

Children's Law Committee releases educational video for children in CINC cases

The Louisiana State Bar Association's Children's Law Committee released a new educational video to assist children entering the court system because of allegations of neglect and/or abuse. The film, titled "Who's Looking Out for Me? An Introduction to the Court System," provides a summary of the legal process and an explanation of each individual the child will encounter during the proceedings, such as a judge, lawyer, bailiff and case worker.


The film is designed specifically for children entering "Child in Need of Care" proceedings, which are initiated following

an allegation of abuse or neglect against the child's parent or caregiver.

"Once 'Child in Need of Care' proceedings are initiated, it is the court's responsibility to determine what is in the best interest of each child," said Orleans Parish Assistant District Attorney Cherrilyne W. Thomas, who co-chairs the Children's Law Committee. "That process can be frustrating and confusing, especially for young children. This video will help parents and attorneys explain the procedure to kids, and also encourage young people to make their voices heard in the process."

In addition to legal concepts, the film


includes a tour of an actual courtroom and interviews and valuable insight from young adults who experienced this process when they were younger. "Obviously these issues are sensitive, and we are particularly grateful to the young adults in the film who were willing to share their personal stories and provide both encouragement and practical advice," said 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Sandra Cabrina Jenkins, who co-chairs the Children's Law Committee.

The film is available in both English and Spanish at www.lsba.org/childrenslaw/. For more information, email nicole.louque@lsba.org. 

2015 Pro Bono, Children's Law Awards nomination process open online

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Committee's online nomination process is active for several 2015 pro bono awards, including the Friend of Pro Bono Award, the Pro Bono Publico Award, the Career Public Interest Award, the David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award, the Law Student Award and the Century Club Award.

Also, the LSBA's Children's Law Committee is accepting nominations for the Children's Law Award.

Nominations must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. For more information on the award categories and submission information, go to: <https://apps.lsba.org/nominations>. Once there, log in as an LSBA member or guest. 

Self-Help Resource Centers are "trending" in the state: Sign up to volunteer!

In what's becoming a trend both nationally and in Louisiana, "Self-Help Resource Centers" are now active in the 22nd and 24th Judicial Districts. The centers for self-represented litigants offer legal information, referrals to local bar associations and legal aid organizations, and additional resources depending on a litigant's legal issue.

In the 22nd Judicial District, services are available at 1005 Cleveland St. in Franklinton (directly across from the courthouse) from 9 a.m.-noon on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. This service is coordinated by the 22nd Judicial District Court and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

In the 24th Judicial District in Jefferson Parish, assistance is available on the second floor of the courthouse at 200 Derbigny St. in Gretna from 10 a.m.-noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

This service is coordinated by the Louisiana Civil Justice Center (www.laciviljustice.org). Attorneys interested in volunteering may sign up online: <http://vols.pt/9MLhhd>.

The Louisiana Civil Justice Center also coordinates a Self-Help Resource Center at Orleans Parish Civil District Court, 421 Loyola Ave., on the fourth floor. Services are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Attorneys interested in volunteering may sign up online: <http://vols.pt/SXYeQt>.

For more information on self-help resources in the state, including assistance in your jurisdiction, email Louisiana State Bar Association Self-Represented Litigation Counsel Michael W. Schachtman at michael.schachtman@lsba.org or go to www.lsba.org/atj/atjselfrepresentedlitigants.aspx. 