

# Effective Parent Representation: Advanced Legal Training

**Tuesday, December 8, 2009**

**Hall of Justice  
Lansing, Michigan**

**8:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
(Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.)**



**State Court Administrative Office -- Child Welfare Services Division**

**Cosponsored by:**

**American Bar Association Center for Children and the Law  
Children's Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan  
Michigan State University Chance at Childhood  
Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
University of Michigan Law School Child Advocacy Law Clinic  
Detroit Center for Family Advocacy**

This program is funded by a federal Children's Justice Act grant to the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice 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 Children's Justice, chaired by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Weaver, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Representing parents in child welfare cases can challenge even the most experienced attorney. This training will highlight strategies for preliminary hearings, the importance of “reasonable efforts” findings, how to question experts, and other proven advocacy strategies. The day will end with a discussion of how we can support each other’s efforts to ensure that families receive the best legal advocacy.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

This training is limited to attorneys who represent parents in child welfare cases.

## REGISTRATION

**THERE IS NO REGISTRATION COST TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING.** The cost is generously funded by the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice. All training materials and lunch will be provided.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. However, there may be some exceptions to ensure geographic diversity and participation across professions. A confirmation letter will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the training. That letter will provide an agenda and additional details about the training.

## LODGING INFORMATION

A limited block of overnight rooms has been reserved at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing through Monday, November 16, 2009.

**Please Note: You are responsible for your overnight expenses; however, a special rate of \$65 per room has been negotiated. To make your reservation, contact the Radisson Hotel directly at 517-482-0188. To ensure that you receive our special reduced rate, please specify when making your reservation that you are attending the CWS - Parent Representation Training.**

## GETTING THERE

The Radisson Hotel is located at 111 North Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. Directions can be found by going to the following websites:

Hotel website: [www.radisson.com](http://www.radisson.com)

MapQuest: [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)

**Register online at**  
**<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/CWS/TrainingDevelopment.htm>**  
**no later than November 23, 2009.**

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## AGENDA

- 8 – 8:45 a.m.           **Registration**
- 8:45 – 9 a.m.           **Welcome and Housekeeping**
- 9 – 9:30 a.m.           **Why Parent Representation Matters?**  
*Hon. Elizabeth L. Gleicher, Michigan Court of Appeals*
- 9:30 – 11 a.m.           **Advocacy at the Preliminary Hearing**  
*Vivek Sankaran, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School*
- 11 – 11:15 a.m.       **Break**
- 11:15 – 12:45 p.m.   **Cornerstone Advocacy – The First 60 Days**  
*Michele Cortese, Esq., Deputy Director, Center for Family Representation, New York, NY*
- 12:45-1:45 p.m.       **Lunch and Legal Update**  
*Vivek Sankaran, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School*
- 1:45 – 3 p.m.           **Challenging Experts**  
*Joshua Kay, Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service Inc*
- 3 – 3:15 p.m.           **Break**
- 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.       **Panel – Building a Community of Parents’ Attorneys in Michigan**  
Moderated by Vivek Sankaran  
**Panelists:**  
*Marc Dedenbach, Attorney, Genesee County*  
*Joshua Kay, Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service Inc*  
*Elizabeth Warner, Attorney, Statewide*  
*Michelle Duell, Attorney, Monroe County*  
*Jeffery Nellis, Attorney, Mason and Lake Counties*
- 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.       **Closing Comments**  
*Hon. John G. McBain, Michigan 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court*

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## ONLINE REGISTRATION

[Register Here](#)

And follow the directions below:

Online: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/CWS/TrainingDevelopment.htm>

Click link: Upcoming Off-Site Programs

Click link: Schedule of Upcoming Programs

Click link: Effective Parent Representation Advanced Legal Training

Click link: Register

If you have problems registering, please contact Heather Leidi by phone at 517-373-5322, or by e-mail at [LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov).

Please submit your registration as soon as possible to maximize your opportunity to attend. Your registration is a commitment to attend the entire portion of the conference for which you register. Please do not register to attend this conference unless you have scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend. If you must cancel after you have been confirmed to attend this conference, please contact Heather Leidi at 517-373-5322 or by e-mail at [LeidiH@courts.mi.gov](mailto:LeidiH@courts.mi.gov) as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Registrations may be transferred to another individual with prior notice to Heather Leidi. Please note that onsite registration is **not** available.