



MONDAY MORNING MEMO

Monday, January 8, 2007 ~ Volume 2, Issue 1



The A-Train

“Zockleinisms”: Tips for Getting and Keeping Grants

Attached please find two pages of grantwriting tips from George Zocklein of Zocklein & Associates. These “tips” were shared by Zocklein, and by other presenters from United Way, Youth Bureau, and NYS UCS at the October grantwriting training for CASA programs, Children’s Centers, and Community Dispute Resolution Centers sponsored by NYS UCS.

Also attached are the contents of “The Table,” referenced in Zocklein’s tips. The Table is a collection of all the key ingredients an organization should have on file for a successful grant submission.

Zocklein has been writing grants and teaching grant writing for over 35 years. He has worked for federal and state governments as well as private not-for-profits, including CASA programs in other states. He has also provided resource development consultation for organizations across the country.

SAVE THE DATES: FEBRUARY REGIONAL CASA MEETINGS

ALBANY: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

BUFFALO: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

NEW YORK CITY: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

Meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day at the offices of the local CASA program.

Directors may attend any of the three meetings they choose.

Agenda (same for each meeting) and registration materials will be emailed out soon.



Presentation slated for national CASA Conference on Disproportionate Minority Representation in foster care

Greg Owens, Director of Special Projects at NYS Office of Children and Family Services, and Darlene Ward, Manager of the CASA Assistance Program at NYS UCS, will present at the June 2007 National CASA Conference. The presentation, entitled “Erasing Racial Bias: NYS Efforts to Address the Disproportionate Number of Minority Youth in the Foster Care and Family Court Systems,” will provide information on the over-representation of children of color in the juvenile justice and foster care systems, detail cross-systems efforts in New York State to address the issue, and discuss how CASA can be part of the solution.

The workshop will include information about a Fall 2006 conference on the topic, sponsored by the UCS Franklin J. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities and the New York State Family Court Judges Association. Held at the New York State Judicial Institute on Sept. 18, the conference also included community group leaders and law enforcement officials. Plenary Speaker for the event was Marian Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund.

Some of the recommendations from the conference included: increase the number of family court judges; focus family court proceedings on the entire family, not just the child; investigate why children of color don't receive the same services as other foster care children; improve juvenile justice data collection; improve monitoring of the system and its players; review drug arrest policies (panel members said low-level marijuana possession arrests bring many juveniles into the system); reduce discretion in parole/probation revocations; and explore electronic monitoring in lieu of detention. More information can be found at: www.nycourts.gov/publications/benchmarks/issue5/conference.shtml

You may find additional information on this issue on the Children’s Defense Fund website: www.childrendefense.org, particularly the Cradle to Prison Pipeline Initiative.

Please don’t forget to complete the online CASA survey regarding diversity and cultural competence. The link to the survey is: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=451452895288> The deadline for survey completion is **January 22nd.**

~~~~~ **What’s New at OCA?** ~~~~~

***Farewells and gratitude to Sheryl Dicker and Azra Farrell***

A going-away party was held November 29, 2006, in New York City to honor Sheryl Dicker, Executive Director of the Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. Speakers commending Ms. Dicker for her leadership and the many successful initiatives accomplished during her tenure at the Commission included Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye; Ellen Schall, Dean of the Wagner Graduate School for Public Service at New York University, former Co-chair of the Commission; and Judge Sharon Townsend, Administrative Judge, 8th Judicial District. Ms. Dicker will step down in January of 2007.



Also acknowledged at the event for her many contributions to reforms in child welfare and the courts was Azra Farrell, who retired from her role as Deputy Director of the Commission in November. CASA owes both women many thanks. They have strongly supported the CASA program's growth in recent years, and its institutionalization and funding within the court system.

The Commission was established in 1988 to address the problems of children whose lives and life chances are shaped by New York State's courts. The Commission was instrumental in the passage of New York State's Early Intervention Laws of 1992 and 1993 and created the nation's first statewide system of Children's Centers in the courts. Other activities have included developing tools to focus on the health, education and developmental needs of children in foster care, identifying new resources to assist the court in decision making and increasing resource capacity to improve outcomes for children.

### ***Erie County Family Court opens exhibit***

The Buffalo Law Journal reported that the sixth display in a series of children's art exhibits opened Monday at the Erie County Family courthouse.

Hon. Sharon Townsend, 8th Judicial District administrative judge, presided over an opening ceremony on the sixth floor of the downtown courthouse.

Displayed along the fifth- and sixth-floor walkways of the courthouse, the artworks were produced by area youths including several children in foster care who participated in summer art classes at Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes, Inc.

"The positive benefit to the children creating the artwork enhances their self-esteem by displaying it in a public exhibit," Townsend said in a press release. "Many of them come from difficult family circumstances and have not had the positive reinforcement that seeing their artwork in the courthouse provides. The display is a visual reminder to all litigants that their focus, as well as the focus of the Family Court, should be on the best interests of the involved children."

Coordinated by a subcommittee of the Cultural Advisory Board, co-chaired by Leslie Zemsky and Lisa Wardynski, the courthouse art project is a part of a wider effort to encourage art in public places.

The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo facilitates donations in support of the art project.

## **Resources**

### ***Information on Pro Bono Service and Nominations for Awards***

The American Bar Association Pro Bono and Public Service Committee and Center for Pro Bono website -- <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/> -- provides valuable resources to lawyers and organizations seeking pro bono representation. The Committee is currently seeking nominations for the 2007 ABA Pro Bono Publico Award. Five awards will be presented to individual lawyers and institutions



## **CASA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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in the legal profession that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged. If you wish to nominate a colleague or law firm for the 2007 ABA Pro Bono Publico Awards, the deadline for submissions is **February 9, 2007**. The Awards will be presented during the ABA Annual Meeting on August 13, 2007 in San Francisco, CA at a special luncheon. Information about past recipients, nomination guidelines, and a nomination form can be found at [http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/nav\\_awards.shtml](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/nav_awards.shtml)

### ~~~~~ **Ask OCA** ~~~~~

#### ***Document, communication and records confidentiality***

Please submit to the CASA Assistance Program questions regarding CASA court rules and confidentiality of documents and storage. We will be sending out a suggested "Best Practice" page for the UCS CASA Program Manual with the replies.

### ~~~~~ **Job Opportunities** ~~~~~

#### ***Director of Child Advocacy Services at Peacemaker Program***

The Peacemaker Program, Inc. seeks an excellent candidate for the position of Director of Child Advocacy Services to oversee the CASA and Child Custody Advocates programs there. Candidate must have excellent skills at building rapport, public speaking, problem-solving, supervision, giving and receiving feedback, superb writing skills, and working as part of a team. Director of Advocacy also assists with grant writing, donor cultivation and fund-raising efforts.

Requirements for the job are three to five years of human service experience, working with high risk families or children, and knowledge of Family Court and Child Welfare Systems. Preference will be given to candidates who possess at least one year of experience in Family Court or Foster Care work. Minimum one year of staff supervisory experience is required. Candidate must also possess experience recruiting, training and/or supervising volunteers, and hold a bachelor's degree in human services.

Contact: Brenda E. Episcopo, Executive Director, The Peacemaker Program, Inc., phone: 315.724.1718, or visit the program online at [www.thepeacemakerprogram.org](http://www.thepeacemakerprogram.org)

#### ***Pennsylvania CASA Program Seeks Director***

Court Appointed Special Advocates for Youth in Media, PA is seeking a new Program Director. Degreed candidates with child welfare, volunteer management and supervisory/program management experience are desired. Resume with cover letter, qualifications and salary history should be sent to: Peggy Futch at [Pfutch@verizon.net](mailto:Pfutch@verizon.net) or P.O. Box 407, Media, PA 19063.

### ~~~~~ **Quote of the Week** ~~~~~

"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not."



NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM • DIVISION OF COURT OPERATIONS

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*--Oprah Winfrey*

*This is a publication of the*  
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**Court Appointed Special Advocates Assistance Program**

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