

**FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OPERATION OF THE ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM**  
**APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT**



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## INTRODUCTION

The Attorneys for Children (AFC) Program is an auxiliary agency of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. In accordance with 22 NYCRR 1032, the Office of AFC has been established to ensure the provision of the highest quality of legal representation for children and to administer the AFC Program in a manner sensitive to local needs. There are over 500 AFC in the Fourth Department.

The Director of the Office of AFC, appointed by the Appellate Division and supervised by the Presiding Justice, is responsible for the administration of the Program. In addition, the Presiding Justice appoints members of the departmental AFC Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Presiding Justice and Director regarding training of AFC and the promulgation of rules, standards and administrative procedures for the improvement of representation for children in the 22 counties of the Fourth Department. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts of the Fourth Judicial Department.

In addition to drafting and issuing practice guidelines, the Advisory Committee selects outstanding attorneys for children for awards, makes recommendations with respect to the procedures governing designation and removal of panel AFC, and researches and investigates appropriate issues in the area of AFC practice.

The Advisory Committee meets on a regular basis. The members are volunteers. At each meeting, the Director updates the Advisory Committee on the status of the AFC Program and provides support as needed.

## **I. FISCAL YEAR 2022 OVERVIEW**

In fiscal year 2022, the AFC Program participated in six initiatives to improve the Program:

- **Advanced Juvenile Delinquency Panel**
- **Assigned Counsel and Expert Voucher Program**
- **Diversity Recruitment**
- **Published fully revised and updated Guidelines for AFC in the Fourth Department and an Administrative Handbook**
- **Published Ethics for AFC**
- **Refined the AFC Program Curriculum**

All six goals were accomplished. They are discussed on the following pages.

### **(A) Advanced Juvenile Delinquency Panel**

Legislation enacted in 2017 raised the age of criminal responsibility for 16-year-olds on October 1, 2018, and 17-year-olds on October 1, 2019. On June 18, 2018, the Appellate Division, Fourth Department unanimously approved an amendment to the AFC Rules to create a new Advanced Juvenile Delinquency Panel (AJD panel). The AJD panel was necessary to establish a panel of attorneys who have criminal felony experience and could represent 16 and 17-year-old clients in the Youth Part in Supreme or County Court and follow the case to Family Court if referred there. In fiscal year 2022, the AFC Program continued to recruit attorneys who had significant experience in representing clients charged with felonies, both from the general AFC panel and attorneys who are not on the general AFC panel, but are on the assigned counsel panel, to be designated to the AJD

panel. These attorneys filed an application with the AFC Program and, if found qualified, were required to view specialized CLE training videos on issues relevant to the Raise the Age legislation. There are a total of 64 attorneys on the AJD panel.

**(B) Assigned Counsel and Expert Vouchers Program**

In coordination with the Office of Court Administration Technical Services, the AFC Program implemented a new online voucher program for all Judiciary Law Section 35 (8) vouchers and developed a new Online Voucher Program Instruction Manual, which was distributed to assigned counsel attorneys and Supreme Court Clerks. In addition to the Instruction Manual, the AFC Program developed and distributed comprehensive Assigned Counsel Reimbursement Guidelines, which detail billing and payment policies for Judiciary Law Section 35 (8) vouchers. Billing and payment policies for expert vouchers are set forth in the AFC Program's comprehensive Compensation and Reimbursement Guidelines.

**(C) Diversity Recruitment**

In fiscal year 2022, the AFC Program continued its efforts to recruit attorneys of color and attorneys with foreign language proficiency. Two in-person recruitment events were conducted. In July, the AFC Program hosted the Rochester Black Bar Association Diversity Clerkship Summer Associates for an information session luncheon about AFC practice at the AFC Program's offices. Speakers included Appellate Division, Fourth Department Justice Stephen Lindley, Monroe County Family Court Judge Fatimat Reid, and AFC of color. In October, the AFC Program co-hosted an information session

luncheon for diverse law students with the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) at the University at Buffalo School of Law, and the Minority Bar Association of Western New York. Speakers included Hon. Kevin Carter, Administrative Judge of the Eighth Judicial District, Hon. Lenora Foote-Beavers, Buffalo City Court Judge and Acting Erie County Family Court Judge and AFC of color. The AFC Program continued outreach to the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, the Rochester Black Bar Association, and the William Herbert Johnson Bar Association of Central New York to encourage attorneys of color to attend the AFC Program's Introductory Training.

**(D) Guidelines for Attorneys for Children in the Fourth Department and Administrative Handbook**

The Office of AFC, in collaboration with the Fourth Department AFC Advisory Committee, completed an extensive update of Guidelines for Attorneys for Children in the Fourth Department (Guidelines). The updated Guidelines reflect current practice in light of case law, statutory changes, Court Rules and Appellate Division, Fourth Department policy. The new version of Guidelines includes considerations regarding diversity and inclusion, cultural sensitivity, communication needs and accommodation, and trauma informed practice. The Guidelines contain recommended best practices for all AFC and shall be used as a basis for evaluation of the overall performance of AFC.

The Office of AFC also updated the Administrative Handbook, which contains a general policy considerations section outlining the role of the attorney for the child and protocols, relevant rules, regulations, and statutes, and contact information for Office of AFC staff, Fourth Department AFC Advisory Committee members and AFC Program

Liaisons.

**(E) Ethics for AFC**

The Office of AFC published Ethics for Attorneys for Children, which includes general policy considerations, Section 7.2 of the Rules of the Chief Judge, a summary of responsibilities of the attorney for the child, ethical questions and answers and relevant cases on ethics for attorneys for children.

**(F) Curriculum Development**

**Live Interactive Webinar Format Continued**

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, in fiscal year 2022, the Fourth Department AFC Program continued to deliver its curriculum virtually in a live interactive webinar format, rather than in the traditional live seminar format. The webinars also were recorded and posted on the AFC Program's website for AFC to view at a later date. The curriculum included webinars designed for prospective AFC, as well as webinars for more experienced AFC.

The Introduction to Effective Representation of Children webinars, formerly known as Fundamentals, covered the role of the AFC, ethical issues in AFC practice, and the basics of AFC representation in juvenile justice, child protective, and custody and visitation cases. Since October 2020, the introductory webinars have been conducted over three days in sessions that last approximately two hours each day (rather than one full day) with additional mandatory online training videos. This revision to the introductory training format

resulted in even greater efficiency, with no loss in the quality of the training. Prospective AFC received seven hours of free CLE credit for attending live introductory webinars and an additional four-and-a-half hours of free CLE credit for viewing training videos online, including as required by statute, a video addressing domestic violence. The New York State CLE Board granted the request of the AFC Programs in the Third and Fourth Departments for an exception to the CLE Board Regulations to permit skills and ethics credit for viewing mandatory online training videos to be awarded to newly admitted attorneys.

In fiscal year 2022, the Deputy Director, with guidance from the Director, continued to refine the introductory webinar curriculum in accordance with experience and feedback from AFC. The AFC Programs in the Third and Fourth Departments began collaborating on introductory seminars in the fall of 2014. Co-sponsored introductory webinars are organized by the Fourth Department in the spring and the Third Department in the fall. Attorneys must attend both the live webinar training and complete the additional online training before they can be considered for designation to the Fourth Department panel. During fiscal year 2022, 33 Fourth Department attorneys completed the Introduction to Effective Representation of Children training.

The curriculum for experienced AFC includes update webinars that are designed to provide AFC with information about important developments in children's law. In fiscal year 2022, the update webinars were developed in accordance with experience and the suggestions of AFC. Update webinars addressed topics including trans-affirming legal advocacy for transgender and gender diverse youth, custody modification, social media evidence, and addressing the child mental health crisis. The Fourth Department AFC

Program collaborated with the Third Department AFC Program to offer each Program's webinars to AFC in both Departments. The Fourth Department AFC Program also collaborated with the Metropolitan Black Bar Association (NYC) to offer AFC continuing legal education on topics such as understanding trauma in child survivors of sexual abuse and essential steps to a successful adoption.

Additionally, the curriculum for experienced AFC regularly includes a topical CLE that examines one topic in depth, e.g., domestic violence, sexual abuse, custody, permanency planning, or forensics. Unlike live seminars, webinars are much shorter in duration, and typically feature one presentation at a time. Like live seminars, webinars routinely include presentations that address in a detailed and comprehensive fashion, a particular type of proceeding or aspect of children's law, which were historically included in the AFC Program's topical seminars. In fiscal year 2022, such webinars were presented on the cybersecurity and interviewing child clients.

The Appellate Division, Fourth Department is an accredited provider of continuing legal education. AFC receive between 1.0 and 11.5 hours of free CLE credit, depending on the length of the training.

For the 2022 fiscal year the Fourth Department AFC Program offered update webinars totaling 23 CLE credit hours, in addition to the 14 hours CLE credit hours of introductory training.

During fiscal year 2022, approximately 949 Fourth Department AFC attended CLE webinars sponsored or co-sponsored by the Fourth Department AFC Program, with some AFC attending multiple webinars. In addition, approximately 318 AFC from the Third Department, as well as approximately 89 AFC from Legal Aid and other institutional

provider offices, attended Fourth Department AFC Program CLE webinars. The webinar agendas are contained in an appendix to this report.

### **Expanded Online Video Training for Optional Use and for Recertification**

In fiscal year 2022, the Fourth Department AFC Program expanded online video training options. Pursuant to NYS CLE Board rules, AFC can receive free CLE credit for online video training if they have been admitted for more than two years. Effective January 1, 2016, attorneys admitted less than two years can receive free CLE credit for online video training in the categories of professional practice and law practice management only, absent the special rules promulgated in response to the pandemic. Currently, 72 training videos on various topics of interest to AFC are accessible on the AFC Program website in addition to the introductory domestic violence video referred to above. Each segment of training was videotaped at a live seminar or webinar sponsored or co-sponsored by the Fourth Department AFC Program. AFC can meet the AFC Program training requirement for the purpose of recertification by watching online videos, attending live webinars, or completing a combination of videos and webinars. AFC may choose the training videos and/or webinars that most interest them, but they must view at least 5.5 credit hours of online training to meet the requirement for recertification and to receive free NYS CLE credit. In fiscal year 2022, approximately 577 Fourth Department AFC viewed at least 5.5 credit hours of continuing video training online.

## **II. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

### **(A) AFC Vouchers**

In fiscal year 2022, the Office of AFC processed approximately **19,000** vouchers totaling approximately **\$11,000,000**. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on court operations and disposition of cases, vouchering during the 2022 fiscal year and lapse period continued to be somewhat reduced from pre-pandemic levels. Currently, the AFC Program processes AFC vouchers within a day of receipt.

### **(B) Assigned Counsel and Expert Vouchers**

In fiscal year 2021, the AFC Program processed approximately **300** assigned counsel vouchers totaling approximately **\$400,000** for assignments made pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 35 (8), and approximately **60 expert vouchers** totaling approximately **\$65,000**. As with AFC vouchers, due to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on court operations and disposition of cases, assigned counsel and expert voucher submissions during the 2022 fiscal year and lapse period continued to be somewhat reduced. Currently, the AFC Program processes assigned counsel and expert vouchers within one week of receipt.

### **(C) Annual Designation of Panels**

Effective April 1, 2022, new attorneys were designated and current attorneys were re-designated to the AFC panel upon the recommendation of local Senior Family Court

Judges, a determination that the attorney had complied with the attorney registration requirements of Judiciary Law Section 468-a, that the attorney had fulfilled the Program's mandatory training requirements, and that the attorney filed with the Program a satisfactory re-designation application.

**(D) Assignment Summaries Distributed**

In fiscal year 2022, the Director provided all Family Court Judges of the 22 Family Courts in the Fourth Department with a summary of their county's fiscal year 2021 AFC appointments, by proceeding code and cost. The summaries specify each assignment given, fees for each assignment, and total fees for the fiscal year.

**(E) New Members of the Judiciary**

Each year, the Director forwards welcoming correspondence to new Family Court Judges, Supreme Court Justices and Surrogates to acquaint them with the AFC Program and the voucher system. Hard copies of the Fourth Department AFC Guidelines, Ethics for AFC, as well as the AFC Program Administrative Handbook, are provided upon request.

**(F) Liaisons**

The liaison program was created by the Fourth Department AFC Advisory Committee to solicit suggestions and feedback from panel members on an annual basis. The liaisons attended a hybrid meeting with the Fourth Department Advisory Committee in fiscal year 2022, with some liaisons attending in person and others attending remotely.

Issues raised included the impact of the inadequate rate of compensation on AFC

panel membership, the ongoing impact of the pandemic on court operations and disposition of cases in Family Court, quality of representation issues, billing practices, complaints about Family Courts, and problems with school districts and DSS.

**(G) Appeals**

The Deputy Director monitors appeals closely. Where an AFC is assigned at the trial level and the case is appealed, the case is tracked from the time the face sheet is completed until the appeal is heard. Letters and e-mails are sent to attorneys who fail to follow the Appellate Division rules, fail to file timely a brief or otherwise appear to be neglecting their duties on appeal. Cases are referred as appropriate to the Clerk of the Court. This process has dramatically improved attorneys' awareness of their duties on appeal and their participation on appeals. In fiscal year 2022, 101 appeal vouchers were reviewed, adjusted when appropriate, and approved by Justices of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

**(H) Children's Legal Center**

The Director oversees the administration of the Children's Legal Center (CLC), which was formed by the Appellate Division, Fourth Department to offer effective and economical representation for children. The six CLC attorneys practice in an office that also includes a social worker component. The social workers provide support for CLC attorneys in appropriate matters. The attorneys at CLC are independent contractors who represent minors in Erie County Supreme, Surrogate and Family Courts. The Appellate Division has a separate contract with each CLC attorney and provides each attorney with office space and support staff. The AFC Director is responsible for preparing, negotiating,

and obtaining approval for each attorney's contract. In fiscal year 2022, the AFC Director met virtually with all CLC attorneys to negotiate the next year's contract amounts. The AFC Director maintains regular contact with CLC's Chief Attorney and her administrative assistant with regard to administrative issues that arise in connection with the contracts and staff.

### **III. FOURTH DEPARTMENT AFC PROGRAM STAFF**

The Program has six employees. The Director manages the AFC Program, attends meetings as appropriate, speaks at state and local bar association meetings and public events, and consults regularly with the other three AFC Program Directors in cooperating in statewide AFC functions. The Deputy Director monitors appeals and prepares reports to the Court on appeals, has primary responsibility for the training program and the diversity recruitment initiative, and assists the Director as needed with other administrative tasks. The Senior Court Analyst functions as the Director's Administrative Assistant, one Court Analyst functions as the Deputy Director's Administrative Assistant, the Assistant Court Analyst processes vouchers, and another Court Analyst is in charge of AFC internet voucher system problem-solving and outreach, and processes Judiciary Law Section 35 (8) vouchers.

### **IV. FOURTH DEPARTMENT AFC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Under the guidance of Hon. Lenora B. Foote-Beavers, Chair of the Fourth Department AFC Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee continued to recommend Program improvements. In fiscal year 2022, Presiding Justice Gerald J. Whalen made several appointments to the Committee.

The Committee met once in person and twice virtually in fiscal year 2022 to consider issues related to the Program, including the training program, the AFC internet voucher system, extensive revisions to Guidelines for Attorneys for Children in the Fourth Department, the Hon. Michael F. Dillon Awards for excellence in the representation of children, complaints against AFC, conflicts in AFC practice, and other ancillary issues.

In June 2023, the Advisory Committee held an award ceremony, conducted by Presiding Justice Whalen, that recognized the annual Hon. Michael F. Dillon Award honorees for 2022.

#### **V. STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

In 1996, the Administrative Board of the Unified Court System formed a Statewide AFC Advisory Committee to consider statewide issues of concern for AFC. The Committee is comprised of Judges from the Appellate Divisions, Supreme Court and Family Court, Office of Court Administration representatives, and the four AFC Program Directors.

The mandate of the Committee is broad, i.e., examination of the entire AFC Program. Subcommittees have been established to examine the efficiency of the Program and to make suggestions for improvements. The subcommittees also address issues of quality and scope of AFC representation, institutional AFC representation, the impact of the \$75 per hour rate of compensation on AFC panel recruitment and retention, and ancillary services. The Director attended and participated in all Statewide AFC Advisory Committee meetings.

## **VI. DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS**

The departmental Directors met virtually with each other to discuss issues of common concern. The Directors also met virtually with representatives of the Office of Court Administration to implement ongoing fiscal policy changes and develop fiscal policy initiatives.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

In fiscal year 2022, the goal of the Fourth Department AFC Program was to provide the highest possible quality of legal representation for children. To attain that goal the Program Director continued to focus on assessing and improving the Program and the departmental AFC Advisory Committee continued to recommend Program enhancements and improvements.

## **APPENDIX**

OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*Presents*

A CLE Webinar Entitled:

Ethical Issues for the AFC when Communicating with Parties and Other Litigants or  
Participants, and when Making a Record of the  
Child's Desires or Best Interests in Family and Appellate Courts

**Thursday, April 14, 2022**  
**12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 1:30 p.m.**

12:00 p.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Introductory Remarks

**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**

Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY

**Jennifer L. McLaren, Esq.**

Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY

12:05 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ethical Issues for the AFC when Communicating with Parties  
and Other Litigants or Participants, and when Making a Record  
of the Child's Desires or Best Interests in Family and Appellate  
Courts

**Gary Solomon, Esq.**

Director of Legal Support  
The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice  
New York City

1:30 p.m.

Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of one-and-a-half (1.5) credit hours which can be applied toward the ethics requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov) in the following format:

Subject: Webinar 4/14/22

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 4/14/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Thursday, April 7, 2022.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

THE OFFICES OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, THIRD and FOURTH JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS  
present:  
**INTRODUCTION TO EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN**

**Day One - Monday, April 25, 2022**

- 12:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department  
**Betsy R. Ruslander, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department
- 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.      Representing a Child Client in Child Welfare Proceedings & Related Ethical Issues  
**Shannon Filbert, Esq.**  
Confidential Law Clerk to the Hon. Kelly Brinkworth  
Erie County Family Court  
Buffalo, New York
- 1:30 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 1:40 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.      Representing a Child Client in Child Welfare Proceedings & Related Ethical Issues  
**(Continued)**
- 2:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 2:40 p.m.                      Conclusion of Day One

**Day Two - Tuesday, April 26, 2022**

- 12:00 p.m. - 12:05 p.m.      Introductory Remarks  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department
- 12:05 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.      Representing a Child Client in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings & Related Ethical Issues  
**Katie E. Woodruff, Esq.**  
Juvenile Justice Coordinator  
Legal Aid Society of Rochester  
Rochester, New York
- 1:20 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.      Representing a Child Client in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings & Related Ethical Issues  
**(Continued)**
- 2:20 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 2:30 p.m.                      Conclusion of Day Two

## Day Three - Wednesday, April 27, 2022

- 12:00 p.m. - 12:05 p.m.      Introductory Remarks  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department
- 12:05 p.m. - 12:55 p.m.      Representing a Child Client in Custody & Visitation Proceedings & Related  
Ethical Issues  
**Michele A. Brown, Esq.**  
Chief Attorney  
Children's Legal Center  
Buffalo, New York  
**William R. Hites, Esq.**  
Panel Attorney for the Child, Erie County  
Assigned Counsel Panel Member, Erie County  
Buffalo, New York  
**Frank P. Alabiso, Ph.D**  
Suburban Psychiatric Associates  
Amherst, New York
- 12:55 p.m. - 1:05 p.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 1:05 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.      Representing a Child Client in Custody & Visitation Proceedings & Related  
Ethical Issues  
**(Continued)**
- 1:55 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 2:05 p.m.                      Conclusion of Day Three

*This webinar has been approved for a total of seven (7) credit hours, of which one (1) hour can be applied toward the ethics and professionalism requirement, two (2) hours can be applied toward the skills requirement, and four (4) hours can be applied toward the professional practice (family law) requirement. This program is suitable for experienced or newly admitted attorneys.*

THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, THIRD DEPARTMENT  
*in collaboration with*  
THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*presents:*

A Continuing Legal Education Webinar Entitled:

## **TRANS-AFFIRMING LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR TRANSGENDER & GENDER DIVERSE YOUTH**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**1:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

- 1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.      Opening Remarks  
**Betsy R. Ruslander, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Albany  
**John W. Kraigenow, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Albany
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.      Part One: Trans-Affirming Legal Advocacy  
for Transgender & Gender Diverse  
Youth Moderator:  
**Amy Schwartz-Wallace, Esq.**  
Senior Attorney, Empire Justice Center  
Rochester  
*Presenters:*  
**Lettie Dickerson, Esq.**  
Staff Attorney, Empire Justice Center  
Albany  
**Carolyn Wolf-Gould, M.D.**  
Gender Wellness Center, Bassett  
Healthcare Network  
Oneonta
- 2:50 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.      Break
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.      Part Two: Trans-Affirming Legal Advocacy  
for Transgender & Gender Diverse Youth  
Moderator:  
**Amy Schwartz-Wallace, Esq.**  
Senior Attorney, Empire Justice Center  
Rochester

Presenters:

**Mallory Livingston, Esq.**

LGBT\* Rights Attorney

Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc.

Syracuse

**Katie E. Woodruff, Esq.**

Juvenile Justice Coordinator & AFC

Legal Aid Society of Rochester, Inc.

Rochester

3:50 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Question & Answer Period

4:00 p.m.

Conclusion

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov) the following format:

Subject: Webinar 5/11/22

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 5/11/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Wednesday, May 4, 2022**. You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*Presents*

A CLE Webinar Entitled:

Addressing Issues that Arise When Interviewing or Attempting to Interview Children:  
A Panel Discussion

**Tuesday June 7, 2022**  
**12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 1:20 p.m.**

- 12:00 p.m. to 12:05 p.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY  
**Jennifer L. McLaren, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY
- 12:05 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.      Addressing Issues that Arise When Interviewing or Attempting to Interview Children:  
A Panel Discussion  
**Michele Brown, Esq.**  
Chief Attorney, Children's Legal Center  
Buffalo, NY  
**Courtney Radick, Esq.**  
Panel AFC, Oswego County  
Oswego, NY  
**Rachel Mitchell, Esq.**  
Panel AFC, Chautauqua County  
Jamestown, NY  
**Mary Kay Yanik, Esq.**  
Panel AFC, Livingston County  
Caledonia, NY
- 1:20 p.m.      Conclusion

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov) in the following format:

Subject: Webinar 6/7/22

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 6/7/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Tuesday May 31, 2022.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, THIRD DEPARTMENT  
*in collaboration with*  
THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*presents:*

A Continuing Legal Education Webinar Entitled:

**CUSTODY MODIFICATION PROCEEDINGS  
ISSUES TO KEEP IN MIND**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022**

**11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks

**Betsy R. Ruslander, Esq.**

Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Albany

**John W. Kraigenow, Esq.**

Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Albany

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Custody Modification Proceedings:

Issues to Keep in Mind

**Veronica Reed, Esq.**

Law Office of Veronica Reed  
Schenectady

Panel Member, Albany, Fulton, Schenectady  
& Schoharie County

1:15 p.m.

Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of one and a half (1.5) credit hours which can be applied as follows: one and a half (1.5) for the professional practice requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov) the following format:

Subject: Webinar 7/13/22

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 7/13/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Wednesday, July 6, 2022**. You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*Presents*

A CLE Webinar Entitled:

The Role of the AFC in Article 8 Proceedings  
with Hon. Deanne M. Tripi, Erie County Family Court Judge

**Wednesday July 27, 2022**  
**12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 1:05 p.m.**

- 12:00 p.m. to 12:05 p.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY  
**Jennifer L. McLaren, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY
- 12:05 p.m. to 1:05 p.m.      The Role of the AFC in Article 8 Proceedings  
**Hon. Deanne M. Tripi**  
Family Court Judge  
Eighth Judicial District  
Erie County Family Court  
Buffalo, New York
- 1:05 p.m.                      Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of one (1.0) credit hour which can be applied toward the professional practice requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov) in the following format:  
Subject: Webinar 7/27/22

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 7/27/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Wednesday, July 20, 2022.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*Presents*

A CLE Webinar Entitled:

**What Can I Learn From a Baby?  
Interviewing Children From Birth to Age 5 and Beyond**

**Friday, September 30, 2022  
12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 2:00 p.m.**

- 12:00 p.m. to 12:10 p.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY  
**Jennifer L. McLaren, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY
- 12:10 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.      What Can I Learn From a Baby?  
Interviewing Children From Birth to Age 5 and Beyond  
**Frank P. Alabiso, Ph.D**  
Suburban Psychiatric Associates  
Amherst, New York  
**Emily Vella, Esq.**  
Panel Attorney for the Child-Cattaraugus, Erie, Wyoming Counties  
Springville, New York
- 2:00 p.m.                      Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of two (2.0) credit hours which can be applied toward the skills requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov) in the following format:

Subject: Webinar 09/30/22

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 09/30/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Friday, September 16, 2022.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

THE OFFICES OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISIONS, THIRD and FOURTH JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS  
present:  
**INTRODUCTION TO THE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN**

**Day One - Monday, October 17, 2022**

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**Betsy R. Ruslander, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department  
**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department
- 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.      Representing a Child Client in Child Welfare Proceedings  
**Jacqueline Sands, Esq.**  
Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Rockland County  
New City
- 10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.      Representing a Child Client in Child Welfare Proceedings  
**(Continued)**
- 11:30 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 11:40 a.m.                      Conclusion of Day One

**Day Two - Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**John W. Kraigenow, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department
- 9:05 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.      Representing a Child Client in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings  
**Paul A. Sartori, Esq.**  
Directing Attorney, Sullivan Trail Legal Society, Inc.  
Elmira
- 10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.      Representing a Child Client in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings  
**(Continued)**
- 11:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 11:30 a.m.                      Conclusion of Day Two

### Day Three - Wednesday, October 19, 2022

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**John W. Kraigenow, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department
- 9:05 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.      Representing a Child Client in Custody & Visitation Proceedings  
**Douglas J. Broda, Esq.**  
Rensselaer County AFC Panel, Troy  
**Barbara J. King, Esq.**  
Tully Rinckey, PLLC, Albany  
**Elizabeth C. Schockmel, Psy.D.**  
Capital Psychological Associates, Albany
- 9:55 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 10:05 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.      Representing a Child Client in Custody & Visitation Proceedings  
**(Continued)**
- 10:55 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.      Question & Answer Period
- 11:05 a.m.                      Conclusion

*This seminar has been approved for a total of seven (7) credit hours, of which one (1) hour can be applied toward the ethics and professionalism requirement, two (2) hours can be applied toward the skills requirement, and four (4) hours can be applied toward the professional practice (family law) requirement. This program is suitable for experienced or newly admitted attorneys.*

OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*Presents*

A CLE Webinar Entitled:

**FOURTH DEPARTMENT CASE LAW UPDATE**

**Wednesday, November 2, 2022**  
**Time 12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 1:20 p.m.**

- 12:00 p.m. to 12:05 p.m.      Introductory Remarks  
**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY  
**Jennifer L. McLaren, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY
- 12:05 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.      Fourth Department Case Law Update  
**Maureen N. Polen, Esq.**  
Child Protection Coordinator  
The Legal Aid Society of Rochester  
Rochester, New York
- 1:20 p.m.                      Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of one and a half (1.5) credit hours of which one credit hour can be applied toward the professional practice requirement (Family Law) and half a credit can be applied toward the skills requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov) in the following format:

Subject: Webinar 11/02/2022

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 11/02/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Wednesday, October 19, 2022.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, THIRD DEPARTMENT  
*in collaboration with*  
THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*presents:*  
A Continuing Legal Education Webinar Entitled:

## **INTRODUCTION TO CYBERSECURITY FOR LAWYERS Ethical Requirements and Practical Considerations**

**Thursday, November 17, 2022  
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

- 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.                      Opening Remarks  
**Betsy R. Ruslander, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Albany, New York  
**John W. Kraigenow, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Albany, New York
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.                      Cybersecurity for Lawyers  
**Prof. Monique Ferraro**  
Adjunct Professor  
Cyber Security and Data Privacy Law Program  
Albany Law School  
Albany, New York
- 1:15 p.m.    Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of one and a half (1.5) credit hours which can be applied as follows: one (1.0) for the ethics requirement and one half (.5) for the professional practice requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov) the following format:

Subject: Webinar 11/17/22

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 11/17/22.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Wednesday, November 10, 2022.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*Presents*

A CLE Webinar Entitled:

**Social Media Evidence  
Current Law and Evidentiary Tactics**

**Thursday, January 5, 2023  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Noon)**

- 10:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.     Introductory Remarks  
**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**  
Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, New York  
**Jennifer L. McLaren, Esq.**  
Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, New York
- 10:10 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.     Social Media Evidence  
Current Law and Evidentiary Tactics  
**Michael J. Hutter, Esq.**  
Professor of Law at Albany Law School  
Albany, New York
- 11:10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.     Break
- 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.     Social Media Evidence  
Current Law and Evidentiary Tactics  
**Continued**
- 12:00 p.m.                     Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of two (2.0) credit hours both of which can be applied towards the professional practice requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov) in the following format:

Subject: Webinar 01/05/23

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 01/05/2023.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Thursday, December 22, 2022.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

## "Understanding Trauma in Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse"

2 Credits Professional Practice, .5 Credit Diversity

*Presented by the Children and the Law Section of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association*

Co-Founder & Co-Chair, Salihah R. Denman, Esq.

Co-Founder & Co-Chair, Lisa A. Daley, Esq.

Co-Vice-Chair, Monique Hardy, Esq.

Co-Vice-Chair, Teneé McKinley-Brooks, Esq.

Secretary, Grace Obama-Layat, Esq.

Chair, Membership Subcommittee, Melissa Paul-Franklyn, Esq.

Chair, Lecturer Procurement Subcommittee, Jadera Ramirez-Garcia, Esq.

Chair, CLE Subcommittee, Cameron Cory, 2L CUNY Law School

*Co-Sponsored by:*

*American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law and*

*The Offices of Attorneys for Children,*

*Appellate Division- First, Second, Third & Fourth Departments*

January 18, 2023-6:00-8:25 p.m.

Program Moderator: The Hon. Wayne Humphrey, JFC

Panelists:

**Lorraine Ronca D.O., F.A.A.P.,** Pediatrician, Child Abuse Pediatrics

**Dr. Traci Gardner, MD,** Medical Director, Children's Village

**Danielle Weisberg, LCSW,** Chief Child Welfare Officer, Westchester Institute for Human Development

**Ivory Bennett,** National Advisory Council for Children's Legal Representation

**Karen Crandall, Esq.,** Attorney for the Child

### TIMED AGENDA

Introduction: Welcome & Introduction of Hon. Kathie E. Davidson, Dean of the NYS Judicial Institute (Salihah R. Denman, Esq.)-2 minutes (6:00-6:02 p.m.)

Opening remarks: Hon. Kathie E. Davidson, Dean of the NYS Judicial Institute-4 minutes (6:02-6:05 p.m.)

Introduction of panelists (Melissa Paul-Franklyn, Esq. & Grace Obama-Layat, Esq.) -3 minutes (6:05-6:08 p.m.)

Introduction of moderator (Monique Hardy, Esq.)-1 minute (6:09-6:10 p.m.)

Moderator opening statement-2 minutes (6:11 p.m.-6:14 p.m.)

I. Presenter (20 minutes) (6:15-6:35 p.m.):

**Lorraine Ronca D.O., F.A.A.P.**

*Topics:*

What is sexual abuse?

Confidentiality

Trauma related to sexual abuse

Dynamics of sexual abuse

Evidence Collection

The Medical Assessment & why there are sometimes no findings

Implicit biases in the system  
Reaffirming normalcy for the child through the medical assessment

II. Presenter (20 minutes) (6:36-6:56 p.m.):

**Danielle Weisberg**

*Topics:*

What is WIHD

What role does it play in sexual abuse cases

Initial assessment to determine appropriate services

What is a multidisciplinary team?

How children are referred

Services available

III. Presenter (20 minutes) (6:57-7:17 p.m.):

**Dr. Traci Gardner,**

*Topics:*

Role of a Medical Director in the context a foster care agency

Trauma as it relates to the child's interaction with the various systems

How trauma presents in child survivors in foster care (i.e., behaviors)

Misdiagnosis and appropriate prescriptions (PTSD)

Definition of a family in the court system

Health and equity in the system

IV. Presenter (20 minutes) (7:18-7:38 p.m.):

**Ivory Bennett**

*Topics:*

Brief background on experience in foster care

From the perspective of a lived experience expert: (1) things Attorneys for Children should consider when advocating for their child clients; (2) things attorneys for parents should consider when advocating for their clients; (3) things foster care agencies should consider when interacting with child survivors of sexual abuse

V. Presenter (20 minutes) (7:39-7:59 p.m.):

**Karen Crandall, Esq.**

*Topics:*

Relationship building

Therapist v. Validator

Things to consider when representing a Child Survivor of sexual abuse: (1) behaviors resulting from the abuse; (2) services; and (3) visitation.

Steps to take when a child discloses sexual abuse outside the context of a sexual abuse proceeding.

Advocating for criminal prosecution on behalf of your child client.

Abuse allegations in the context of Article 6 proceedings

Parent representation (what to do and what not to do)

VI. Closing remarks from panelists/moderator:

**Dr. Traci Gardner (1 minute-8:00-8:01 pm)**

Lorraine Ronca D.O., F.A.A.P. (1 minute-8:02-8:03 pm)

Danielle Weisberg (1 minute-8:04-8:05 pm)

Karen Crandall, Esq. (1 minute-8:06-8:08 pm)

Ivory Bennett (1 minute-8:09-8:10 pm)

Hon. Wayne Humphrey (1 minute-8:11-8:12 pm)

Q & A: 15 minutes (8:13-8:23 p.m.)

Lisa A. Daley, Esq.

Salihah R. Denman, Esq.

Closing remarks: Lisa A. Daley, Esq.-2 minutes (8:24-8:25 p.m.)

THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, THIRD DEPARTMENT  
*in collaboration with*  
THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*presents:*  
A Continuing Legal Education Webinar Entitled:

**Recent Developments in Children’s Law  
Case Law and Legislative Update**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023  
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 (Noon) | <u>Opening Remarks</u><br><b>John W. Kraigenow, Esq.</b><br>Director, Office of Attorneys for Children<br>Albany   |
| 12:00 (Noon) - 1:15 p.m.  | <u>Recent Developments in Children's Law</u><br><b>Gary Solomon, Esq.</b><br>Director of Legal Support<br>The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice<br>New York City |
| 1:15 p.m.                 | <u>Conclusion</u>  |

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of one and a half (1.5) credit hours which can be applied as follows: one half (.5) for the ethics requirement and one (1.0) for the professional practice requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lq-seminar@nycourts.gov) the following format:

Subject: Webinar 02/22/23

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 02/22/23.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program’s 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Wednesday, February 15, 2023.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

**“Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Data Protection: What Family Law Practitioners Need to Know?”**

*Presented by the Family Law Section of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association  
The CLE will be co-sponsored by: Office of Attorney for Children First, Second, Third and Fourth Departments*

Co- Chairs, Asia Scarlett-Jones, Esq. & Charessa L. Glover-Thomas, Esq.  
Co-Vice- Chairs, Patricia Cameron, Esq. & Yvonne Agbontaen, Esq.  
Secretary, Tina Smith, Esq.

**March 1, 2023, 6:00pm-7:00pm**

**Speaker:**

Lawrence Montle, Esq., CISA, CFE, CIPP/US

**ORDER OF THE PROGRAM**

**Welcome and Introduction of Speaker:** Yvonne Agbontaen, Esq.

**Presentation:** Lawrence Montle, Esq., CISA, CFE, CIPP/US

**Questions/Answers and closing remarks:** Patricia Cameron, Esq.

**\*\* CREDIT: 1.0 N.Y. CLE credit: Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Data Protection**

**\*\*This program is transitional and is suitable for experienced and newly admitted attorneys. The Cybersecurity credit is effective July 1, 2023. If your biennial registration is before July 1, 2023, you cannot include it as part of your 24 credits.**

OFFICE OF ATTORNEYS FOR CHILDREN  
APPELLATE DIVISION, FOURTH DEPARTMENT  
*Presents*

A CLE Webinar Entitled:

**Addressing the Child Mental Health Crisis**  
Identifying and Supporting Youth with Behavioral Health Needs

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**  
**12:00 p.m. (Noon) to 1:45 p.m.**

12:00 p.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Introductory Remarks

**Linda J. Kostin, Esq.**

Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY

**Jennifer L. McLaren, Esq.**

Deputy Director, Office of Attorneys for Children  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department  
Rochester, NY

12:05 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Addressing the Child Mental Health Crisis  
Identifying and Supporting Youth with Behavioral Health Needs

**Melissa Castle Heatly, Ph.D.**

Director, Expanded School Mental Health Initiatives  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology  
University of Rochester Medical Center  
Rochester, NY

**Corey A. Nichols-Hadeed, J.D.**

Associate, Department of Psychiatry  
University of Rochester Medical Center  
Rochester, NY

**Leah Hill, M.Ed, CASAC-T**

Sr. SUD Counselor, Clinical Engagement Specialist  
URMC Strong Recovery Adolescent and Young Adult Program  
Rochester, NY

**Trisha Kilbourn, LCSW**

Clinical Coordinator, Primary Therapist  
INTERCEPT Clinic  
Rochester, NY

1:45 p.m.

Conclusion

*The Appellate Division, Fourth Department has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of continuing legal education in the State of New York from March 2, 2020 to March 1, 2023. Viewing of this webinar may be used to satisfy the Appellate Division's rules for continuing legal education (CLE) of attorneys for children. Additionally, this course has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board, for a maximum of two (2.0) credit hours which can be applied toward the skills program requirement. This is a transitional program suitable for both newly admitted and experienced attorneys.*

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**To register for the seminar**, email [ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov](mailto:ad4-lg-seminar@nycourts.gov) in the following format:

Subject: Webinar 3/15/23

Text: [your name] will attend the webinar on 3/15/23.

Attendance at this webinar will be applied toward satisfying the AFC Program's 5.5 hour biennial training requirement.

**Your registration email must be received on or before Wednesday, March 8, 2023.** You are not considered registered for the webinar unless you receive a confirming email to that effect. You will receive a confirming email within 3 business days. If you have not received a confirming email after that time, please contact Jen Kohler at [jkohler@nycourts.gov](mailto:jkohler@nycourts.gov). Please retain your confirming email as proof of registration.

"Essential Steps to a Successful Private Adoption Filing: The Do's and Don'ts"

CLE credits 1.5 (to be determined)

*Presented by the Children and the Law Section of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association*

Co-Founder & Co-Chair, Salihah R. Denman, Esq.

Co-Founder & Co-Chair, Lisa A. Daley, Esq.

Co-Vice-Chair, Monique Hardy, Esq.

Co-Vice-Chair, Teneé McKinley-Brooks, Esq.

Secretary, Grace Obama-Layat, Esq.

Chair, Membership Subcommittee, Melissa Paul-Franklyn, Esq.

Chair, Lecturer Procurement Subcommittee, Jadera Ramirez-Garcia, Esq.

Chair, CLE Subcommittee, Cameron Cory, 2L CUNY Law School

*Co-Sponsored by:*

*The Offices of Attorneys for Children: First, Second & Fourth Departments*

March 22, 2023-6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Program Moderator: **Teneé McKinley-Brooks, Esq.**

Panelists: **Maria Recine, Esq.** Assistant Deputy Counsel New York State Judicial Institute  
**Devin Harris, Esq.,** Associate Court Attorney  
**Robin Carton, Esq.,** Attorney for the Child/Petitioner

TIMED AGENDA

**Introduction:** Welcome & Opening Remarks (Monique Hardy) 2 minutes (6:00-6:02 p.m.)  
Introduction of Panelists and Moderator (Grace Obama-Layat) 3 minutes (6:03-6:06 p.m.)

\*\* Jadera Ramirez-Garcia will read the CLE Codes

**Topics:**

I. Presenter (30 minutes) (6:07-6:37 p.m.):

**Maria Recine, Esq.**

*Topics:*

- What is a private adoption?
- How does a private adoption differ from an agency adoption?
- Types of private adoptions (most common scenarios)
  - *Stepparent adoptions; same sex couples; second parent adoptions, sperm donor*
- What is an Adoption Certification?
  - Purpose
  - Forms
- What are the proper forms that need to be completed and filed with the Court?

- Petition
- Agreement of Adoption
- Affidavit Identifying the Parties
- Affidavit of Financial Disclosure
- Supplement Affidavit
- Order of Adoption
- Report of Adoption/Notification of Order of Adoption
- Adoptive Child's Medical History Form
- Consent of Natural Parent in Stepparent Adoptions
- Putative Father Registry Form
- ICPC, if applicable
- Additional Documents...
- Common issues that arise regarding private adoption filings in Westchester County

II. Presenter (20 minutes) (6:38-6:58 p.m.):

**Devin Harris, Esq.**

*Topics:*

- Common issues that arise regarding private adoption filings in NYCS
- Consents of Non-custodial Natural Parents
- What if the bio parent doesn't consent for instance in a stepparent adoption
  - What's next?
  - Potential Issues
- Notice vs. Consent Father
  - What does the hearing look like?
  - Standard of proof
  - Seminal cases?
  - Statutory authority?

III. Presenter (20 minutes) (6:59-7:19 p.m.):

**Robin Carton, Esq.**

*Topics:*

- Tips from a Private Practitioner
- Role of the AFC in private adoptions
- Tips from the Attorney for the Child
  - Are AFC's assigned or retained by the Petitioner?
  - Could the Petitioner retain the AFC?
    - Why or why not?
    - Ethical issues?

Q & A: 10 minutes (7:20-7:30 pm) (Salihah Denman, Esq. and Lisa Daley, Esq.)