Kids Matter

Child Protection and Advocacy Law Section Spring 2016

From the Chair

By Nicki Noel Vaughan

Welcome to the Spring, 2016, issue of *Kids Matter*. Thanks again to our editor, Tonya Boga, for another interesting and informative newsletter. In this edition, an article by Vicky Kimbrell, GLSP lawyer, analyzes the ADA and Section 504 with respect to representation of disabled children and parents involved in child welfare cases. Another article spotlights Ira Foster, Managing Attorney with the GLSP Macon office. Hopefully, these articles will encourage others of you to send in "good news" stories of unique work done or programs developed.

We welcome volunteers to serve on the Editorial Board, to submit an article for publication, or to join any of the Section committees.

MEMBERSHIP:

The section currently has 440 members. Thanks for your continued support. Your dues have gone to provide and support valuable training and activities this year. Let's all try to get some new members to join the section so that they can take advantage of the benefits of section membership.

ACTIVITIES OF THE QUARTER:

The highlight was the Annual CLE on Jan. 28. The section awarded 20 full scholarships to members. Attendance was high, and the reviews were overwhelmingly positive. Our "Before You Plea/Collateral Consequences" posters were displayed in the Auditorium and many attendees took posters to distribute in their communities. There are still many left, if anyone wants to distribute them to local schools, teen centers, or clubs to disseminate the information. Please let us know if you want some.

The Section Annual Meeting was held during the lunch break of the CLE. Members voted to continue the current officers for another year. An Annual Report will be distributed in June.

The section again co-sponsored the VOICES for Georgia's Children Legislative Reception. It is an excellent opportunity for relaxed conversation with legislators and other government officials.

In February, the Section collaborated with Georgia Appleseed in presenting a CLE in Savannah entitled "Education Advocacy for Children in Care: Student Tribunal Hearing Training." The seminar was created to teach *pro bono* lawyers how to represent foster care children in school tribunals. An afternoon component was added offering topics about school discipline issues and a presentation by Hon. Leroy Burke, Chief Juvenile Court Judge of Chatham County. It was an excellent opportunity for the section to reach out to the lawyers from the Savannah area and encourage them to join the section and to form a sub-section in that area. John Paul Berlon volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee to solidify the presence in that area.

In March, the section co-sponsored a School Dropout to Prison Prevention Workshop with GLSP, Georgia Appleseed, the Truancy Intervention Project, and the Southern Center for Human Rights. The 4-hour event took place as part of the Alpha Phi Alpha Southern Regional Convention and consisted of presentations to groups of teens by the various sponsors, as well as Alpha Phi Alpha members on topics related to keeping teens in school, providing information to them about various aspects of their rights, as well as warning them about the disadvantages involved in dropping out of school.

Two bills were approved by the Board of Governors to be part of the State Bar's Legislative Agenda. One bill amended O.C.G.A. § 15-11-103 to strengthen the waiver of representation from parents in Dependency cases; the other was intended to clarify O.C.G.A. § 15-11-35 regarding some issues surrounding Juvenile Court Orders that are appealed. Both bills were combined into one and passed the House unanimously. Unfortunately, it was left to die in the Rules Committee of the Senate due to end-of-the-session "priorities." It was a very disappointing session for us. We will re-file this bill next year and hope that the legislative session is not as volatile as this year's. Many thanks, though, go to the State Bar's legislative team, who worked very hard this session on many unusual bills.

As always, we want and need your support. State Bar sections exist to serve their members. Let us know what you need and what you would like to see the section provide. Thank you all for your continued support.

Inside This Issue

Practice Before Juvenile Court

By Hon. Leroy Burke III

The Hon. Leroy Burke III presented *Practice Before Juvenile Court Under the New Juvenile Code* on Feb. 19, 2016, at the Section CLE. Click here to view his entire PowerPoint presentation. The presentation is one worth reviewing if you were unable to attend and worth looking at again if you were fortunate to be in attendance.

Some highlights from the presentation include the purpose of the new code which are pointed out as:

- Secure for each child who comes within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court such care and guidance, preferably in her/his own home, as will secure her/his moral, emotional, mental, and physical welfare as well as the safety of both the child and community.
- Protect the community, impose accountability, and equip offenders with the ability to live responsibly and productively.
- Strengthen family relationships, removal only when state intervention is essential to protect such child and enable her/him to live in security and stability
- Assure all parties (especially children) a fair hearing

"Above All, This Chapter Shall Be Liberally Construed To Reflect The Paramount Child Welfare Policy Of This State Is To Determine And Ensure The Best Interests Of Its Children"

In the presentation, Judge Burke addresses the Purpose of Delinquency Articles

1. Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to hold a child committing delinquent acts accountable for his or her actions, taking into account such child's age, education, mental and physical condition, background, and all other relevant factors, but to mitigate the adult consequences of criminal behavior;
2. To accord due process of law to each child who is accused of having committed a delinquent act;
3. To provide for a child committing delinquent acts with supervision, care, and rehabilitation which ensure balanced attention to the protection of the community, the imposition of accountability, and the development of competencies to enable such child to become a reasonable and productive member of the community;
4. To promote a continuum of services for a child and his or her family from prevention of delinquent acts aftercare, considering, whenever possible, prevention, diversion, and early intervention, including an emphasis on community based alternatives;
5. To provide effective sanctions to acts of juvenile delinquency; and
6. To strengthen families and to successfully reintegrate delinquent children into homes and communities

Judge Burke points out the Different Roles in Juvenile Court

- Delinquency
  - Child
  - Child's attorney
  - Parent/Guardian
  - District Attorney
  - Intake/Probation Officer
- CHINS
  - Child
  - Child's attorney
  - Parent/Guardian
  - Intake/Probation Officer/Petitioner
- Dependency
  - Child
  - Child's attorney
  - Guardian Ad Litem
- CASA
  - Parents
  - Parents attorney
  - SAAG Department of Family & Children Services
  - Various DFCS Workers: Investigator, Initial Placement, Foster placement, Case Manager

Further topics of interest to section members include:

- Delinquency time limitations form the subject of review in slide 16
- In slides 21-26, Judge Burke addresses the difference between attorney and GAL
- Slides 27 and 28 highlight dependency tools
- Slides 29-33 address the Best Interest Standard
- Attorneys who have practiced in juvenile court have no doubt been confronted with ethical dilemmas. Judge Burke discusses ethical dilemmas in slides 34-38.

Overall, the presentation was a comprehensive thought provoking and helpful guide to practicing under the new code- a must review.

The section again extends a sincere Thank You to Judge Burke for his presentation, guidance and support.

Do you know of someone who has made a positive impact in the area of Child Protection and Advocacy in Georgia?

If so, please send an email to Tonya.Boga@gmail.com with the story and ask for it to run in the "Kudos!" section of the Newsletter.
Remember that Pictures are also welcomed and suggested.

Kudos! to Ira Foster

On Oct. 15, 2015, Georgia Legal Services Program Executive Director, Phyllis Holmen, presented the Dan Bradley Legal Services Award to Ira Foster.

Ira serves on the Child Protection and Advocacy executive committee and is very active in the community with youth, to include making them aware of their legal rights and providing them with the tools to make good decisions.

The Child Protection and Advocacy Section also recognizes Ira for his work in helping to organize a Youth and The Law Summit on Jan. 16 in Warner Robins. Over 100 parents and youth attended the summit. The presenters talked with the Youth about the law and legal issues, making good decisions and staying in school. Damon Elmore, past YLD president and current Board of Governors member was the moderator for the event. Many of the youth that attended were from low income household environments. Approximately 20 of the youth live in a group home setting. One of the highlights of the workshop was our section's Think Before You Act poster. Several of the presenters referred to the poster during their presentations. Many parents asked for copies of the posters at the conclusion of the summit. Please join us in recognizing Ira's work on behalf of youth in Georgia. All members are encouraged to use the posters to help educate youth and parents around the state.

Click here to download the poster.

Damon Elmore moderates the group discussion.

Participants at the Youth and the Law Summit

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The opinions expressed within *Kids Matter* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the State Bar, the Child Protection and Advocacy Section, the Section's executive committee or the editor.

DOJ and HHS Send Findings Letter on Disabled Parent's Discrimination Claim

by Vicky Kimbrell, Georgia Legal Services Program

The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sent a Letter of Findings to the Massachusetts Child Welfare Agency (Department of Children and Families, DCF) concerning accusations of disability-based discrimination in removing and failing to return a child to the parent. The disabled parent, whose child was taken by DCH from the hospital after birth, alleged that she was denied opportunities to benefit from services, that the agency failed to reasonably modify policies and procedures, and imposed administrative rules that had the effect of discriminating against her on the basis of her disability.

The letter was issued after the Departments' investigation detailed concerns over what they describe as "extensive, ongoing violations of Title II and Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by discriminating against the parent on the basis of her disability, and denying her opportunities to benefit from supports and services numerous times over the past two years, including her existing family supports."

The letter found that after the child was removed "[o]ver the next two years, DCF provided minimal supports and opportunities to Ms. Gordon while she sought to reunify with Dana.

They concluded that DCF has repeatedly and continuously denied Ms. Gordon the opportunity to participate in and benefit from its services, programs, and activities, and has otherwise subjected her to discrimination in violation of Title II. 42 U.S.C. § 12132. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services similarly finds that DCF has violated Section 504. 29 U.S.C. § 794(a). Initially, DCF failed to individually analyze Ms. Gordon to determine what services and supports were appropriate for her in an effort to prevent Dana's continued out-of-home placement. DCF then failed to (1) implement appropriate reunification services while Dana was in foster care; (2) identify appropriate service plan tasks; (3) assist Ms. Gordon in meeting service plan tasks to achieve reunification; (4) provide meaningful visitation and opportunities to enhance Ms. Gordon's parenting skills; and (5) impose only necessary and legitimate safety requirements."

"In particular, we conclude that DCF has violated its obligations under Title II and Section 504 at each stage of its process by (1) denying Ms. Gordon equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from its services, programs, and activities, 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(a), (b)(1)(i)-(ii); 45 C.F.R. § 84.4(a), (b)(1)(i)-(ii); (2) utilizing criteria and methods of administration having the effect of discriminating against Ms. Gordon on the basis of disability and defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of its reunification program with respect to Ms. Gordon, 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(3); 45 C.F.R. § 84.4(b)(3); and (3) failing to reasonably modify its policies, practices, and procedures where necessary to avoid discriminating against Ms. Gordon on the basis of her disability, 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(7). As a result, for more than two years, DCF has denied Ms. Gordon and Dana the opportunity to be a family and now threatens to deny them that opportunity permanently."

Attorneys for disabled children and parents should look at these findings and analyze how the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 might come into play in their child welfare cases. You can download the letter issued by the DOJ and HHS in PDF format at the following link: http://www.ada.gov/ma_docf_lof.pdf

Kudos! to Jackie Cauble

The Child Protection and Advocacy Section joins with Azi Golshan, Assistant Public Defender Coweta Judicial Circuit in recognizing the work of our colleague Jackie Cauble.

Cauble is the juvenile public defender in Troup County and has served as the juvenile public defender in Meriwether County. She represented a mother in a Meriwether County dependency case and appealed the case to the Court of Appeals. Golshan shared that the Court of Appeals, on its own motion, summoned Cauble and the state's attorney for oral argument this past summer. In the fall of last year, the Court of Appeals issued a 28 page opinion reversing the dependency finding, The opinion included lots of great language about the need for current dependency.

The case: Court of Appeals of Georgia, IN THE INTEREST OF J. C., a child. No. A15A1144. Decided Nov. 16, 2015.

Immigration Relief for Abused Children

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS

Information for Juvenile Court Judges and Child Welfare Professionals

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Overview

Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status is an immigration classification for certain foreign children present in the United States who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by a parent. Children may be eligible if they are the subject of a juvenile court order that makes certain findings regarding:

- Their court-ordered custody, placement or dependency;
- The non-viability of parental reunification; and
- The best interests of the child.

SIJ classification allows these individuals to apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status (also known as a Green Card). Children eligible for SIJ classification may include those who are:

- In a state's child welfare system;
- Currently (or were previously) in federal custody due to their undocumented status; or
- Living with a foster family, an appointed guardian or the non-abusive custodial parent.

PED.SIJ.1015

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify, a child must meet the following four requirements:

1. Be under 21 years of age at time of filing the SIJ petition;
2. Be unmarried;
3. Be physically present in the United States; and
4. Have an order from a juvenile court that makes the following three findings:

- **DEPENDENCY/CUSTODY:** Declares the child dependent on the court, or legally places the child under the custody of an agency or department of a state, or an individual or entity appointed by a state or juvenile court.
  - ☛ Temporary orders are generally not sufficient. If a state or an individual appointed by the state is acting in loco parentis, such a state or individual is not considered a legal guardian for purposes of SIJ eligibility.
- **PARENTAL REUNIFICATION:** Reunification with one or both of the child's parents is not viable because of abuse, neglect, abandonment or a similar basis under state law.
  - ☛ "Not viable" generally means the child cannot be reunified with his or her parent(s) before the age of majority.
  - ☛ The abuse, neglect, abandonment or similar basis under state law may have occurred in the child's home country or in the United States.
- **BEST INTEREST:** It would not be in the child's best interest to be returned to his or her country of origin.

M-1114B (October 2015)

Role of Child Welfare Professionals

Child welfare professionals are uniquely positioned to identify and assist victims of child abuse, neglect or abandonment who may be eligible for SIJ classification. Child welfare professionals may assist by:

- Referring the child's case to an immigration attorney or accredited representative;
- Providing assessments and reports to assist the juvenile court in making findings that may establish SIJ eligibility; and
- Collecting important documents, such as proof of the child's age and identity.

Role of Juvenile Courts

For SIJ purposes, a juvenile court is a court that has jurisdiction under state law to make judicial determinations about the care and custody of juveniles. Juvenile courts make child-welfare related findings based on state law. Juvenile court judges apply state law on issues such as:

- Jurisdiction;
- Evidentiary standards; and
- Parental notice, parental rights and due process.

Although USCIS relies on the juvenile court's findings on child welfare issues to determine whether a child is eligible for SIJ classification, only USCIS can adjudicate the SIJ petition.

Role of USCIS

USCIS determines if the child meets the statutory requirements for SIJ classification under immigration law by reviewing the SIJ petition (Form I-360) and supporting evidence, including the juvenile court order. USCIS reviews the juvenile court order to ensure that all of the requisite findings were made. USCIS also determines whether or not to consent to the granting of SIJ classification. In order to consent, USCIS must determine that the request for SIJ classification is bona fide, which means the court order was sought for relief from abuse, neglect, abandonment or a similar basis under state law, rather than primarily to obtain an immigration benefit. To make this determination, USCIS requires evidence of the factual basis that the court relied upon in making its findings.

Additional Tips

1. **BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CURRENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**
   Section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act establishes the definition of Special Immigrant Juvenile.
2. **PROVIDE THE FACTUAL BASIS FOR THE JUVENILE COURT ORDER FINDINGS.**
   Template court orders are usually not sufficient. The court order should include the factual basis for the findings on dependency or custody, parental reunification and best interests. Petitioners may also submit separate orders containing findings of fact, records from the judicial proceedings or affidavits summarizing the evidence presented to the court.
3. **BE TIMELY.**
   - The child must obtain the juvenile court order before he or she ages out of the court's jurisdiction. State laws on jurisdiction vary, but jurisdiction may end at 18 years of age.

     NOTE: If a child (who is otherwise eligible) ages out of the juvenile's court's jurisdiction prior to filing the SIJ petition with USCIS, he or she remains eligible to petition for SIJ classification.

   - The child must submit the SIJ petition to USCIS before turning 21, even in states where court jurisdiction extends beyond age 21.

     NOTE: If a child (who is otherwise eligible) turns 21 years of age after filing the SIJ petition with USCIS, he or she remains eligible for SIJ classification.

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M-1114B (October 2015)

Filing with USCIS

Petition for SIJ Classification

The child must have a juvenile court order that contains the required findings before filing the following forms and supporting documentation with USCIS:

	Petition for SIJ Classification
Form	Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant
Fee	None
Supporting Documentation	• The child's birth certificate or other evidence of the child's age; • Certified copy of the juvenile court order and documents that establish eligibility, including the judicial findings or additional evidence for the findings; and • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services consent, if a child in their custody seeks a juvenile court order that alters his or her HHS custody status or placement.
Supporting Forms	Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, if applicable.

Any documents submitted in a foreign language must be accompanied by a full English translation. Translators must certify that they are competent to translate and that the translation is accurate.

SIJ Based Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Application

A child who is granted SIJ classification must file a separate application to obtain LPR status, which is also known as "adjustment of status." An application for LPR status may be filed together with the Form I-360 if a visa number is immediately available at the time of filing (in the EB-4 category) and USCIS has jurisdiction over the child's application to adjust status. To apply for LPR status, a child submits a Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, with all required documentation and evidence. Form I-485 instructions provide detailed information about the filing requirements.

NOTE: Biological or former adoptive parents of a child who obtains LPR status through SIJ classification can never be granted any immigration benefits through the SIJ child. However, a child who obtains lawful permanent residence or U.S. citizenship, may petition for certain other qualifying family members through family-based immigration.

Questions to USCIS

State juvenile courts and child welfare agencies can submit general questions or outreach requests to **USCIS-IGAOutreach@uscis.dhs.gov**.

General SIJ Information

Visit the "Humanitarian" section of the USCIS Web site **www.uscis.gov/humanitarian**.

Reporting Crimes

Contact DHS Homeland Security Investigations at **(866) DHS-2-ICE** for concerns regarding human trafficking.

General Information on Adjustment of Status

http://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/adjustment-status

Questions Regarding a Case

You may ask USCIS about a case by calling **(800) 375-5283**, or making an INFOPASS appointment at **https://infopass.uscis.gov**.

Check Case Status

Check the status of a case by visiting the "Check your Case Status" section of **www.uscis.gov**.

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M-1114B (October 2015)

CHINS – Preventive Servicing

by Rebecca Rusk, Court Administrator/Clerk of Court, Forsyth County Juvenile Court

In February of 2000, the Forsyth County Juvenile Court established a community-based risk reduction program pursuant to former code O.C.G.A. § 15-11-10, now current code § 15-11-38. The program was aptly named the At-Risk Children's Committee (ARCC), and its purpose was to serve children within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court at risk of delinquency, unruliness, or of becoming what was then termed deprived. The court believed that an initiative to bring all the resources of the community to bear upon the many faceted problems presented by juvenile delinquency, unruliness and deprivation was the most effective way to find and implement workable solutions to very difficult problems. ARCC was founded as a multi-agency, multi-disciplined community-based committee whose members received referrals, met with the youths and their families, and developed action plans as an intervention. The program proved extremely successful in deterring potential cases away from formal court proceedings by providing the resources needed to get the child and family back on track.

When, in 2014, the new classification of CHINS (Child in Need of Services) cases was implemented by the state of Georgia, it seemed a natural choice to modify the existing program to rise to the challenge the new law presented. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-38, 39, 40, and 41, the Juvenile Court of Forsyth County re-established ARCC as a referral source for all new potential CHINS cases. We added a court-trained team of retired teachers and medical professionals (Case Progress Review Team, a.k.a. CPRT) to help review these plans. The idea for the panel came from the Citizen Panel Review Program established by law to help review dependency cases. Since CHINS is quasi civil in nature and more like dependency cases, it seemed a natural fit to modify that concept to assist with CHINS and ARCC cases, thus utilizing volunteer resources to help manage these referrals rather than more limited judicial resources. The Court also developed many additional programs to use as resources for CHINS and ARCC matters. Such programs include a weekend community service work program called the "Winds of Change" (WOC), another weekend program called Real Life Skills, the "Real Care Baby Program" and the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens®," to name just a few. We also employed the services of an LCSW and MFT for those families without sufficient income or insurance to obtain counseling services. These services are all available at no cost to the child or his family.

There are two differential tracks for referrals. One track is designed for child behavior while the other track is for deeper underlying family issues. Each referral is evaluated for the proper track by an Intake Officer. The Intake Officer then forwards the referral with recommendation to the ARCC/CHINS program Coordinator. The coordinator and chairperson of the committee is a court-appointed juvenile services specialist (JSS) with extensive experience in development and implementation of case and family plans. The coordinator completes a family assessment inventory and schedules a meeting between the child, family, and the ARCC committee membership. The membership consists of representatives from the court, Department of Family and Children Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the local school system, the District Attorney's office, the Solicitor General's office, the Community Connection, local youth shelters Bald Ridge Lodge and Jesse's House, Mentor Me North Georgia, AVITA Community Partners, the local CASA program, and SAFFT, the local visitation and family center. Under Administrative Standing Order and pursuant to applicable law, information is shared between agencies to assist the committee in providing proper services for at-risk youth and families assigned to the program.

The committee works collaboratively in developing early intervention action plans designed to meet the needs of the child and family. With a view toward diverting the case from court through appropriate supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation services, the committee may, in its discretion, request other agencies or individuals who are not members to come before the committee to provide information and expertise as deemed necessary. Family, intervention, and action plans along with behavioral contracts developed by ARCC are supervised by the court's Juvenile Services staff. Ten days following the implementation of a services plan, the matter is scheduled for review with the Case Plan Review Team (CPRT) for compliance. Following review, CPRT notes compliance or lack of compliance, and may suggest additional services. Following a second review by the coordinator for any modifications, the matter is subsequently reviewed by the committee at large within 30 days of the CPRT review. Reviews continue in this fashion for a maximum period of 120 days. If there is no improvement noted within this timeframe, a complaint, complete with all ARCC program notes is formally filed with the court, an advocate attorney for the child is appointed, and the matter proceeds to court for adjudication. If a child requires more intensive services, a referral to the Local Interagency Planning Team (LIPT) may be completed as well.

It is important to note that a key factor to success in this initiative is collaboration with our county leaders. It is imperative county leaders understand the local community is responsible for programming for these youth and families at-risk. This collaborative effort has afforded us the required funding to hire the ARCC/CHINS Coordinator, without whom it would be very difficult to be successful in this endeavor.

Our success is apparent in our numbers. Since January 2014, we have seen a reduction of 55 percent in total filed CHINS actions. We believe, with the utmost confidence, this type of front-end servicing is exactly what the lawmakers had in mind for CHINS matters, and at least for Forsyth County Juvenile Court, it seems to be working.

School Dropout To Prison Workshop Held in Atlanta

by Ira Foster

The Ronnie S. Jenkins School Dropout To Prison Prevention Town Hall Summit was held on March 3, 2016, at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta. The workshop presenters included: Jessica Pennington,The Truancy Intervention Project in Atlanta; Rob Rhodes and Teddy Reese, Georgia Appleseed Center For Law And Justice in Atlanta and Columbus; Crystal Redd, The Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta; and Ira Foster, Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) in Macon. Pennington talked about truancy issues. Rhodes and Reese discussed: the school dropout to prison issue; Georgia Appleseed's Toolbox Initiative, which allows for parents and groups to look at school disciplinary data for all school districts within the state of Georgia; and about positive behavior intervention and support (PBIS). Redd spoke about juvenile law issues and services that are available to assist with juvenile offenses. Foster concluded the workshop presentations by talking about what parents and guardians can do if children are involved in disciplinary matters at school, including being suspended or expelled. After the workshop, there was a roundtable discussion featuring representatives from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. The panel members discussed future steps that can be taken to bring a greater awareness of the school dropout to prison issue. They also encouraged the youth in attendance to stay in school and to pursue their career goals and dreams. It was also suggested that panel members encourage individuals and organizations in their communities and states to adopt a school dropout prevention workshop model similar to what was presented on March 3.

The Town Hall Summit was sponsored in partnership by GLSP, Georgia Appleseed Center For Law and Justice, The Southern Center for Human Rights, The Truancy Intervention Project, The Georgia NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., The Southern Region. The State Bar of Georgia Child and Protection Advocacy Section supported the workshop by making a donation to help with the cost of refreshments for the event.

There were approximately 50 students in attendance. One student group from Atlanta was comprised of about 40 students. A group from Perry was comprised of ten students who live in a group home for juveniles currently in the Juvenile Justice System. The Director of the group home stated during the workshop that if the students do not successfully complete the group home placement, they will be referred back to the Juvenile Justice system and sent to a Juvenile Detention Center.

Overall, the workshop was very well received. Some additional attendees included: Nicki Vaughan, chair of the State Bar of Georgia Child and Protection Advocacy Section; Damon Elmore, former GLSP chair and a current State Bar of Georgia Board of Governors member; and Harold Franklin, President of the Atlanta Bar Association. Vaughan stated the workshop was one of the best workshops that she has ever attended. The workshop was approved for three CLE credit hours for Georgia Attorneys.

Click here to download the CLE materials.

Participants at the Ronnie S. Jenkins School Dropout To Prison Prevention Town Hall Summit

The Legislative Committee is looking for volunteers for the 2017 Legislative Session. The Section needs representation at the Capitol as many days as possible.

If you are interested, please email Karlise Grier at kygrier@grierlawofficepc.com

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SECTION
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Child Protection and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Georgia will offer three (3) scholarships in the amount of up to $500 per scholarship each year. These funds may be used for either registration fees or travel expenses for an out-of-town conference or seminar.

The scholarships will be awarded to members of the Section who demonstrate both a need for financial assistance and a demonstration of the relevance of the content area of the conference or seminar to the work conducted by the attorney.

Commitment to Share Information:

Scholarship recipients agree that they will write an article for the Section newsletter, *Kids Matter,* regarding a topic covered at the conference or seminar.

Application Process:

Application Periods: There will be three application periods each year, with one scholarship awarded during each application period. The application periods are as follows:

January 1 – April 30 (scholarship awarded by May 31)

May 1 – August 31 (scholarship awarded by September 30)

September 1 – December 31 (scholarship awarded by January 31)

Application: The attached application form, including a statement of need and copy of the agenda, must be completed and returned to the scholarship committee by the appropriate application period close date. Applications should be returned to derricks@gabar.org.

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SECTION
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

PHONE: _____ **FAX**: _____

E MAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM YOU WISH TO ATTEND : (Please attach a copy of the program agenda, if available.)

Program Title: _____

Program Location: _____

Program Dates: _____

Program Costs: _____

STATEMENT OF NEED (Include any financial contributions provided by your organization, relevance of the seminar to your work, etc) (You may attach a separate letter, on your organization's letterhead, with your statement of need)

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Send completed applications to derricks@gabar.org