

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 06-05**

(Additions to Family Court Attorney Panel)

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 04-15 issued July 23, 2004 created the Panel Oversight Subcommittee of the Family Court Implementation Committee (“the Committee”) to consider applications to any Family Court Attorney Panel established pursuant to Administrative Order 03-11 and to recommend attorneys for inclusion on the Family Court Panel to the Presiding Judge of the Family Court and the Chief Judge; and

WHEREAS, the Committee submitted a final report on its procedures for evaluating applications and recommending names of attorneys to be added to the Family Court Panels as full or provisional members; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the parents and children of the District of Columbia involved in neglect and abuse and juvenile matters that attorneys be added to the Family Court Panels at this time and that a list of qualified and active attorney panels be reiterated;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY,

ORDERED, the attorneys whose names appear on the attached list, **Additions to 2006 Family Court Attorney Panels**, be and are hereby added to the Family Court Panel as full and provisional members respectively; and it is further,

ORDERED, at any time after one year, attorneys on the provisional panel may apply for full membership to the Family Court Panel pursuant to procedures to be issued by the Committee; and it is further,

ORDERED, as of the date of this order, the complete list of attorneys serving on CCAN and Juvenile panels is as set forth in the attached list, **Family Court Attorney Panels as of March 2006**; and it is further,

ORDERED, this order shall take effect March 26, 2006.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

March 27, 2006

/S/
Rufus G. King, III, Chief Judge

Copies to:

Judges

Magistrate Judges

Executive Officer

Clerk of the Court

Division Directors

Director, CCAN Office

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**REPORT OF
THE FAMILY COURT PANELS OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE FAMILY COURT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

I. INTRODUCTION

Chief Judge Rufus G. King, III, issued Administrative Order No. 03-11 establishing Attorney Panels to provide representation in certain Family Court proceedings. The panels were for appointment of attorneys in juvenile proceedings, as Guardians *ad litem* ("GAL's"), as special education advocates ("SEA's"), and as counsel to parties in neglect and termination of parental rights proceedings. The first panels were selected by an Ad Hoc Committee established in Administrative Order 02-15 and were approved by the Chief Judge in 2003.

On July 23, 2004, the Chief Judge in Administrative Order 04-15 created the Panel Oversight Subcommittee of the Family Court Implementation Committee ("the Committee") to consider applications to any Family Court Attorney Panel established pursuant to Administrative Order 03-11 and recommend attorneys for inclusion on the Family Court Panels to the Presiding Judge of the Family Court and the Chief Judge. The Administrative Order also authorized the provisional appointment to panels of those attorneys whose qualifications do not warrant full membership on the panels with the anticipation that after a period of one (1) year they will be considered for full membership upon review of their work during the provisional period.

In deciding which applicants are best qualified for appointment to the Family Court Panels, the Committee may seek the views of other judicial officers, including present and past members of the Family Court, and must consider the recommendations of the Family Court Advisory Attorney Selection Committee, composed of attorneys from the Public Defender Service, Family Court Trial Lawyer's Association and the Superior Court Trial Lawyer's Association.¹

¹ The Advisory committee was also established in Administrative Order 04-15. The Committee has reviewed all applications and provided recommendations for each Panel since its establishment in November 2004.

On August 4, 2004, the Chief Judge set September 17 as the annual application deadline for attorneys interested in applying for any or all of the Family Court Panels.

II. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Attorneys interested in serving on any or all of the panels were encouraged to apply by the filing deadline of September 17, 2005.

In addition to names, addresses and phone numbers, and the panels to which they were applying, applicants were asked to provide the following information:

1. languages other than English in which they are fluent;
2. whether they had previously applied for a Superior Court panel, and if so, the panel for which they were selected;
3. the percentage of full-time employment they hoped to devote to the Family Court and to each panel for which they were applying;
4. their current caseload by number of cases;
5. when they first received appointments for juvenile, GAL, special education, and CCAN cases;
6. their educational background, including the place and date of their law school degree, the colleges they attended, and any honors they received or significant activities or work in which they were involved while in school;
7. their office locations or client meeting places; their system for receiving messages from clients; their support staff, if any; their arrangements for coverage of cases when absent; and their modes of transportation for visiting children or clients;
8. whether they were a member in good standing of the District of Columbia Bar and all courts to which they have been admitted to practice;
9. their work history since law school and any other work experiences that might be of assistance in assessing their qualifications;
10. legal education programs they had attended within the previous five years; any course work or clinical training they completed concerning the law of evidence; and, their litigation experience;
11. their experience and expertise concerning residential placement; special education programs and procedures; adoption procedures, including adoption subsidies;

legal guardianship and custody proceedings; the Interstate Compact for Placement of Children; Section 8 and other housing programs for low-income persons; drug treatment programs; teen mother programs; independent living programs; mental health programs and issues; and domestic violence programs;

12. the names of up to five D.C. Superior Court judicial officers who would have the most information about their qualifications to serve on the panel or panels to which they were applying;

13. the number of cases in which they served as counsel, for each panel; the number of such cases they tried to verdict; and a description of not more than five such cases;

14. with respect to the Special Education Advocates, the committee considered whether they were willing to be compensated exclusively from the D.C. Public Schools ("DCPS") for their services;

15. whether since admission to the D.C. Bar they had ever been convicted of a crime carrying a potential sentence of 180 days or more in prison; been sued by a client; been the subject of disciplinary proceedings; or, been cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct in the District of Columbia or elsewhere;

16. any further information they believed might be of assistance in assessing their qualifications.

Finally, applicants were required to submit a Certificate Concerning Discipline from the Office of Bar Counsel, provide proof of payment of DC Bar dues, and certify that they are familiar with the D.C. Superior Court Abuse and Neglect and Juvenile Practice Standards (hereafter referred to as the "Standards").

A total of 69 attorneys applied for one or more panels: 37 applied for the GAL Panel, 38 for the Juvenile Panel, 37 for the Special Education Advocate Panel and 34 for the CCAN Panel.

III. EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS BY THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS

In November 2005, all associate judges, senior judges and magistrate judges assigned to the Family Court were e-mailed an evaluation form listing all of the

applicants and the panels to which they applied. The judicial officers were told that the Committee was seeking evaluations of each applicant for each panel to which he/she applied and were asked to evaluate all applicants with whom they were familiar. The evaluations were to be based on the judicial officer's personal knowledge of the applicant's competence and the quality of the applicant's work.

The evaluation form gave judicial officers the opportunity to grade applicants separately with respect to each panel to which they applied according to the following grading scale:

- A -- strong recommendation in favor;
- B -- recommendation in favor;
- C -- recommendation in favor with reservations;
- D -- mild recommendation against;
- E -- strong recommendation against.

The form also enabled judicial officers to provide a comment, of any length, concerning each applicant. Whenever possible, judicial officers were encouraged to provide comments in addition to letter evaluations. The judicial officers were assured that the Court and the Committee would keep their grades and evaluations confidential. Judicial officers were instructed to leave a blank if they did not have sufficient information to provide an evaluation. The Committee also received comments from other judges who were aware of an applicant and wished to communicate a recommendation or who were listed by the applicant as a reference and were thereafter contacted by a Committee member.

IV. PANEL SELECTION

Before meeting to discuss the qualifications of individual applicants, the Committee members were provided the attorney practice standards for child abuse and neglect attorneys and juvenile attorneys, and committee members received a copy of the applications of the candidates to thoroughly review and present to the committee.

Committee members were also provided reports concerning the applicants' grades from the judicial evaluations. Numerical values were assigned to each grade, with A=

+3; B=+2; C=+1; D=-1 and E=-3. For each applicant and for each panel to which the applicant applied, total and average scores were calculated based on the numerical values. The reports also showed the number of grades and the distribution of grades for each applicant, by panel. Finally, the recommendations from the advisory panel were provided to Committee members.

The selection meetings occurred on December 5, 2005, December 6, 2005 and December 13, 2005. The Committee member responsible for presenting a particular applicant summarized the applicant's background and experience, highlighted any special features of the application, and summarized the evaluations of the applicant by the judicial officers, including grades and comments, and the advisory committee recommendations. After discussion based upon all of the available information, a decision was made whether a particular applicant should or should not be placed on each of the panels to which he or she applied.

Some attorneys were excluded from a panel because their work is well known to judicial officers and the work was found to be deficient. Others, however, were excluded, particularly from the GAL Panel, because they lacked sufficient experience, because judicial officers had insufficient information about the quality of their work, or because they had not previously demonstrated a commitment to the work of the panel to which they applied. In some of these cases, the committee determined that these candidates could be added to the CCAN Panel on a provisional basis. These provisional panel members will be reviewed throughout the year by the subcommittee to determine whether they should remain as permanent panel members.

In addition, the Committee reviewed the attorneys who were placed on the CCAN Panel as provisional members for 2005. The Committee reviewed 14 attorneys in this category. The Committee recommends that a procedure be developed in 2006 to address the process that will be used when provisional attorneys are found not to be appropriate for continued practice as a panel attorney, the frequency of review during the provisional year and the number of years an attorney may remain on the CCAN Panel as a provisional member. Provisional membership is not available for the Special Education Advocate, GAL or Juvenile Panels.

Considerations relevant to selection of attorneys for the panels are discussed below:

I. CCAN PANELS

A. Guardians Ad Litem

The Committee recommends **two (2)** attorneys to serve as Guardians ad Litem.

As the only attorney whose sole responsibility is to represent the child's best interest, the GAL plays a crucial role in abuse and neglect proceedings. Faced with difficult and very significant decisions affecting the safety and welfare of children, the Court relies considerably on the GAL. The GAL is expected to provide information based on first-hand observations and to make recommendations about suitable placements, needed services, and, of course, permanency decisions.

Recognizing the importance of the GAL to be informed concerning matters of critical importance to children, the Committee applied a strict standard before including attorneys on the GAL Panel. To be selected for the GAL Panel, an attorney had to have significant relevant experience; favorable evaluations from a substantial number of judicial officers, and **not** have significant unfavorable evaluations or reservations expressed about his or her competence to serve as GAL. The Committee also considered the evaluations from the advisory panel.

Before placing an attorney on the GAL list, the Committee required a consensus (although not a unanimous opinion) among judicial officers that the attorney had the qualifications and experience to be entrusted with this vitally important role. Accordingly, attorneys who had many favorable judicial evaluations, but also many unfavorable evaluations, were not included on the GAL Panel.

Despite outstanding legal and other training and expressed interest in working on behalf of children, some applicants were not included on the GAL Panel because of lack of experience in neglect and abuse cases and lack of familiarity with the many issues about which an able GAL must have knowledge, including residential placement; the Interstate Compact for Placement of Children; independent living programs; kinship care programs; and adoption subsidies, to name just a few. Some applicants, who may be

qualified to serve as GAL's, were excluded from the panel because the court's judicial officers had insufficient experience with the applicant's work. Many unsuccessful GAL Panel applicants were placed on the CCAN Panel to represent parents and other parties. Others would have been placed on the CCAN Panel if they had indicated an interest in being considered for the CCAN Panel.²

Recognizing that the Family Court may need additional GAL's, the Committee recommends that judicial officers continue to appoint GAL's from the CCAN Panel if necessary to meet the Family Court's needs and to encourage those attorneys to gain the experience necessary to apply successfully for the GAL Panel in the future.

B. Parents And Other Parties

The Committee recommends **15** attorneys to serve as counsel for parents and other parties.

The Committee chose some attorneys for this panel who did not have substantial CCAN experience and whose work was not known to as many of the judicial officers. The deciding factor was whether the applicant showed great potential based on any of a variety of criteria, such as favorable evaluations or comments from the few judicial officers with knowledge; an outstanding education and work history; prior service as teachers, social workers or counselors or as attorneys in neglect and abuse cases in other jurisdictions; substantial continuing legal education related to neglect and abuse; and the like. In addition, experienced practitioners who had a significant number of favorable evaluations, but also a significant number of unfavorable evaluations were selected to this panel if on average their evaluations and ratings were favorable.

Among the 15 attorneys added to this panel nine (**10**) attorneys came from the 2005 provisional panel.

² The Committee believes less experienced new attorneys or experienced attorneys new to the Superior Court can obtain valuable experience and demonstrate competence and interest in neglect and abuse work by working on the CCAN panel.

C. Special Education Advocates

The Committee recommends **10** attorneys to serve as Special Education Advocates.

To qualify for this panel, the attorney had to demonstrate a substantial amount of experience in special education advocacy in the District of Columbia.

D. Review of the 2005 Provisional Panel

The Committee recommends provisional status for **14** attorneys.

The Committee reviewed judicial comments, concerning each of the current members of the CCAN Panel under provisional status. The Committee recommends that some members become full members of the CCAN Panel, that others remain on the CCAN Provisional Panel so that the Court can obtain more information about their performance as counsel in cases, and that others be removed from the CCAN Panel because they have not made themselves available for appointment or otherwise expressed an intent not to take additional cases.³

II. THE JUVENILE PANEL

The Committee recommends **13** attorneys for the Juvenile Panel.

In the case of the Juvenile Panel, the successful applicant had to have juvenile court or criminal law experience.

To a certain extent, the Committee limited the number of persons recommended for the Juvenile Panel because of the substantial number of juvenile cases assigned to the Public Defender Service.

In addition to recognized competence, a prerequisite for selection to the Juvenile Panel was demonstrated specialized experience.

³ After the receipt of a report from Wilma Brier, Director of CCAN, which indicated that these attorneys had either declined to take cases during the 2005 year due to other obligations or failed to participate in training, the Committee removed them from the list of active attorneys, subject to reconsideration upon request by the attorney.

Respectfully submitted:

FAMILY COURT PANEL COMMITTEE

Associate Judge Robert Morin, co-chair
Magistrate Judge S. Pamela Gray, co-chair
Magistrate Judge Karen Aileen Howze
Magistrate Judge John McCabe
Associate Judge John Mott
Magistrate Judge William W. Nooter
Associate Judge Linda Turner
Associate Judge Odessa Vincent
Associate Judge Zoe Bush

Dated: December 16, 2005

ADDITIONS TO

2006 FAMILY COURT ATTORNEY PANELS

March 2006

GAL Panel

Anna Dorota Adamczyk
Cecilia Fiermonte

Special Education Advocate Panel

Brian Gruber
Cecilia Fiermonte
Tracy Hellena Riller Givens
Olkanma A. Ekekwe
Charles Gavin Maddox
Dolores L. Scott McKnight
Chesseley Alexander Robinson
John Strauss
Marshall Taylor
Dawn Wilson

Juvenile Panel

Louis Barnett
Ada Chan
Moses Cook
Steven Chapman Fraser
Tracy Hayes
Peter Ibe
Whitney Trevelyan Louchheim
Charles Gavin Maddox
William Caswell Morgan
Zachary Rosenburg
Stephanie Schwartz
Lillian Shepherd
Louis Whitsett

CCAN

Ada Chan
Anna Adamczyk
Moses Cook
Glen C. Duncan
Jason Dzubow
Cheryl Mitchell Gaines

Peter C. Ibe
Elena Iuga
Chidinma Iwuji
Michelle Klass
Relinda Louisy
Roslyn Ridley
Jill Savedoff
Stephanie Schwartz
Lillian Shepherd

CCAN Provisional

Mary Ellen Arnold
Timothy Bryan Bookhard
Hilary Cairns
Ronald Anthony Colbert
JoAnna D. Gorsage
Tracy Hayes
Jacqueline Ivey
John Hoppe
Alan Scott Gregory
Ernesto Lucas Luna
Markiedah Ann Messam
Julius Terrell
Karen Walker
Cynthia Jefferson

Family Court Attorney Panels as of March 2006

(Attorneys who are inactive or who are missing CLE requirements have been omitted.)

(Any questions should be directed to Wilma Brier at BrierWA@dcsc.gov or 879-1301.)

GAL Panel

Anna Adamczyk
Iris Barnett
Alicia Barsoumian
Ranu Basu
Ashok Batra
Marion Baurley
Pierre Bergeron
Cathy Braxton
Sabine Browne
Steven Burns
Debra Burton
Deborah Cason Daniel
Reina Chassy
Margaret Clark
John Connelly
Gregory Cotter
Joel Curtis
Carolyn Daniels
Yvonne Davis-Smith
Jenny Epstein
Rachel Evans
Charles Feezor, III
Cecilia Fiermonte
Matthew Fraidin
Jerelyn Gladden
Harry Goldwater
Al Gonzalez
Kate Gould
Jennifer Hancock
Michelle Henry
Lawrence Huebner
Shirin Ikram
Rosalind Johnson
Joseph Jose
Kevin Kassees
Judith Katz

Jessica Kendall
Azhar Khan
James King
Robert LaBelle
Richard Landis
Anne Lewandowski
Thomas Lydon
Keely Magyar (Lawyers for Children America)
Adriane Marblestein-Deare
Terri Marsh
Laurie McManus
Thalia Meltz
Karen Mitchell
Janice Moore
Monica Myles
Michael O'Keefe
Lucy Osakwe
Yasmine Pahlavi (Children's Law Center)
Carla Rappaport
Andrew Reese
Amrutha Rode
Pamela Roth
Joanne Schamest
Anne Schneiders
Sharon Singh
Betty Sinowitz
Lawrence Spillan
Virginia Stith
Leslie Susskind
Sharon Taylor-Smith
George Tilton
Kelly Venci
Milton Waddell
Stephen Watsky
Diane Weinroth (CLC)
Dawn Wilson

CCAN Panel

Anna Adamczyk
Sheila Albright
Glen Angelo
Michael Barry
Alicia Barsoumian
Ranu Basu
Ashok Batra
Marion Baurley
Pierre Bergeron
Richard Bianco
Larry Blackwood
Melanie Brady
Cathy Braxton
Rhonda Brown
Sabine Browne
Steven Burns
Debra Burton
Marco Cabezas
Robert Cambridge
Deborah Cason Daniel
Ada Chan
Reina Chassy
Margaret Clark
Wesley Clarke
David Cohen
Phillip Collins
John Connelly
Ted Conwell
Moses Cook
Gregory Cotter
Joel Curtis
Carolyn Daniels
Ardelia Davis
Yvonne Davis-Smith
Thomas Devlin
Martha Dickey
Ralph Dickinson
Victoria Dobbins
William Driscoll
Gwen D'Souza
Glen Duncan
Jason Dzubow
Jenny Epstein
Dennis Eshman

Richard Espovich
Rachel Evans
Donald Exner
Kevin Fahey
Charles Feezor, III
Semi Feuer
Matthew Fraidin
Lewis Franke
Cheryl Mitchell Gaines
William Glasgow
Harry Goldwater
Al Gonzalez
Kate Gould
Hagos Haile
Jennifer Hancock
Peter Hapworth
Barbara Hargrove
David Hayes
Michelle Henry
Murphy Henry
Robert Hollander
Peter C. Ibe
Shirin Ikram
Elena Iuga
Chidinma Iwuji
Gary Jacobs
Bashiru Jimoh
Rosalind W. Johnson
Joseph Jose
Lauren Kahn
Regina Kane
Nancy Karkowsky
Kevin Kassees
Judith Katz
Azhar Khan
Jack Kindsvatter
James King
Patrick Knight
Desiree Knights-Taylor
Michelle Klass
Robert LaBelle
Francis Lacey
Richard Landis
Robert Lavine

Anne Lewandowski
David Lisansky
Relinda Louisy
Thomas Lydon
Adriane Marblestein-Deare
Terri Marsh
Laurie McManus
Thalia Meltz
Karen Mitchell
Janice Moore
William Morgan
Monica Myles
Madhavan Nair
Cynthia Nordone
Howard Nussbaum
Michael O'Keefe
Ethel Ollivierre
Lisa Orlow
Lucy Osakwe
Carol Oshinsky
Thomas O'Toole
Yasmine Pahlavi (CLC)
Jon Pascale
Carla Rappaport
Andrew Reese
Jennifer Renton
Marc Resnick
Roslyn Ridley
Laura Rinaldi (CLC)
Norman Robinson
Amrutha Rode
Pamela Roth
Gwenette Sales
Jill Savedoff
Joanne Schamest

Steven Schiff
Seth Schraeger
Stephanie Schwartz
Frederick Seelman
Asif Shah
Lillian Shepherd
Denise Simpson
Sharon Singh
Betty Sinowitz
David Sitomer
Lawrence Spillan
David Stein
Gerald Stevens-Kittner
Virginia Stith
Ann Suh
Ethan Susskind
Leslie Susskind
Sharon Taylor-Smith
Carol Terry-Blume
Alvin Thomas
Ronald Thomas
George Tilton
Hope Umana
Kelly Venci
Maria Vilches
Dominic Vorv
Lydia Wade
Beth Walker
Russell Washington
Stephen Watsky
Diane Weinroth (CLC)
Louis Whitsett
Dawn Wilson
William Wordsworth

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JoAnna D. Gorsage
Alan Scott Gregory
Tracy Hayes

John Hoppe
Jacqueline Ivey
Cynthia Jefferson
Ernesto Lucas Luna
Markiedah Ann Messam
Julius Terrell
Karen Walker

Special Education Advocate Panel

Donovan Anderson
Iris Barnett
Fatmata Barrie
Marion Baurley
Pierre Bergeron
Jennifer Bingham
Steven Boretos
Cecilia Fiermonte
Tracy Hellena Riller Givens
Harry Goldwater
Brian Gruber
Michelle Henry
Elizabeth Jester
Bonita Jones-Moon
Joseph Jose
Anne Lewandowski
Charles Gavin Maddox
Dolores L. Scott McKnight
Laurie McManus

Cathy Braxton
Deborah Cason Daniel
John Connelly
Gregory Cotter
Fatema Dariani
Yvonne Davis-Smith
Olkanma A. Ekekwe
Lucy Osakwe
Laura Rinaldi
Chesseley Alexander Robinson
Pamela Roth
John Strauss
Marshall Taylor
Sharon Taylor-Smith
Ronald Thomas
Stephen Watsky
Dawn Wilson
Donna Wulkan

Juvenile Panel

Louis Barnett
Jennifer Bingham
Larry Blackwood
Bryan Brown
David Carr
Ada Chan
Anil Chopra
Moses Cook
Joel Davidson
Thomas Devlin
William Driscoll
Steven Chapman Fraser
Harry Goldwater
Hagos Haile
Peter Hapworth
Geoffrey Harris
Tracy Hayes
Kristin Henning
Robert Hollander
Peter Ibe
Shirin Ikram
Kevin Irving

Gary Jacobs
Joseph Jose
Ayanna Kambui
Martin Killingham
John Kirby
Robert LaBelle
Francis Lacey
Robert Lavine
Stacey Lewis
Whitney Trevelyan Louchheim
Thomas Lydon
Charles Gavin Maddox
Adriane Marblestein-Deare
Lloyd McNair
William Caswell Morgan
Madhavan Nair
Howard Nussbaum
Chiemeka Opaigbeogu
Lucy Osakwe
Zachary Rosenburg
Gwenette Sales
Lisbeth Sapirstein

Steven Schiff
Seth Schrager
Stephanie Schwartz
Asif Shah
Lillian Shepherd
Carol Terry Blume

Ronald Thomas
Lydia Wade
Charles Wall
Louis Whitsett
Wanda Williams