

PAAC Quarterly CLE

December 9, 2016

Agenda

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| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome
<i>Carolyn Altman, PAAC Chair</i>
<i>Altman Law Firm</i> |
| 9:15 – 10:15 | Overview of Dependency
<i>Carolyn Altman</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:30 | Ethics
<i>Michelle LeGault, LeGault Law, LLC</i>
<i>Bill Nesmith, State Bar - General Counsel</i> |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Rapport & Collaboration
<i>Amber Walden, GOALS</i> |
| 12:30 – 1:15 | Lunch & PAAC Meeting
Carolyn Altman |
| 1:15 – 2:15 | Child Abuse Registry
<i>Diana Rugh Johnson</i> |
| 2:15 – 2:30 | Break |
| 2:30 – 3:30 | Evidence
<i>Darice Good</i>
<i>Good Legal Firm, LLC</i> |

Speaker Biographies

Carolyn Altman works primarily in the Juvenile Court of Douglas County and represents parents, children, and custodians, and serves as guardian ad litem in dependency proceedings. She maintains a caseload of 70-90 active cases and takes Superior Court guardian ad litem cases and adoptions as well. Carolyn is well-versed in appellate work, having worked on over twenty appeals and presented oral arguments before the Court of Appeals. Always looking for ways to improve, she has approximately 200 hours of CLE in child welfare law, delinquency, family law and adoption, and has presented at the GACC Youth Law and CASA conferences. She participates in the Douglas County Family Treatment Court, Foster Care Education Initiative, Court Improvement Initiative, the Child Protection Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Georgia, and became the Chair of PAAC in September 2016.

Darice M. Good is a solo practitioner in Georgia. She is a Steering Member of the Parents Representation Project of the American Bar Association and the President of the Georgia Parent Attorney Advocacy Committee. She co-authored the Adjudication Chapter for the first Parent Attorney Representation book for the ABA. She drafted the Gwinnett County Parent's Attorney Manual. Mrs. Good is nationally certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) by the National Association of Counsel for Children. Mrs. Good is also a member of the CWLS section of the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children. She is a certified trainer for the National Institute of Trial Attorneys. And, she serves pro-tempore in the Juvenile Court of Fulton County. She formerly served as a Fellow for the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children Cold Case Project, Vice-President of the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children, Advisory Member of the Metro Youth Detention Center and as the co-chair of the Juvenile Law Section of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Washington, her Juris Doctorate from Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law and is certified in Legal Writing by Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law.

Diana Rugh Johnson holds an MS in Biochemistry from Clemson University and a JD from the Georgia State University College of Law. She serves as a Judge Pro Tempore in the Juvenile Court of DeKalb County and was one of the first attorneys in Georgia to be certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist. Diana is on the Steering Committee of the ABA Parent Representation Project and the Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children. Her private practice focuses on Guardian Ad Litem work, SSI, disability, and appeals. Diana teaches other child welfare attorneys in Georgia and across the United States on a variety of topics including trial skills, effective case planning, understanding drug tests, and due diligence in medically-complicated cases.

Michelle LeGault was born in Minnesota, attended college in Iowa and France and graduate and law school in Tennessee. She has been practicing law for over 17 years. Prior to the law, she taught college-level French language classes in Knoxville, TN. After working in small law firms for 10+ years in the areas of employment law, commercial real estate litigation and personal injury and property damage defense, she started a solo practice whose current focus is on parent representation, disputed custody litigation, guardian ad litem work and other child welfare and family law matters. She has served on PAAC's former Training Committee and presented on several topics including case plans and reviews, skills to manage the stress of parent representation and representing parents with disabilities. Michelle lives in Decatur with her husband and dogs and enjoys reading, traveling, baking and working out in her free time.

Bill Nesmith is Deputy General Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia, serving as Bar Counsel. He is married to Beth and has a daughter, Dallas who attends Georgia Southern University. Dallas recently started skydiving and her parents are nervous! He is a graduate of Mercer University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and a Juris Doctor Degree from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. Bill served on the Investigative Panel for the State Disciplinary Board for the State Bar of Georgia for 7 years. He was Chairman of the Investigative Panel before leaving the Panel to work for the State Bar as Deputy General Counsel. As Bar Counsel, Bill is staff liaison to several State Bar of Georgia committees and as Bar Counsel, represents the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee and the State Bar of Georgia in various legal matters, including Bar Rules and bylaws changes, litigation, and appeals involving the State Bar of Georgia. Bill serves as Parliamentarian for the State Bar of Georgia.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Bill was a county attorney in 2 counties; city attorney in 3 cities and represented several other governmental authorities, including the largest E-911 Authority in Georgia. Bill practiced mainly local government law, but also maintained a general litigation practice as well. Bill is formerly the County Attorney Section Chairman for the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and served as the only lawyer member of the joint, ACCG and GMA Local Option Sales Tax Task Force. He was formerly a municipal court judge in 8 cities and is currently the judge in Ideal Georgia, making him the only Ideal judge in Georgia.

He is currently teaching Business Law and the Legal Environment of Business, at Georgia Southwestern for the School of Business Administration and has been teaching at the college level since 1999. Bill teaches for the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education in Athens and teaches CLE courses in ethics for the State Bar of Georgia.

Amber D. Walden is a Georgia licensed attorney who is a solo practitioner and has been working diligently in the field of parent attorney representation for the past eight years. Ms. Walden earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a Juris Doctor from Michigan State University. For the last several years, Ms. Walden has headed-up the DeKalb County New Attorney Mentor-Mentee Program. Through the program, Ms. Walden pairs new parent attorneys with seasoned parent attorneys who are willing to be a direct resource for the newer attorneys when they have questions about DeKalb County Juvenile Court proceedings in general. We also ask the seasoned attorneys to be a source of guidance to the newer attorneys on specific dependency cases as needed.

Ms. Walden is the Executive Director and President of the non-profit Georgia Office of Advocacy and Legal Services, Inc. ("GOALS"). This organization is dedicated to providing resources and support to parent attorneys across Georgia, as well as offering services and workshops to parents whose children are in the Department's care or who may be at a higher risk of agency removal of their children.