

## Registration Form: Family Court Update – April 29, 2017

Please complete the following registration form and return it via mail, fax, or email along with your check in the appropriate amount to the New York State Defenders Association, 194 Washington Ave., Suite 500, Albany, NY 12210-2314; Fax 518-465-3249 or dgeary@nysda.org. The fee for this program is \$65 for public defenders, legal aid society lawyers, and assigned counsel attorneys who accept Family Court cases. For all other participants the fee is \$85. Your registration form must be received by **Friday, April 21, 2017**.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I am not engaged in the prosecution of criminal or family court cases. Do you have any special needs?   
Please check all that apply:  NYSDA Member  18-B Attorney  Legal Aid Society Attorney  Defender Office

To pay by credit card:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

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### NEW YORK STATE DEFENDERS ASSOCIATION

194 Washington Avenue, Suite 500  
Albany, New York 12210-2314

# Family Court Update

Presented by  
the New York State  
Defenders Association  
and the  
Monroe County  
Public Defender's Office

**Saturday,  
April 29, 2017**

Saturday, April 29, 2017  
Rochester Institute of  
Technology  
Golisano Auditorium

**6.0 MCLE Credits (.5 Ethics)**

## A G E N D A

**8:30-9:00 am**

Registration

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**9:00-10:15 am**

### **Preserving the Record and Seeking Stays in Family Court Matters**

Cynthia Feathers, Esq.

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**10:15-10:30 am**

Break

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**10:30-11:30 am**

### **Immigration Policy and Families**

Wedade Abdallah, Esq.

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**11:30 am-12:15 pm**

Lunch (Provided)

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**12:15-1:30 pm**

### **Explaining Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome to Family Court**

Bernadette Hoppe, Esq.

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**1:30-1:45 pm**

Break

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**1:45-2:45 pm**

### **Wrestling Hearsay in Family Court**

James Farrell, Esq. and  
James M. McGahan, Esq.

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**2:45-3:45 pm**

### **Tropea and Custody**

Timothy Davis, Esq.

## S P E A K E R S

**Wedade Abdallah** is the Immigration Program Director at the Legal Aid Society of Rochester, New York where her practice focuses on the intersection of the criminal and immigration laws. Ms. Abdallah's office is a part of the New York State Regional Immigration Assistance Centers. Through this program Ms. Abdallah advises defense counsel in the 7th Judicial District on the immigration consequence of criminal convictions and family court dispositions. Prior to joining the Legal Aid Society, Ms. Abdallah practiced criminal law for 10 years as an assistant public defender with the Monroe County Public Defender's Office. As a public defender she represented individuals charged with crimes before all of the courts in Monroe County. Ms. Abdallah is also a former associate of the Buffalo, New York law firm of Serotte, Reich and Wilson. As an associate, Ms. Abdallah defended non-citizens in removal proceedings before the Immigration Courts in Buffalo and at the Federal Detention Facility in Batavia. Ms. Abdallah is a 2003 graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School.

**Timothy S. Davis** received his B.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia in 1989, and his J.D. from the College of William & Mary in 1992. He joined the Monroe County Public Defender's Office in 1993, and represented clients on criminal matters at the trial level for thirteen years. He joined the Appeals' Bureau in 2006, and for seven years handled both criminal and Family Court matters. In 2013 he moved to the Family Court Bureau where for three years he represented adults in child abuse and neglect proceedings, domestic violence matters, and child custody cases. He rejoined the Appeals' Bureau in October of 2016.

**James Farrell** graduated from St. Lawrence University, cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts in History (with honors) and Government in 2007. He then attended the University of Buffalo Law School, where he concentrated in International Law and graduated in 2010. While at Buffalo Law, Mr. Farrell completed human rights and rule of law research in Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Kosovo. Mr. Farrell was admitted to the New York State Bar in December 2010. Mr. Farrell joined the St. Lawrence Public Defender's Office in November 2011.

**Cynthia Feathers** has 25 years of appellate experience and has done hundreds of appeals on varied civil and criminal topics, as retained counsel, as 18B counsel, and as an appellate attorney at two institutional defenders. Currently, she serves as Legal Director for the Rural Law Center of New York, a nonprofit organization that handles more than 100 mandated appeals each year for indigent Family Court and criminal defendants in several upstate counties. Ms. Feathers clerked at the Appellate Division, Third Department; served as an appellate attorney at the New York Attorney General's

Office in Albany and the Center for Appellate Litigation in New York City; and was an Adjunct Professor of Appellate Practice at Albany Law School. She recently chaired the New York State Bar Association's appeals committee and was a member of the State Office of Indigent Legal Services Appellate Standards Working Group.

**Bernadette Hoppe** became an attorney after working for 20 years in the arenas of reproductive health, perinatal health, and HIV/AIDS. Her daily practice is in family law, representing parents, children, and relatives in custody/visitation, abuse/neglect, family offenses, divorces, child support, and related proceedings. She is on the Assigned Counsel Panel of the Erie County Bar Association and the Fourth Department Attorneys for Children panel. Ms. Hoppe participates in the Court Improvement Project of the Erie County Family Court. She currently co-chairs the Practices and Procedures Committee in Family Court, which is a committee of the Erie County Bar Association. Ms. Hoppe sustains her interest in perinatal health through her participation on the Board of Directors of the National Perinatal Association. During her tenure as president of that Board, she coordinated a National Conversation on Maternal Deaths. She is currently co-chairing a national symposium on establishing best practices for pregnant, drug-using women and their babies. She is a frequent speaker on issues including reproductive and perinatal health, poverty and health, and various aspects of the child welfare system. Ms. Hoppe holds an M.A. in Women's Studies, a J.D. with a concentration on health law, and an M.P.H., all from the University at Buffalo. She serves as an adjunct instructor at the SUNY Buffalo Law School, Daemen College and D'Youville College.

**James M. McGahan** graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and, in 2012, graduated from New England Law School with a Juris Doctorate. He was admitted in New York State and Massachusetts in June 2012. Mr. McGahan joined the St. Lawrence County Public Defender's Office in June 2014. Prior to that, he worked for the Greene County Public Defender's Office from September 2012–June 2014.

## MCLE Credit

NYSDA 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 (2016–2019). This transitional/nontransitional program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 6.0 credit hours of which .5 credit hour may be applied toward Ethics and Professionalism. No CLE credit may be earned for repeat attendance at any accredited CLE activity within any one reporting cycle.