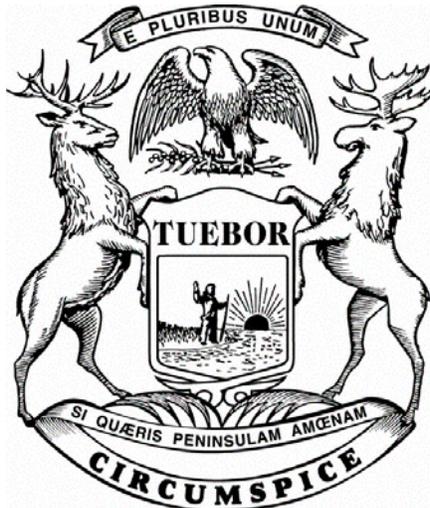


# LAWYER-GUARDIAN AD LITEM “BOOT CAMP”

December 12, 2014

**Michigan Hall of Justice**  
925 W. Ottawa Street  
Lansing, Michigan



**Sponsored by:**  
State Court Administrative Office  
Child Welfare Services Division,  
Michigan Court Improvement Program, and  
The Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

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

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In a child welfare case, a lawyer-guardian ad litem (LGAL) has the critical role of representing the child's best interests. This training is designed as an introduction for attorneys who are new to the LGAL role as well as a refresher for experienced LGALs. Participants will review the statutory responsibilities and discuss strategies to fulfill the requirements; including conducting an independent investigation, accessing case information, monitoring service plan implementation, and working with children to effectively advocate their best interests. DHS policy and best practices regarding placement and parent-child visitation will also be discussed. Participants will develop a strong understanding of evidentiary issues that arise in child welfare cases.

This training will be supplemented with bi-monthly webinars on the topics of child development, education issues in child welfare, substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence. The webinars will begin in February 2015.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

This training is intended for attorneys representing children in child protection cases and court appointed special advocates (CASA).

## AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Registrant Check-in</b>
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	<b>Roles and Responsibilities of the LGAL</b> Debra J. Colletti, Esq., Lawyer Guardian Ad Litem, Grand Rapids, MI
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:45 – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Roles and Responsibilities of the LGAL (continued)</b> Noah Bradow, State Court Administrative Office, Child Welfare Services
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>
12:45 – 2:15 p.m.	<b>Advocating for Child Placement and Parent-Child Visitation</b> James Novell, FCRB Program Manager, State Court Administrative Office, Child Welfare Services - Foster Care Review Board
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Exploring Evidentiary Issues in Child Welfare</b> Hon. Paul J. Denenfeld, 17th Circuit Court, Kent County
4:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks and Adjournment</b>

## QUESTIONS?

**General Assistance:** For general assistance, please contact Kate McPherson, SCAO-CWS Administrative Assistant, at [McphersonK@courts.mi.gov](mailto:McphersonK@courts.mi.gov) or 517-373-5322.

**Training Content:** For questions regarding the training content, please contact Noah Bradow, SCAO-CWS Management Analyst, at [BradowN@courts.mi.gov](mailto:BradowN@courts.mi.gov) or 517-373-2621.

## REGISTRATION

**Registration IS required.**  
**On-site registration is NOT available.**

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. You should submit your registration as soon as possible to increase the likelihood that your registration will be confirmed. Please do not register to attend this training unless you have scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend.

**Online Registration:** [Click here](#) and follow the steps below

<http://webcast.you-niversity.com/youtools/companies/viewSchedule.asp?affiliateId=132&affiliateId=133>

1. Open the website above.
2. Click on the training title you wish to attend.
3. Select “*Register*” in the cream text box.
4. Complete the form.
5. Select “*Register*”.
6. An automatic email will be sent to you immediately after you register.
7. A second confirmation email will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the training.

If you need to cancel your registration, please contact Kate McPherson as soon as possible at [McphersonK@courts.mi.gov](mailto:McphersonK@courts.mi.gov) or 517-373-5322.

## TRAINING COSTS

There is no registration fee for this training. Travel, additional meals, and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the participant.

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Lunch will be provided to participants; however, due to grant restrictions, we are unable to provide breakfast or snacks. Additional meals and snacks are the responsibility of the participant. There is a café in the building if you need additional refreshments.

If you require a vegetarian meal or have severe food allergies, please contact Kate McPherson at [McphersonK@courts.mi.gov](mailto:McphersonK@courts.mi.gov) or 517-373-5322.

## ATTIRE

Room temperature can fluctuate throughout the day. Please plan accordingly and dress in layers.

## DIRECTIONS & PARKING

**Michigan Hall of Justice (HOJ)**  
925 W. Ottawa Street  
Lansing, MI 48915



### DRIVING DIRECTIONS

The Hall of Justice (HOJ) is located between Ottawa Street on the north, Allegan Street on the south, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. on the west. The HOJ is west of the State Capitol Building. Please enter through the front doors facing the Capitol Building.

### FREE PARKING

Visitor parking is located on Allegan Street, southeast of the HOJ, and west of the Capitol. When entering the lot, turn left into the unattended lot where pushing a button will produce a parking entry ticket. **Keep this ticket.** The training program staff will supply you with a parking voucher ticket. You will need **BOTH** of these tickets to exit the parking lot free of charge.

