

# **THE ESSENTIALS OF PARENT REPRESENTATION: A TWO-DAY TRAINING FOR ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING PARENTS IN CHILD PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS**

**September 1 & 2, 2010  
Weber's Inn  
Ann Arbor, Michigan**



**Sponsored by:  
State Court Administrative Office  
Child Welfare Services Division  
and  
Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice**

**Cosponsored by:  
*Detroit Center for Family Advocacy***

This project was funded by a federal Children's Justice Act grant to the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice administered through the Michigan Department of Human Services, under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, CFDA 93.643, being sections 107(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) as amended (42 USC 5101 *et seq.*); and the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as amended (42 USC 10601 *et seq.*) In addition, this is a joint project of the State Court Administrative Office and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, chaired by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Weaver, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This two-day training will cover the essentials of representing parents in child protective proceedings. The first day will focus on substantive statutory and constitutional law, discovery and investigation practices, administrative practice, and other aspects of parent advocacy. The second day will feature an interactive forum concentrating on trial-related skills. Presenters include Professors Joshua Kay and Vivek Sankaran of the University of Michigan Child Advocacy Clinic; Tracy Green, Managing Attorney of the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy; and staff from the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. Space for this training is limited, and preference will be given to attorneys with less than five years of experience.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

**Parent attorneys with less than five years of experience.**

## AGENDA

**Wednesday, September 1, 2010**

Presenters:

**Tracy Green**, Managing Attorney, Detroit Center for Family Advocacy.

**Joshua Kay**, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Michigan Law School, Child Advocacy Law Clinic.

**Vivek Sankaran**, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Michigan Law School; and Director, Detroit Center for Family Advocacy.

8:30-9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>
9:00-9:30 a.m.	<b>Introduction and Overview of the Training</b>
9:30-11:00 a.m.	<b>Statutory Overview/Constitutional Arguments</b> <i>Includes 15 minute break</i>
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<b>Building Relationships with Clients</b>
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00-2:00 p.m.	<b>First 60 Days</b>
2:00-3:00 p.m.	<b>Building a Case for Trial</b>
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15-4:15 p.m.	<b>Post Dispositional Advocacy</b>
4:15-5:00 p.m.	<b>Town Hall Meeting</b>

**Thursday, September 2, 2010**

Presenters:

**Jeffrey Adolph**, JD, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
**Anne Marie Lancour**, JD, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
**Mimi Laver**, JD, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
**Elizabeth Thornton**, JD, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
**Scott Trowbridge**, JD, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law

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| 8:30-9:00 a.m.        | Registration   |
| 9:00-9:15 a.m.        | <b>Introduction to Program – Assignment of Exercises</b><br><i>Review of materials, tools, explanation of format for the day.<br/>Afternoon exercises will be assigned.</i>  |
| 9:15-10:15 a.m.       | <b>Five Questions/Considerations to Frame the Day Direct/Cross-Exam Demonstration</b><br><i>Framing the day for participants. Demonstration of effective direct and cross-examinations.</i>  |
| 10:15-10:30 a.m.      | Break  |
| 10:30-11:30 a.m.      | <b>Trial Advocacy Discussion</b><br><i>Discussion led by experienced trial attorneys who will cover the art of advocacy, parts of a trial, direct and cross-examinations, and working with witnesses.</i>                          |
| 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | <b>Preparation for Exercises</b><br><i>Small group work discussing trial strategies and other preparations for the afternoon exercises.</i>  |
| 12:30-1:15 p.m.       | Lunch  |
| 1:15-3:00 p.m.        | <b>Small Groups: Trial Skills Session</b><br><i>The attendees will practice their advocacy skills by participating in exercises based on a specific case scenario. Each participant will participate in at least one exercise.</i> |
| 3:00-3:15 p.m.        | Break  |
| 3:15-4:30 p.m.        | <b>Small Groups: Trial Skills Session (continued)</b>  |

## CONFERENCE COSTS

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION COST TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE. The cost of the conference is generously funded through the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice (GTF). All training materials and lunch are provided.

A confirmation notice will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the conference. If you have not received a confirmation to attend, but believe you are registered, contact Heather Leidi at 517-373-5322 or [LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov).

## LODGING INFORMATION

A limited block of overnight rooms has been reserved at Weber's Inn at a rate of \$65 per night. This block of rooms will be released back to the hotel after August 1, 2010, so make your reservation early. **We cannot guarantee this rate after the August 1 deadline.**

**To make your reservations at Weber's Inn** please call 800-443-3050 and reference the "Trial Skills for Michigan Child Welfare Parents' Attorneys" group, **MC090110TH**, to ensure that you receive the reduced rate. Weber's Inn is located at 3050 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Directions can be found on the following websites:

Website: <http://www.webersinn.com/>

MapQuest: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please complete and submit the attached registration form.

You should submit your registration as soon as possible to maximize your opportunity to attend. Your registration is a commitment to attend the **entire portion** of the training for which you register. Please do not register to attend this training unless you have scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend.

If you need to cancel after you have been confirmed to attend this conference, please contact Heather Leidi at [LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov) or 517-373-5322 as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Onsite registration is **not** available. Please note that registrations will not be accepted after **August 25, 2010**.

# The Essentials of Parent Representation: A Two-Day Training for Attorneys Representing Parents in Child Protective Proceedings

**Weber's Inn  
3050 Jackson Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
September 1 & 2, 2010**

## REGISTRATION

(Please type or print legibly as this information will appear on your name tag)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P-Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian lunch request: \_\_\_\_\_ Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years practicing in Child Welfare: \_\_\_\_\_

**Training open to those with five (5) years or less years of practice.**

Please return the completed registration form to Heather Leidi by **August 25, 2010**, via e-mail ([LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov)), fax (517-373-8922), or regular mail: Michigan Hall of Justice, P.O. Box 30048, Lansing, MI 48909.

For further information, or if you require special assistance at the conference, please contact Heather at 517-373-5322.