Available Cases

Attorneys must be admitted to practice in the District of Columbia or be eligible to practice under Rule 49(c) of the Rules of the D.C. Court of Appeals. Attorneys should complete a relevant Children’s Law Center training.

If you are interested in handling one of the following cases, please contact Jen Masi, Pro Bono Director, at jmasi@childrenslawcenter.org or (202) 467-4900 ext. 541 or Mollie Jackson, Pro Bono and Intake Assistant, at mjackson@childrenslawcenter.org or (202) 467-4900 ext. 586.

Special Education

Caregiver seeks pro bono representation to help child secure special education services.

A. Mother seeks assistance securing special education services for her six-year-old son. The child attends kindergarten at a DC Public Elementary School. The child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which was updated in May 2017. The child’s IEP notes that he has a developmental delay and that his behavior impedes his learning and the learning of other children. The child has made little academic progress and can only count to twelve. Although the IEP notes that the child struggles to access his education without specialized instruction services, the IEP only provides six hours of specialized instruction per week. Legal advocacy is needed to ensure the child receives the necessary evaluations and appropriate services to support his success in school. **NOTE: A Spanish speaking attorney is needed for this case. Experience level: Beginner.** (MP)

Custody Guardian ad Litem

Judge requests a guardian ad litem to represent this child’s best interest in custody case.

A. **HIGH PRIORITY: Six-year-old boy needs GAL in custody case between parents.** In 2014, the child’s parents were awarded joint legal and physical custody. The child’s mother then moved to North Carolina and there is currently a temporary custody order in which the child’s mother has primary physical custody and the child’s father has visitation. There have been allegations of domestic violence, and the child’s mother alleges that the child’s father has subjected the child to inappropriate activity. The child’s father reports that he has not seen the child since November 2016 as a result of the mother’s relocation. However, at the most recent court hearing, the mother agreed to allow the father to have the minor child for most of the upcoming summer. The parties continue to disagree about where the child should live. The court would like the GAL to ensure that it has relevant evidence about both parties’ homes, to explore the child’s circumstances, and to advocate for a custodial arrangement that provides stability and is in the child’s best interest. Both parties are pro se. **Travel to North Carolina is required for this matter.** There is a status hearing on July 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. before Associate Judge Robert Okun. Experience level: Intermediate.** (BM)