Texas, and Arizona.



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### **PENELOPE SPAIN**

Penelope Spain is a juvenile justice expert, nonprofit executive, and lawyer who is committed to reforming our juvenile and criminal justice systems. Penelope grew up in Napa, California, where she was first exposed to injustice and inequality. Deeply troubled by her community's animosity towards the Latino immigrants on which the area's wine industry depends, Penelope embarked on a life journey to seek out and remedy injustice. She first obtained a bachelor's degree with honors in Latin American Studies from the University of Chicago. She then headed to the jungles of Venezuela to improve her Spanish and teach children who lived a two-hour walk from the nearest school how to read. While in Venezuela, she connected with Jimmy Carter's nonprofit organization and subsequently served as an international observer of elections in Venezuela and Sierra Leone. She then headed to Washington, DC, to go to law school at American University's Washington College of Law. She once again looked for where her energy could make the most difference. During an internship with the Public Defender Service for DC, she visited the Oak Hill Youth Center, DC's notorious juvenile detention facility, which has since been shuttered. That day, her heart broke and she found her life's passion – to combat the racial injustice and harmful effects of locking up children. Prior to graduating law school in 2005, she joined forces with a fellow student and dear friend, Whitney Louchheim, to establish Open City Advocates. As CEO of Open City Advocates and as a court-appointed public defender, she fights every day for youth to be released from secure facilities and to empower them in their own journeys. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center and serves in leadership positions of various local and national juvenile justice advisory groups, such as the DC Juvenile Justice Advisory Group where she chairs the Youth Committee, and the Department of Justice's Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice where she chairs the Transitioning Youth Subcommittee. When she is not busy advocating for the rights of other children, she feverishly tries to keep up with her own two children, ages 3 and 5. To maintain her own wellbeing, Penelope relishes the time she spends with her husband and friends. She is also an avid yogi and meditator who often jumps off the mat or cushion to go for hikes in DC's fabulous parks and woodlands.

### **ERIKA L. STILLABOWER**

Erika L. Stillabower joined the legal ethics program at the District of Columbia Bar in 2013. As Senior Legal Ethics Counsel, she provides guidance to members of the D.C. Bar seeking information on the interpretation and application of the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct. Ms. Stillabower contributes to columns on legal ethics that regularly appear in the Washington Lawyer and regularly serves as faculty on MCLE accredited ethics courses. In addition, she provides staff support to the both the Legal Ethics Committee and the Rules Review Committee of the D.C. Bar. In connection with her committee work, she assists in drafting both informal chair letters and published Legal Ethics Committee opinions. Ms. Stillabower previously spent eight years as an associate at a D.C. law firm, where her practice focused on white collar criminal defense and government litigation. In that capacity, she regularly represented clients from a variety of industries, including pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and banking and financial services, before the United States Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission. She also developed experience in compliance counseling and the implementation of and adherence to corporate integrity agreements. Ms. Stillabower graduated from Georgetown University Law Center, where she served as an associate editor of the Georgetown Law Journal. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and two children.



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## SPEAKER BIOS

### HOPE C. TODD

Hope C. Todd is the Assistant Director of Legal Ethics, Regulation Counsel, at the District of Columbia Bar. Since 2006, Ms. Todd has provided legal ethics guidance through the D.C. Bar's Ethics Helpline on the interpretation and application of the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct. Ms. Todd regularly teaches ethics CLEs and has served on panels for local, national and international audiences. She is a contributing author for the "Ask the Ethics Experts" and "Speaking of Ethics" features for the Washington Lawyer. Ms. Todd is staff counsel to the D.C. Bar Rules of Professional Conduct Review and Legal Ethics Committees and also serves as a staff consultant to the Bar's Global Legal Practice Task Force. Ms. Todd is a former member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility (2014-2017) and served as the SCEPR liaison to the ABA Commission on the Future of Legal Services. She is a member of the National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC) and participates on the NOBC subcommittee on Entity Regulation. She belongs to the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers (APRL) and the ABA Center on Professional Responsibility. Before joining the D.C. Bar in 1998, Ms. Todd was in private practice in the state of New York. She is a graduate of the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, and holds a B.A. in public policy from the College of William and Mary. Ms. Todd lives in Virginia with her husband, three children, and dog, Sandy.

### ROCHELLE D. WASHINGTON

Rochelle Washington is the Senior Staff Attorney in the Practice Management Advisory Service ("PMAS") of the D.C. Bar. Rochelle, along with the Assistant Director, Daniel Mills, assists lawyers with the business of starting and managing a law firm. Rochelle was recently recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) Legal Technology Resource Center as a 2017 Woman of Legal Tech and by FastCase as a 2017 FastCase 50. Rochelle develops and manages the D.C. Bar all-day educational event, *Practice 360° | A Day for Lawyers and Law Firms* on May 15, 2015, which featured 20 practical seminars on topics such as technology, business development and practice management taught by lawyers and legal service providers. She leads an annual 10-week program titled, *Successful Small Firm Practice Series: How Solo and Small Firm Lawyers Can Compete, Thrive, and Be Ethical in the 21st Century*. This 10-week program received the ABA's Gambrell Award for Professionalism in 2015. She also leads the day-two session of the D.C. Bar law firm start-up program, *Basic Training and Beyond*, which is offered monthly and received the ABA's Gambrell Award for Professionalism in 2011. Rochelle organizes the PMAS Small Firm Lunch and Learn Series, an ongoing program which runs two to three programs a month and covers practical topics that impact small firm lawyers. In addition, she conducts one-on-one member advisory meetings, and hosts networking opportunities for Bar members. All programs and services sponsored by the Practice Management Advisory Service are free to D.C. Bar members. Rochelle served as CLE faculty for national and local bar associations including the ABA TECHSHOW 2015 and 2016, Maryland State Bar Association, Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia and at The Above the Law Academy for Private Practice Conference in 2015. She also teaches at local law schools.

Rochelle attended Towson University for undergraduate studies and American University, Washington College of Law where she obtained her J.D. She is licensed to practice in Maryland and the District of Columbia. For several years, she managed a small firm and practiced family, bankruptcy and personal injury law. In addition, she served as a volunteer attorney providing pro bono legal services in juvenile proceedings and family cases involving domestic violence.

In January 2013, Rochelle joined the Office of Regulation Counsel, Practice Management Advisory Service with the D.C. Bar. She can be reached at the D.C. Bar at 202-780-2764 or [rwashington@dcbar.org](mailto:rwashington@dcbar.org).