

# **Child Custody Pro Bono Volunteer Programs**

## **Directory**

**October 2007**

**ABA Child Custody and Adoption Pro Bono Project  
321 N. Clark  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
312-985-5805  
312-988-5483 (fax)  
[www.abachildcustodyproject.org](http://www.abachildcustodyproject.org)**

## **Introduction**

In the fall of 2001, the ABA Child Custody and Adoption Pro Bono Project sent a survey to programs that might provide pro bono legal representation directly to children in private custody matters involving divorce, unmarried parents, post divorce, private guardianship, adoption and/or orders of protection. We received information from a number of programs and have attempted to continue to update the information as it is provided to us. The information summarized in this Directory consists of the most relevant information provided to us by each program. We also have included a chart at the end which shows the partnerships and connections that the different programs have with other organizations in their area.

We recognize that there are other programs which are doing this work. Our hope is that this Directory, among other things, will serve to increase the awareness among programs of the existence of other like programs and encourage such programs to provide us with information, and create a community and network between such programs.

For a more general listing of programs see the ABA Pro Bono Center Directory of Local Pro Bono Programs, [www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/directory.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/directory.html)

Again, we encourage all to provide us with updated information about their own program and about other programs which are not included in this Directory at [gillespg@staff.abanet.org](mailto:gillespg@staff.abanet.org).

**Listing of Programs  
Using Pro Bono Volunteers by State**

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

***Children's Law Center, Volunteer Lawyer Program,  
GAL Project (AZ)***

➤ **Contact Information**

[www.vlpmaricopa.org](http://www.vlpmaricopa.org)

Roni Tropper

305 S. Second Avenue P.O. Box 21538-1538

Phoenix, AZ 85003

(602) 258-3434 x 2660

rtropper@clsaz.org

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Maricopa County, phone consultation available for other counties

In 1998, court and Volunteer Lawyers Program of the Community Legal Services and Maricopa County Bar Association, developed GAL Project as a cooperative project between the Maricopa County Superior Court and the Committee on Children of the Young Lawyers Division of Maricopa Bar Association. Only this program receives appointments.

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL, "best interests"

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 75**

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 88**

**2003 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 79**

**2004 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 75**

**2005 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 86**

**Divorce: 25-50**

**Post Divorce: 25- 50**

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Spends about 1/3 of time on this program. She oversees 5 programs; provides brief phone response nation-

wide and provides outreach to kids in group homes, recruits pro bono attorneys, coordinates training and screens, refers and supports pro bono cases. She also works with Children's Advisory Council and community agencies to identify unmet legal needs and develop services.

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001:** 70

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2002:** 125

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2003:** 120

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2004:** 135

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2005:** 140

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 550

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law:** 50%

**Experienced Non Family Law:** 50%

**New Attorney:** 35% **Large Firm:** 35%

**Sole Practitioner:** 30%

**Recruiting:** County Bar Volunteers send email. Project provides one hour CLE on ethics, conducted at law firms.

**Other Volunteers:** Support staff

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** Yes

**Handbook:** Yes, **Mentoring by Volunteers:** Yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$ 0 - 25,000

\$7,000 Maricopa Bar Foundation, \$15,000 Arizona Community Foundation, \$1,000 Rotary, Community Legal Services in kind, Arizona Bar Foundation, Ronald McDonald Charities

## Arkansas

## California

### *Legal Advocates for Children & Youth Guardianship Project*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.lawfoundation.org](http://www.lawfoundation.org)

Jennifer Kelleher

111 W. St. John Street, Suite 315

San Jose, CA 95113

(408)280-2428

(408)293-0106 (fax)

[jenniferk@lawfoundation.org](mailto:jenniferk@lawfoundation.org)

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Santa Clara County, CA

LACY is one of five programs of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley. LACY operates multiple programs including the Guardianship Project. In 1995 they began pro bono representation of children in guardianship cases. Every child is screened by a LACY social worker who helps determine “best interests.”

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney. (If a child is under 12, the attorney technically represents a proposed guardian.)

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 29**

**Divorce: 0**

**Unmarried Parents: 0**

**Post Divorce: 0**

**Private Guardianship: 25- 50**

**Adoption: 0**

**Orders of Protection: 0**

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 35**

**2004 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 7**

**2005 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 6**

**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 13**

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Directing attorney screens every case before referral to volunteer attorney.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters: 4**  
**Staff Social Workers working with children in PC matters: 2**

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 21**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled cases in 2006: 8**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 36**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 35%**

**Experienced Non Family Law: 35%**

**New Attorney: 35%**

**Large Firm: 35%**

**Recruiting:** Email to County Bar Association ListServ, Pro Bono Coordinator who arranges trainings at Law Firms in the Silicon Valley.

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** yes, 2-3 a year

**Updates:** yes, **Handbook:** yes, **Staff Mentoring:** yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** The budget includes funding for a social worker, an equal justice fellow, and funding for attorneys. This year those funds include First 5, Blue Shield Foundation, Department of Family and Children's Services, Packard Foundation, fees from the court for some court appointments.

## California

### *Legal Services for Children, Inc (CA)*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.lsc-sf.org](http://www.lsc-sf.org)

Abigail Trillin

1254 Market Street, 3rd Floor

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 863-3762 x303

abigail@lsc-sf.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** San Francisco Bay area

Organization founded in 1975. Staff attorneys and social workers provide advice, crisis intervention and legal representation in multiple areas, and information and referral.

LSC's Guardianship Project prevents children who can no longer safely live with a parent from unnecessarily entering the overburdened foster care system. LSC's attorneys, social workers, legal and social work interns, and pro bono attorneys work closely with children to ensure they are living in safe and stable homes with trusted adults. This typically involves establishing a legal guardianship with a relative or other adult friend with whom the child has an existing stable and trusting relationship. A legal guardianship also allows children to receive any applicable government benefits through their guardian.

Coupled with the legal guardianship, staff social workers create safety plans, provide crisis intervention, make appropriate referrals to other social service agencies in the community, and provide direct counseling.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney. Children 12 and over can petition for a private guardianship.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 9

**2005 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 83

**Divorce:** 0

**Unmarried Parents:** 0

**Post Divorce:** 0

**Private Guardianship:** 100%

**Adoption:** 0

**Orders of Protection:** 0

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Staff interviews child and proposed guardian.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters: 7**  
**Social Workers representing children in PC matters: 4**

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2005:**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 83**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**New Attorney: 50%**

**Large Firm: 100%**

Generally little or no family law experience.

**Recruiting:** web site, law firms and probono.net.

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training: Yes**

**Handbook:** yes, **Staff Mentoring:** yes. All cases referred to a pro bono attorney are supervised by an LSC attorney who provides technical assistance and support as needed. LSC also has an “Attorney of the Day” available Monday-Friday from 1:30-5:00 for assistance.



## California

### *Public Counsel, Children's Rights Project*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.publiccounsel.org](http://www.publiccounsel.org)

Andrea Ramos

601 S. Ardmore

Los Angeles, CA 90005-2323

(213) 385-2977 x 113

aramos@publiccounsel.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** County and City

Began in 1992. Social workers interview children who are old enough to express their own wishes.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney. In guardianship if child is under 12 they represent adult; if the child is 12 or older, they represent the child. Court has separate panel of attorneys to appoint as GALs.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 40**

**Divorce: 0**

**Unmarried Parents: 0**

**Post Divorce: 0**

**Private Guardianship: 25- 50**

**Adoption: 0**

**Orders of Protection: 0**

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters: 6**

**Staff Paralegals working with children in PC matters: 1**

**Staff Social Workers working with children in PC matters: 1**

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 40**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 150**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 5%**

**Experienced Non Family Law: 5%**

**Experienced Litigator: 10%**

**New Attorney: 30%**

**Large Firm: 50%, Corporate: 5%, Solo: 20%**

**Recruiting:** presentations at firm luncheons and web site

➤ **Training**

**Handbook:** yes, **Staff Mentoring:** yes, **Mentoring by Volunteers:** yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** over \$100,000

They have "Douglass Dinner" each year. Law firms buy tables.

## Colorado

### *Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center Pro Bono Attorney Project*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.rockymountainchildrenslawcenter.org](http://www.rockymountainchildrenslawcenter.org)

Shari F. Shink  
1325 S. Colorado Blvd, #308  
Denver, CO 80222

(303) 692-1165,  
sshink@mail.law.du.edu

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Denver metropolitan area.

In early 1990s the Center began a pilot program in Protective Order Court. The Center is appointed Legal Representative (LR) in some highly-conflicted County Protective Order Court cases. In Protective Order Court LR is GAL role. They then follow these cases into Domestic Relations(DR) for the divorce. In DR court in February 1999, the statute was changed to provide for LR, which is "best interest" attorney and Special Advocate(SA) which is GAL who writes reports and can testify. They are virtually always appointed SA in Denver Domestic Relations. Michelle Roche is program coordinator. 2002 ABA Child Custody Mentor Program grant.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Best Interests. Both "Legal Representative" and "Special Advocate" follow "best interests". LR in Domestic Relations does not testify or write reports but judges always appoint SA which does. Under case law, child is not entitled to traditional attorney.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 149

**Divorce:** 10- 25

**Unmarried Parents:** 10- 25

**Post Divorce:** 0 - 10

**Private Guardianship:** 0 - 10

**Adoption:** 10- 25

**Orders of Protection:** 50- 100

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Michelle Roche- Protective Order Court and Volunteer Director. Conducts trainings and substantial mentoring and supervising of volunteers. She is at Protective Order Court every

morning. If a volunteer attorney is appointed, she contacts the attorney personally and frequently works with them on the case.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters: 2**

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 71**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 100**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 15%**

**Experienced Non Family Law: 45%**

**New Attorney: 30%**

**Large Firm: 85%**

Retired

**Other Volunteers:** Paralegals, social workers, spanish interpreter

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** Yes, 4-6 a year

**Updates:** Lunch updates, **Handbook:** Yes, **Staff Mentoring:** Substantial

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work: \$50,000 - 75,000**

## Connecticut

## Delaware

### *Office of Child Advocate*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.courts.state.de.us/childadvocate](http://www.courts.state.de.us/childadvocate)

Tania Culley, Child Advocate  
Allison McDowell  
900 King Street, Suite 210  
Wilmington, DE 19801

(302) 255-1733  
(302) 577-6831 (fax)  
Allison.McDowell@state.de.us

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Delaware.

Additional Office: 9 East Loockerman Street,  
Treadway Towers, Suite 302,  
Dover, De 19901,  
302-739-7150, (fax) 7153.

Created by statute in February 2000 to secure legal representation for Delaware's abused, neglected and dependent children. Works closely with Delaware volunteer Legal Services and participate together in the Low Income Persons Committee of the Delaware Bar Association.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** "Best Interests", Attorney GAL. If position is different than child's wishes than appoint attorney.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 24**

**Divorce: 0**

**Unmarried Parents: 25- 50**

**Post Divorce: 10- 25**

**Private Guardianship: 0 - 10**

**Adoption: 0**

**Orders of Protection: 0**

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 71**

**2003 Children Represented in new case by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 65**

**2005 Children Represented in new case by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 53**

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Child Advocate, keeps small case load. Program administrator is a social worker.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters:** 2

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001:** 27

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 101

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law:** 20%

**Experienced Non Family Law:** 20%

**New Attorney:** 20%

**Large Firm:** 20%

**Recruiting:** Letter to entire state bar. Ad thanking volunteers. Talk to judges. Attorneys receive CLE credit for representing child. Spureme Court sends letter of recognition to each attorney who takes his or her first pro bono case.

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** yes

**Handbook:** yes, **Staff Mentoring:** yes- Director goes to law firm to meet with all lawyers in the firm who have a pro bono case.

Volunteer Attorney Training Manual is available on line at

<http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/html/trmanual/index.htm>.

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$25,000 - 50,000

State Agency

## Florida

### *Legal Aid Society of Orange County Bar Guardian Ad Litem Project*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.legalaidocba.org](http://www.legalaidocba.org)

Sue Khoury  
100 E. Robinson St.  
Orlando, FL 32801

(407) 841-8310 x 3136

[skhoury@legalaidocba.org](mailto:skhoury@legalaidocba.org)

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Orange County, Florida

Began in 1963.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL. In domestic/family court, GAL can only act as next friend, investigator or evaluator and by statute is expressly prohibited from acting as an attorney or advocate.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 12**

**Divorce: 0 - 10**

**Unmarried Parents: 0 - 10**

**Post Divorce: 0**

**Private Guardianship: 0**

**Adoption: 0**

**Orders of Protection: 0**

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 18**

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Court signs order appointing a GAL but leaves the specific name blank. The Project assigns to handling attorney.

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 12**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 30**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 75%**

**Experienced Non Family Law: 25%**

**Experienced Litigator: 25%**

**New Attorney: 5%, Large Firm: 10%**

Also very small firms

**Recruiting:** Local Bar has mandatory pro bono

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** No

**Handbook:** yes, **Staff Mentoring:** yes

Standards and Practices for (GALs) Serving in Domestic Relation Cases  
are available on website [www.legalaidocba.org/documents/STDSDR2.pdf](http://www.legalaidocba.org/documents/STDSDR2.pdf)



## **Florida**

### ***Put Something Back (FL)***

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

Karen Ladis  
123 NW 1st Ave  
Miami, FL 33128

(305) 579-5733 x 2247  
(305) 372-7693 (fax)  
kladis@dadelegalaid.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Dade County

Since 1987 the Program has provided volunteer GALs to the court. The Court requests GALs in following cases: allegations of abuse, adversity between the interests of the parents and disabled child, previous foster care or dependency, neither parent desires custody or primary residential parent is contested. 2003 ABA Child Custody Mini-grant recipient to expand pro bono representation of children in domestic violence cases.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL, write Report & Recommendations

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 55**

**Divorce: 50- 100**

**Unmarried Parents:**

**Post Divorce:**

**Private Guardianship:**

**Adoption:**

**Orders of Protection:** Added in 2003 under Mini- Grant

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 64**

**4/2003- 3/2004 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorney under Mini-grant for domestic violence: 51**

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Recruits and trains volunteers, provides court with name of a volunteer for appointment.

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 55**

**New Pro Bono Attorney's who handled a case under 03-04 Mini-Grant: 39**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 200**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 50%,**

**Experienced Non Family Law: 15%,**

**Experienced Litigator: 20%**

**New Attorney: 10%,**

**Other: Legal Aid**

**Recruiting:** Collaborate with various bar associations. Each year a GAL of the Year is recognized and the Court encourages volunteering.

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training: yes**

**Handbook: yes, Staff Mentoring: yes, Mentoring by Volunteers: yes**

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work: \$ 0 - 25,000**

## Georgia

### *Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Guardian Ad Litem Program*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

www.avlf.org  
Dawn Smith  
235 Peachtree Street  
Suite 1750 North Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 521-0790 x 28  
(404) 521-3434  
dsmith@avlf.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Atlanta and Fulton County, GA

Began August 1990. Law Firm sponsored and training was done at firm. Volunteers are GAL in Fulton County Family Division. 2002 ABA Child Custody Mentor Program grant.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL. At 14 the child has absolute right to elect with whom they wish to live.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 78

**Divorce:** 25-50

**Unmarried Parents:** 10- 25

**Post Divorce:** 25- 50

**Private Guardianship:** 0

**Adoption:** 0

**Orders of Protection:** 0

**Other:** Relative Custody- 10%. In GA relative can sue for custody if its in the "best interest" of the child.

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 96 new

**2005 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 116

**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 114

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Dedicates 50% of time to GAL program. Acts as mentors to volunteers, talks to Judges on assignments, gathers information on cases to determine assignment. He often seeks out more information than is forwarded from court to determine right volunteer.

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 55**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2006: 90**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 50-75**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 25%,**

**Experienced Non Family Law: 25%**

**New Attorney: 20%**

**Large Firm: 35%.**

Total is more than 100%. These are rough estimates. Majority are not Family Law attorneys and do very well.

**Recruiting:** Target individual bar associations and large law firms. Out of 30-35 who attend yearly training about 10 become ongoing volunteers.

➤ **Training**

Must complete the AVLF GAL training.

Training is available on line at [www.georgiaadvocates.org/link.cfm?8003](http://www.georgiaadvocates.org/link.cfm?8003).

You will have to join Georgia Advocates web site which is free.

**Created own Training: yes, Updates: yes, Handbook: yes,**

**Staff Mentoring: yes**

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work: \$25,000 - \$50,000**

\$30,000 annually from Georgia Bar Association

## Georgia

### *Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, One Child, One Lawyer Program*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

www.avlf.org  
Lila Newberry Bradley  
235 Peachtree Street  
Suite 1750 North Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 521-0790 x 23  
(404) 521-3434  
lnbradley@avlf.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Atlanta and Fulton County, GA

In 2005, AVLF took over the One Child, One Lawyer program which uses volunteer attorneys in representation for children in Juvenile Court. Recently the Juvenile Court requested help with providing representation for children as Child's Attorney in cases in Juvenile Court where a family member is willing to take temporary guardianship or custody of the child but there either is no consent from the parent or the parent contests the guardianship. They received a 2007 Project minigrant to develop a program using a staff attorney, law students and volunteer attorney to represent these children

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Child's Attorney.

**2007 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:**

**Private Guardianship/Custody:** Will began representation  
August 2007

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Will dedicate 20% of time to program after start up.

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2007:**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law:**

**Experienced Non Family Law:**

**New Attorney:**

**Large Firm:**

**Recruiting:**

➤ **Training**

Plan to develop own training..

**Created own Training:** yes, **Updates:** yes, **Handbook:** yes,

**Staff Mentoring:** yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Project Budget:** \$32,180

Primarily cost is staff attorney

Hawaii  
Idaho

## Illinois

### *Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation*

➤ **Contact Information**

[www.cvls.org](http://www.cvls.org)

Alecia Wartowski, GAL Program Director  
100 N. LaSalle, Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 332-1916

(312) 332-1460 (fax)

[arw@cvls.org](mailto:arw@cvls.org)

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Chicago

In spring 1998 staff began representing children as GALs in private guardianship matters in probate court. In 2002, program started using volunteer lawyers for this work as well. Received 2002 ABA Child Custody Mini-grant. Judge appoints CVLS and CVLS calls volunteer and assigns the case.

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL, write report and recommendation

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 0**

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys–22**

**Divorce: 0**

**Unmarried Parents: 0**

**Post Divorce: 0**

**Private Guardianship: 22**

**Adoption: 0**

**Orders of Protection: 0**

**2005 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys- 231**

**Private Guardianship- 231**

**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys-138 New**

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Recruits, trains, screens and select volunteers, monitors their work and provides support services. Staff are fully available to volunteers.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters: 4**

**Staff Paralegals working with children in PC matters: 1**

➤ **Volunteers**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel in 2005:** 139

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel in 2006:** 150

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001:** 0

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law:** 0

**Experienced Non Family Law:** 50%

**New Attorney:** 50%

**Med/Large Law Firm:** 75%

**Recruiting:** Present overview of program at medium to large firm

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** Already had in-house materials. CVLS has formal in-house seminars 11 months a year of which approximately 3 are of particular relevance to GALs

**Handbook:** Yes **Staff Mentoring:** Yes, significant part of training for 1<sup>st</sup> 5 cases

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$ 0 - 25,000



## Indiana

## Iowa

### *Kids First Law Center*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.kidsfirstiowa.org](http://www.kidsfirstiowa.org) (not currently operational)

Jenny Schulz  
318 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

(319) 365-5437  
(319) 366-3308 (fax)  
jenny@kidsfirstiowa.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Linn County, Iowa

The Kids First Law Center's practice is devoted entirely to providing free, quality representation to children in high conflict custody and divorce cases. Representation has also been provided to children in companion guardianship and civil protective order cases. Kids First is a new nonprofit organization that employs one staff attorney who represents 40-50 children at a time. Low and middle income children are served when their parents cannot afford to hire a private attorney to represent them. Since the first case appointment on February 18, 2005, the attorney has been appointed to represent 56 children. Clients range in age from four to seventeen years old. Kids First represents children as a child's attorney according to the ABA Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Children in Custody Cases.

Received 2006 Mini-Grant to develop training for volunteer attorneys using ABA Training Series.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney

**2005 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 0

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Only current staff

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Volunteer Attorneys:** to be introduced in 2006

➤ **Training**

Creating own Training: yes,

➤ **Financial Information**

Total Agency Budget: \$50,000- \$60,000

## Kansas

## Kentucky

### *Children's Law Center, Inc (KY)*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

www.childrenslawky.org  
Kim Brooks Tandy, Director  
Doreena Fox, Managing Attorney  
104 East 7th Street  
Covington, KY 41011

(859) 431-3313  
(859) 655-7553 (fax)  
doreenafox@fuse.net

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Three counties in northern Kentucky.

CLC opened in May 1989. Received a 2002 & 2003 ABA Child Custody Mini-grant. Staff hired to coordinate pro bono representation in all areas. Collaborates with Legal Aid of Northern Kentucky, NKU Law School and NKU and U of Cincinnati for BSW and MSW interns.

Referrals come from Court, State Social Service Agency, school counselors and families. Have implemented an income qualification in response to concern from local attorneys.

Published a Guardian Ad Litem Manual for Pro Bono Panel attorneys and local judges which was distributed to local judges

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL primarily in divorce; occasionally appointed Child's Attorney.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 2**

**Divorce: 2**

**Unmarried Parents: 0**

**Post Divorce: 0 - 10**

**Private Guardianship: 0**

**Adoption: 0**

**Orders of Protection: 0**

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 20**

**2003 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 45**

**2004 Cases handled by Pro bono Volunteer Attorneys: 20**

**2005 Cases handled by Pro bono Volunteer Attorneys: 12**

**2006 Cases handled by Pro bono Volunteer Attorneys: 26**

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:**

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters: 3**

In 2005, staff attorneys provided representation to 145 children in child custody and visitation cases, unmarried parentage cases, and child victim/witnesses cases. In 2006, staff attorneys represented 163 children in these cases.

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 1**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled case from 4/02 to 4/03: 20**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled case from 4/03 to 4/04: 6 (additional)**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 35+**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 0**

**Recruiting:** Through board members, local papers, bar association.

**Other Volunteers:** Law students, social work interns

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** Held first training in November 2002. Attorneys earn CLE credit for training. Usually have 1 -2 CLE programs per year for our pro bono panel, ranging from a lunchtime program to an all day training.

**Staff Mentoring:** yes, **Mentoring by Volunteers:** yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:**

Funding 2001: \$25,000 - 50,000. United Way and fees from cases where allowed.

Funding 2002: \$69,156; \$27,656 United Way, \$30,000 Foundation, 5,000 Attorney Fees, \$6,500 IOLTA

For 2005, budget for legal representation was \$245,579, which includes 3 attorneys, a portion of the Executive Director's time, and clerical support. Approximately 2/3 of this amount is spent on the above cases.

## Louisiana

### *The Pro Bono Project's Children's Law Program*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.probono-no.org](http://www.probono-no.org)

Rachel Piercey, Executive Director  
Monica J. Anderson, Family Law Attorney  
615 Baronne St. Suite 201  
New Orleans, LA. 70117  
(504) 581-4043  
(504) 566-0518 fax

[rpiercey@probono-no.org](mailto:rpiercey@probono-no.org)

[mjanderson@probono-no.org](mailto:mjanderson@probono-no.org)

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** The Project serves five parishes (counties); the Children's Law Program currently only serves the major urban parish (county).

The Pro Bono Project ("PBP") was established in 1986 to provide free civil legal services to the poor through the use of pro bono attorneys. The PBP recently launched a Children's Law Program to train and support volunteers to represent children in abuse and neglect cases, and expanded that representation to custody cases in 2004. They aim to create a holistic model of representation where volunteer attorneys and social workers collaborate to represent the needs and interests of children in custody cases.

2005 ABA Child Custody Program grant. (Due to Hurricane Katrina the time frame for this was pushed forward to 2006.)

The ABA grant will fund a social worker consultant to research and develop a referral tool and referral resources for mental health and social services for children in custody cases. The social worker will also support the PBP in expanding and training the volunteer attorney pool for custody cases, and will develop partnerships with social work and psychology programs and universities to support the pro bono volunteers. The social worker will produce educational materials for staff, volunteers, judges, parents and children regarding mental health and social service issues and resources.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Ch Attn and Best Interests Attorney

**2004 Cases handled by Staff Attorney: 19**

**2004 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 0**

**Divorce: 0**  
**Unmarried Parents: 0**  
**Post Divorce: 0**  
**Private Guardianship: 0**  
**Adoption: 0**  
**Orders of Protection: 0**

➤ **Staff**

**Executive Director: 1**  
**Staff Attorney: 1**  
**Social Worker: Available for consultation**

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2004:**  
**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:**  
**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**  
**Experienced Family Law:**  
**Experienced Non Family Law:**  
**New Attorney:**  
**Large Firm:**

**Recruiting:** Local programs do the actual recruiting.

➤ **Training**

None currently  
**Staff Mentoring:**

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** estimated budget for new project is  
\$14,700

## Maine

### *Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.vlp.org](http://www.vlp.org)

Mary Richardson

P.O. Box 547

Portland, ME 04112

(207) 774-4753

mrichardson@vlp.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Maine

Child custody representation began in 1999. Maine District Court officier appealed to legal services community for help with representation of children in family law cases were neither parent was represented in family court. 2002 recipient of ABA Child Custody Mini-grant. Developed “Best Practices” manual, available at <http://www.ptla.org/vlp/gal.htm>

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 44

**Divorce:** 10- 25

**Unmarried Parents:** 10- 25

**Post Divorce:** 10- 25

**Private Guardianship:** 0

**Adoption:** 0

**Orders of Protection:** 0

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 25 new

**2003 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 42

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Court asks Project to find volunteer, then court appoints. Volunteer takes case from there.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters:** 4

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001:** 44

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 50

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law:** 95%

**New Attorney:** 3%

**Other Volunteers:** Community and students do intake

**Recruiting:** web site recruitment and letter campaigns

➤ **Training**

State Bar Committee developed training and manual.

**Staff Mentoring:** yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$0 – 25,000

3 year Muskie Fellowship program funded by consortium of funders helped develop initial work on representation..



## Maryland

### *Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service*

➤ **Contact Information**

[www.mvls.org](http://www.mvls.org)

Winifred C. Borden, Executive Director  
One North Charles St., Suite 222  
Baltimore, MD 21201

(410) 539-6800 , x 4060

[winnie@mvslaw.org](mailto:winnie@mvslaw.org)

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Baltimore

City Circuit Court refers cases to MVLS for placement with volunteer Best Interest Attorneys. Parties must meet financial eligibility guidelines and there cannot be a pending emergency custody hearing.

➤ **Representation**

**Role-** Best Interest Attorney (write report for court)

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 0**

**Divorce:** Yes

**Unmarried Parents:** No

**Post Divorce:** Yes

**Private Guardianship:** No

**Adoption:** No

**Orders of Protection:** No

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 8**

**2003 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 4**

**2004 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 9**

**2005 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 17**

**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 14**

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** MVLS Deputy Director with intake paralegal

➤ **Volunteers**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 80 Best Interest Panel

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** March 2002 trained 35 attorneys; November 2005 trained 20 attorneys

## Massachusetts

### *Children's Law Project (Hampden County, MA)*

➤ **Contact Information**

[www.hcbar.org](http://www.hcbar.org)

Noreen E. Nardi

P.O. Box 559

Springfield, MA 01102

(413) 748-7951

[Noreen@hcbar.org](mailto:Noreen@hcbar.org)

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** County

Project began in 1992 to refer Probate and Family Court cases to panel attorneys in matters in which children need but are not entitled to appointed counsel. An advisory board that includes representatives from the Probate and Family Court Bar, Probate and Family Law Court, MA Legal Services, and the MA Department of Social Services oversees the Project.

Attorneys are paid by the Project at a rate of \$50 an hour for up to 20 hour of work. They also agree to take at least one pro bono case a year. The application is available the Hampden County Bar web site.

[www.hcbar.org](http://www.hcbar.org). The Probate & Family Court Probation Department provides the direct referral to the attorney and sends all relevant documentation on the case to the attorney to expedite the representation

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney

**2001 Cases handled by Panel Attorneys:** 82 (between 9/2000-9/2001), (approximately 20 with no hourly fees)

**2002 Cases handled by Panel Attorneys:** 137, 214 children

**2003 Cases handled by Panel Attorneys:** 102, 143 children

**2004 Cases handled by Panel Attorneys:** 80, 114 children

**2005 Cases handled by Panel Attorneys:** 136, 186 children

**2006 Cases handled by Panel Attorneys:** 136, 199 children

**Divorce:** yes

**Unmarried Parents:** yes

**Post Divorce:** yes

**Private Guardianship:** yes

**Adoption:** yes

**Orders of Protection:** yes

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** non-attorney coordinator

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001:** 20

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 22

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

Experienced Family Law: 100%

➤ **Training**

**Updates:** yes, twice a year. Panel attorneys required to attend.

**Mentoring:** Yes, experienced Panel attorneys assigned as necessary

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$25,000 – 50,000,  
Massachusetts Bar Foundation Grant

## Massachusetts

### *Franklin County Bar Association Advocates, Bar Advocates for Children*

➤ **Contact Information**

Mimi Gordon  
20 Federal Street, Suite 4  
Greenfield, MA 01301

(413) 773-9839  
fcbar@franklincountybar.org

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** county

Began in 1990. Received 2002 ABA Child Custody Mini-grant to expand volunteer mentoring by volunteers.

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney. In MA, GAL can be attorney or other professional.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 15**

**Divorce: 0 - 10**

**Unmarried Parents: 0 - 10**

**Post Divorce: 0 - 10**

**Private Guardianship: 0 - 10**

**Adoption: 0 - 10**

**Orders of Protection: 0**

In most cases attorneys receive \$40 an hour with \$750 cap.

Mentor work is all pro bono.

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 20**

**2003 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 9**

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Non-attorney coordinator spends 10% of time on this project.

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 15**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 30**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 100%**

**New Attorney: 10%**

Majority from a partnership or small firm.

**Recruiting:** Contact individual attorneys directly.

➤ **Training**

**Updates:** yes- workshop on representing children

**Mentoring by Volunteers:** yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$ 0 - 25,000

Grant from Mass Bar Foundation and in kind support from County Bar Association.

## Michigan

## Minnesota

### *Children's Law Center of Minnesota*

➤ **Contact Information**

Gail Chang Bohr, Executive Director  
450 N Syndicate Street, #315  
St Paul, MN 55105-4106

(651)644-4438

(651)646-4404

gcbohr@clcmn.org

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:**

CLC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advocate for the rights and interests of all children in the judicial, child welfare, health care, and education systems. CLC is dedicated to the whole child and uses a multidisciplinary approach in fulfilling its mission. The multidisciplinary approach offers the opportunity for lawyers whose work focuses on other areas, such as those who advise health care providers and educators, to join CLC's efforts. Besides providing legal representation of children in defined projects, CLC develops technical assistance and training for child advocates from many disciplines and engages in public policy advocacy.

The State Wards: The Forgotten Children Project provides volunteer attorneys to represent children in reviews for adoption or for long-term foster care. Among other services, CLC's attorneys advocate for sibling visits and for youth who are making the transition to living independently. CLC also engages in systemic reform including writing amicus briefs, litigation, and other advocacy to change law and practices which deny legal rights and protection to children.

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Child's Attorney.

**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 15**

**Divorce: 0**

**Unmarried Parents: 0**

**Post Divorce: 0**

**Private Guardianship: 0**

**Adoption: 0 - 10**

**Orders of Protection: 0.**

- **Staff**  
**Program Director**
  
- **Volunteers**  
**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2006:**  
**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:**  
**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**
  - Experienced Family Law: 100%**
  - New Attorney: 10%****Recruiting:**
  
- **Training**  
**Updates: yes- workshop on representing children**  
**Mentoring: yes**
  
- **Financial Information**  
**Budget for Child Custody Work: \$ 0 - 25,000**

Mississippi  
Missouri

## Montana

### *Montana Legal Services Association*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

www.mtlsa.org  
Dana Toole, Project Director  
616 Helena Ave, Ste. #100  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 442-9830, ext 21  
(406) 442-9817 (fax)  
[dtoole@mtlsa.org](mailto:dtoole@mtlsa.org)

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Statewide

Montana Legal Services Association (“MLSA”) is a statewide agency providing access to justice for low income individuals in need of civil legal assistance. Many of the cases handled by MLSA involve family law custody disputes. MLSA locates and assigns pro bono attorneys for children in custody cases when requested by the court, including divorce, parenting plan and civil protective order cases. .

2005 ABA Child Custody Program grant.

Montana developed information packets for attorneys who volunteer to represent children in custody and parenting plan actions. MSLA and a team of professionals designed a *Child Warning Signs Guide* describing particular indicators, differentiated by a child’s age, which may suggest that a child client is at risk for mental difficulties. This and other materials developed under the grant can be accessed at

[http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/childcustody/mental\\_health\\_guide/Mental%20Health%20and%20Social%20Services%20Guide.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/childcustody/mental_health_guide/Mental%20Health%20and%20Social%20Services%20Guide.pdf)

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Child’s Attorney and GAL

**2004 Cases handled by Staff Attorney:** 3

**2004 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 6

**Divorce:** yes

**Unmarried Parents:** yes

**Post Divorce:** yes

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Deputy Director:** Oversight and supervision and final review of the Child Custody Program Project.



**Project Director** Agency part-time social worker spends 50% of her time coordinating the Child Custody Program Grant; coordinates the committee; conducts child development/assessment research and writing; researches and develops guidelines for Montana attorneys representing children.

**Staff Attorney:** Technical specialist in Domestic Violence and serves as agency resource for best practice in child custody cases; serves as the attorney member of the Child Custody Program committee

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2004:** 6

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 65

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law:** 75%

**Experienced Non Family Law:** 25%

**Recruiting:** Recruiting: Local Montana Legal Services Association programs do the actual recruiting in conjunction with local bar association pro bono committees around the state.

➤ **Training**

None currently

**Staff Mentoring:** yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** estimated budget for new project is

\$14,700

\$10,000 from Child Custody Grant

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York

## *Lawyers for Children, Inc*

### ➤ **Contact Information**

www.lawyersforchildren.org  
Karen J. Freedman  
110 LaFayette Street, 8th Floor  
New York City, NY 10013

(800)244-2840

kfreedman@lawyersforchildren.org

### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** City

LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN is a not-for-profit legal corporation dedicated to protecting the rights of individual children in foster care and compelling system-wide child welfare reform in the City of New York. Every child LFC represents receives free legal and social work services in cases involving foster care, abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption, guardianship, custody and visitation.

LFC requires a substantial volunteer commitment of at least 3 days a week. Attorneys who volunteer generally are on sabbatical or involved in a career change. Experienced attorneys are also used on a volunteer case by case basis to assist with appeals. In these circumstances, the volunteer will work with a staff member and the volunteer will write and argue the appeal under the supervision of the LFC staff member. Volunteer attorneys, like all LFC staff attorneys, will work as team with LFC social workers, on each case.

### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney (called Law Guardian)

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 30**

**Divorce: 0**

**Unmarried Parents: 0**

**Post Divorce: 25- 50**

**Private Guardianship: 0**

**Adoption: 0**

**Orders of Protection: 0**  
**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 30**  
**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 100**

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Deputy Executive Director coordinates the volunteer lawyer program.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters: 15**

**Staff Social Workers: 15**

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 2**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2006: 5**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: N/A**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law: 5**

**Recruiting:** No formal recruitment; volunteers contact LFC directly

**Other Volunteers:** Social workers

➤ **Training**

**Updates:** Yes, **Staff Mentoring:** 1 on 1 mentoring

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:**

NY State Office of Courts Administration provides major funding.

## North Carolina

### *Council for Children's Rights, Custody Advocate Program*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.cfcrights.org](http://www.cfcrights.org)

Brett Loftis, Executive Director

John Parker, Lead Attorney

601 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 501

Charlotte, NC 28202

(704) 943-9469

(704) 372-5941 (fax)

[john@cfcrights.org](mailto:john@cfcrights.org)

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Mecklenburg County

The Custody Advocacy Program of the Council for Children's Rights (formerly the Children's Law Center) was created in 1987 to act as best interest advocates for children involved in high-conflict custody cases. Many but not all of our cases involve domestic violence, mental illness and substance abuse. Each case is assigned a staff attorney, a volunteer attorney and a lay custody advocate. While the current reality is that the staff attorney is intrinsically and actively involved in most cases our ultimate goal is that the assigned staff attorney will supervise the team but not be actively involved in the investigation or trial of particular matters, those being the primary responsibility of the custody advocate and volunteer attorney.

By court order in most cases, the litigants are charged a small fee for the services of the CAP team which is based on the ability of the litigants to pay.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL (functions as Best Interest Attorney)

2006 - 2007

Cases handled            151

Children represented: 246

Total resolutions:     99

Consensual:            63

Adjudicated: 36

➤ **Staff**

Attorneys:	1.5
Paralegals:	1.0
Assistant:	.5
Volunteer coordinator	.5

➤ **Volunteers**

Cases handled by pro bono volunteer attorneys: 151  
(including investigation and consensual  
or adjudicated resolution)

Total pro bono volunteer attorneys on panel: 143  
(Thirty percent are experienced family law  
attorneys.)

Recruiting: CAP conducts a training twice a year for which Continuing Legal  
education credit is given. An effort is underway to recruit more members of the  
family law bar to volunteer to handle cases under the supervision rather than the  
direction of staff attorneys.

Other volunteers: Approximately 150 trained lay volunteer custody  
advocates.

➤ **Training**

The Custody Advocacy Program has created a training course for lay and attorney  
volunteers that is offered in May and December of each year. Training is  
provided by judges, attorneys, therapists and child advocates. A periodically  
updated training manual is provided to all participants.

**Created own Training:** yes,

**Updates:** yes, **Handbook:** yes, **Staff Mentoring:** Yes, work in teams staff and  
volunteer, **Mentoring by Volunteers:** Yes

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$254,000

## North Carolina

### *Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina, Inc* *Child Advocacy Project*

➤ **Contact Information**

[www.lasnnc.org](http://www.lasnnc.org)

Shannon Hurley  
216 West Fourth Street  
Winston Salem, NC 27101

(336)725-9166  
(800)660-6663  
srh@lasnnc.org

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Forsyth County

Began in 2002 with an ABA Child Custody Mini-grant to develop a program for appointment of pro bono attorneys in divorce and unmarried parent cases referred by court when mediation is not successful. Program involves volunteer attorney and paralegal teams.

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 0**

**Divorce:** Yes

**Unmarried Parents:** Yes

**Post Divorce:** Yes

**Private Guardianship:** No

**Adoption:** No

**Orders of Protection:** No

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 4**

Received first appointment in November 2002.

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Coordinator is part-time social worker/paralegal who refers to attorney/paralegal teams and consults with them regarding community resources.

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 0**

**Recruiting:** All volunteers from sponsoring law firm.

**Other Volunteers:** Paralegals

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** Law firm sponsored

- **Financial Information**  
**Budget for Child Custody Work: \$ 0 - 25,000**

## North Dakota

## Ohio

### *Columbus Bar Association, Court Appointed Guardian Ad Litem Program*

➤ **Contact Information**

[www.cbalaw.org/probono/programs](http://www.cbalaw.org/probono/programs)

Don Martin,  
Juvenile Assistant Court Director  
373 S. High Street  
Columbus, Oh 43215

(212) 462-4453  
(212) 463-7740 (fax)

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Franklin County

Began in 2006 with an ABA Child Custody Mini-grant to to a partnership of six local entities, Justice for Children Project, Columbus Bar Association, Columbus Bar Foundation, Franklin County Domestic and Juvenile Court. The Justice for Children Project and Ohio School of Law developed training and pursuant to Local Rule 15, [www.fccourts.org/DRJ/lrdom/lrdom15.html](http://www.fccourts.org/DRJ/lrdom/lrdom15.html) attorneys who have been trained are eligible to be placed on a list of attorneys for appointed as GAL or attorney for child. Attorneys on the list are to accept at least one pro bono appointment a year/case

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL

**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 0**

**Divorce:** Yes

**Unmarried Parents:** Yes

**Post Divorce:** Yes

**Private Guardianship:** No

**Adoption:** No

**Orders of Protection:** No

**2006 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 4**

Received first appointment in November 2006.

➤ **Staff**

Program Director:

➤ **Volunteers**



**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 0**

**Recruiting:**

**Other Volunteers: Paralegals**

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:**

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work: \$ 0 - 25,000**

## **Oklahoma**

### ***Oklahoma Indian Legal Services CARE Advocacy Project***

➤ **Contact Information**

www.oilsonline.org  
C. Steven Hager  
4200 Perimeter Center Drive, Suite 222  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

(405) 943-6457  
(405) 917-7060 (fax)

[hager@oilsonline.org](mailto:hager@oilsonline.org)

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Oklahoma tribal, state and federal courts

Under 2006 ABA Mini-grant, OILS is developing a “Care Advocacy Project” (CAP) which will offer free training to attorneys specifically in child representation through the ABA training series. In exchange for the training, the attorneys will agree to represent children in tribal court proceedings. OILS will also use the training to seek to standardization in the tribal courts using those standards as the norm. OILS will include training on the Indian Child Welfare Act and its specific requirements as to varying burdens and evidence.

## Oregon

### *Multnomah County Circuit Court, Children's Representation Project (OR)*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

Honorable Susan M. Svetkey  
Brandy Jones, Judicial Assistant  
1021 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 428  
Portland, OR 97204

(503) 988-3060

[brandy.l.jones@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:brandy.l.jones@ojd.state.or.us)

#### ➤ **General Program Information:**

**Area of Service:** County

In Spring of 2002, due to Judge Svetkey's particular interest in the area, the Court began the project and the Oregon Law Center disbanded its similar project. In April 2002, a training entitled "Protecting the Rights of the Child" was held. All who attended were placed on the Court's appointment list. In Fall 2006, new organization, Child Centered Solutions, [www.childcenteredsolutions.org](http://www.childcenteredsolutions.org) started. Among other goals, CCS will provide training for attorneys representing children in private custody.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Attorney

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 0

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 20

**Divorce:** yes

**Unmarried Parent:** Yes

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Judicial Assistant maintains lists and assigns on the request of one of the eight Domestic Relations judges.

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel;** 83

#### ➤ **Training**

Must complete Child Centered Solution Training to be certified.

## Pennsylvania

### *Support Center for Child Advocates*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

www.advokid.org  
Frank P. Cervone  
1900 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 925-1913 x 130  
(215) 925-4756 (fax)  
frankc@advokid.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Philadelphia

Began in 1977. Rebecca Baehr, Kids n Kin Staff Attorney, rebecca@advokid.org. Merilee Weiss, managing attorney. Work in staff attorney, social worker, volunteer attorney teams. Recipient of 2003 ABA Child Custody Mini-grant.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL/Attorney for child; appointed both and use to balanceing the 2 roles.

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 75**

**Divorce:** 10- 25

**Unmarried Parents:** 10- 25

**Post Divorce:** 10- 25

**Private Guardianship:** 0- 10

**Adoption:** 0

**Orders of Protection:** 0 – 10

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys: 89**

#### **Staff**

**Program Director:** handled cases

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters:** 5

**Staff Social Workers working with children in PC matters:** 9

#### **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001:** 50+

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 1000

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Family Law:** 10%

**Experienced Non Family Law:** 50%

**New Attorney:** 30%

**Experienced Litigation:** 50%

**Large Firm:** 50%

**Corporate:** 5%

**Solo Practitioner:** 20%

**Other Volunteers:** Paralegal, Clinical evaluator

**Recruiting:** Speaking, email law firms, newsletters, brochures, and partner organizations.

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** In December 2002 included custody and domestic violence in volunteer training for first time. Must attend training and courtroom observation. Partner with staff attorney or social worker.

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** over \$100,000

20% individuals, 40% government, 30% foundations, 10% fund raising.

Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
South Dakota

## Tennessee

### *Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands*

➤ **Contact Information**

www.las.org  
Jean Crowe  
300 Deaderick St.,  
Nashville, TN, 37201

615-780-7105  
615-244-4920 (fax)  
Email: jcrowe@las.org

➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Davidson County, TN

Founded in 1968, the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands provides free legal assistance in civil matters to people in 48 Middle Tennessee counties. One areas of specialization is Domestic Violence. The Legal Aid Society created a new program to provide Best Interests representation to children in civil Order of Protection cases by utilizing the ABA Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Children in Custody Cases, the ABA training series, and the NCCUSL Draft Uniform Act.

➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Best Interest

➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** The Program Coordinator, under the supervision of the Project Director, will directly represent children as well as recruit and train volunteer attorneys to represent children's interests. Staff from the Legal Aid Society will work in conjunction with the Davidson County Juvenile Court and the Nashville Pro Bono Program to design and implement a pro bono attorney referral system.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters:**

➤ **Volunteers**

To be developed in 2006

➤ **Training**  
Creating own Training:

## Texas

## Utah

### *Utah Office of GAL, Private Guardian Ad Litem Program*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

Craig M. Bunnell,  
P.O. Box 140241  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0241

(801) 238-7861  
craigb@email.utcourts.gov

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** Utah

Legislatively created in 1995. Began use of private attorneys in 2001.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** Hybrid of GAL and Child's Attorney,  
*JWF v. Schoolcraft*, 763 P2d 710, (Utah 1990)

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 52

**Divorce:** 25- 50

**Unmarried Parents:**

**Post Divorce:**

**Private Guardianship:**

**Adoption:**

**Orders of Protection:** 25- 50

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Organizes training and available for questions

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001:** 41

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel:** 160

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

All types utilized as long as they complete mandatory training

**Recruiting:** Utah Bar mailer

#### ➤ **Training**

**Created own Training:** yes,

**Updates:** yes, **Handbook:** yes, **Staff Mentoring:** yes



➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:**

Invest in children license plate created.

Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington

## Washington DC

### *Children's Law Center of Washington, D.C.*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.childrenslawcenter.org](http://www.childrenslawcenter.org)

Judith Sandalow, Executive Director

Diane Weinroth, Special Counsel, Acting Supervisor of GAL

616 H Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 467-4900

jsandalow@childrenslawcenter.org

dweinroth@childrenslawcenter.org

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** DC

In October 2001 hired first staff attorney to focus on child custody cases. He handled cases for 1<sup>st</sup>-9 months. In June 2002 began training and referring to pro bono volunteers. Once trained volunteer attorneys join a listserv. When referral is received from Court it is circulated on listserv.

Received 2003 ABA Child Custody Mini-grant.

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL

**2001 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** See Below

**2002 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 15

**2003 Cases handled by Pro Bono Volunteer Attorneys:** 60

**Divorce:** 0

**Unmarried Parents:** 10- 25

**Post Divorce:** 0

**Private Guardianship:** 0

**Adoption:** 0

**Orders of Protection:** 25-50

Some Order of Protection cases go over to custody cases.

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** Project Supervisor coordinates with court and volunteers, mentors, develops trainings, recruits, works with firms.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters:** 1, 50% of caseload

➤ **Volunteers**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2001: 15**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2002:**

**Pro Bono Attorneys who handled a case in 2003: 41**

**Total Pro Bono Attorney Panel: 80**

**Type of Volunteer Attorney:**

**Experienced Non Family Law: 100%**

**Experienced Litigators: 50%**

**Solo Practitioner: 50%, Large Firm: 25%, Small firm: 25%**

**Recruiting:** Email law firms, web site, through trainings.

➤ **Training**

**Created own Training: yes, Handbook: yes, Staff Mentoring: yes**

**Conduct several trainings a year.**

## West Virginia

### *ChildLaw Services, Inc*

#### ➤ **Contact Information**

[www.childlawservicesinc.org](http://www.childlawservicesinc.org) (not currently operational)

Shannon Atwell, Executive Director

Julie Lynch, Legal Director

1505 Princeton Ave.

Princeton, WV 24740

(304) 425-9973

(304) 487-5573

Shannon.atwell@gmail.com

#### ➤ **General Program Information**

**Area of Service:** West Virginia

ChildLaw Services has represented over 1000 children in more than 400 cases in custody cases in the last 5 years. We use a multi-disciplinary approach in our representation of children in family matters with 2 attorneys and a social worker on our staff. We are appointed by the Family Court as either guardian-ad-litem for one or more of the children or as custodian evaluators for children involved in custody determinations in divorce/dissolution, parentage/unmarried parents, guardianship, and civil protective order cases.

Received 2006 Minigrant to develop training for volunteer attorneys using ABA Child Custody Training Series

#### ➤ **Representation**

**Role:** GAL

#### ➤ **Staff**

**Program Director:** 1.

**Staff Attorneys representing children in PC matters:** 1

**Staff SW working with children in PC matters:** 1

#### ➤ **Volunteers**

Working with Court system to develop system for appointment of volunteer attorneys

#### ➤ **Training**

**Creating own Training:**

➤ **Financial Information**

**Budget for Child Custody Work:** \$ 0 - 25,000

Funding from fees for services, grants and donations

**Wisconsin**  
**Wyoming**