

## Committee on Children and the Law 2012 Robert J. Schack Memorial Program

### Truth in Parentage: Adoption Secrecy and Paternity Estoppel in the Age of Information

*This program will cover the elements of a paternity estoppel case, and considerations supporting preservation or abolition of estoppel; advantages and disadvantages of open adoption; (limited) remedies for finding birth parents or obtaining medical information; an overview of developments in broad-based genetic testing and sharing of information; and the psychological ramifications of truth in parentage.*

**Friday, January 27, 2012**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.**

**Hilton New York**

**1335 Avenue of the Americas, New York City**

(between 53rd and 54th streets)

**Beekman Suite, Second Floor**

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Under New York's MCLE rules**, this program has been approved for all attorneys including those newly admitted for a total of **3.5** credit hours in the area of professional practice.

**Discounts and Scholarships:** New York State Bar Association members may apply for a discount or scholarship to attend this program, based on financial hardship. Any member of the Association who has a genuine basis of financial hardship can receive a discount or scholarship, depending on the circumstances. To apply for a discount or scholarship, please send your request in writing to the New York State Bar Association, Attn: Catheryn Teeter, One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207 or via e-mail [cteeter@nysba.org](mailto:cteeter@nysba.org).

**Special Note for Attorneys Representing Children and Family Court Assigned Counsel Panel Members:** Attorneys for Children and panel members are eligible to apply for a discounted registration fee for this program. If you qualify, you cannot register online. You must obtain a 2012 Discounted Registration Fee Form from your Program Director or download the waiver form at <http://www.nysba.org/ChildrenandtheLaw>, attach it to the completed Annual Meeting Registration Form, and fax or mail back the completed forms to the number/address listed. A limited number of forms are available on a first come/first serve basis for Family Court or Family Court Appeals assigned counsel panel members who are not currently attorneys for children. To inquire about these waivers, please call Catheryn Teeter at (518) 487-5621 before Friday, January 6, 2012. No waivers can be issued after the cutoff date. Please note that if you are not a member of the New York State Bar Association, the \$200 nonmember surcharge cannot be waived.

#### PROGRAM AGENDA

**8:30-9:00 a.m. Registration**

**9:00-9:05 Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
**George E. Reed, Jr., Esq.**  
Program Chair

**9:05-9:55 Who's Your Daddy? Paternity by Estoppel in a DNA World**

- The Historical Origins of Equitable Estoppel and its First Applications to Paternity Cases
- Shondel and its Progeny
- The Estoppel Permutations
- DNA at Birth – What Happens When They Private Test?
- What Does This Mean for the Attorneys in the Courtroom?

**Speakers: Hon. W. Dennis Duggan**  
**John J. Aman, Esq.**

**9:55-10:20 The Psychological Ramifications of Truth in Parentage**

**Speakers: Richard Mayer, M.D.**  
**Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.**

**10:20-10:30 Coffee Break**

**10:30-10:55 Adoption Secrecy in New York**

- Accessing Records
- Post-Adoption Contract Agreements
- Practical Implications of Agreements – Enforcement, Modifications and Waiver

**Speaker: Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.**

**10:55-11:45 Adoption Secrecy in the United States**

- History of Access to Adoption Records
- Effects of Recent Changes in State Laws
- Open Sesame – Who Are My Other Parents?

**Speaker: Professor Elizabeth Samuels**

11:45-12:10 Panel Discussion

12:10 Adjournment

**PROGRAM FACULTY**

Committee Chair

**Professor Merrill Sobie**

Pace University School of Law  
White Plains

Program Chair

**George E. Reed, Jr., Esq.**

White Plains

**John J. Aman, Esq.**

Deputy Chief Support Magistrate,  
State of New York  
Buffalo

**Anne Reynolds Copps, Esq.**

Law Office of Anne Reynolds Copps  
Albany

**Hon. W. Dennis Duggan**

Judge of the Family Court  
Albany County  
Albany

**Richard Mayer, M.D.**

New York

**Professor Elizabeth Samuels**

University of Baltimore School of Law  
Baltimore

**About Robert J. Schack**

Robert J. Schack was a founding member of the Committee on Children and the Law and, for many years, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee. A supervising attorney at the New York State Attorney General's Office, Mr. Schack represented the State in several landmark juvenile justice and child welfare cases. He was a tireless advocate for children's rights and interests, and contributed enormously to the Committee's and the NYSBA's achievements. Robert J. Schack was a founding member of the Committee on Children and the Law and, for many years, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee. A supervising attorney at the New York State Attorney General's Office, Mr. Schack represented the State in several landmark juvenile justice and child welfare cases. He was a tireless advocate for children's rights and interests, and contributed enormously to the Committee's and the NYSBA's achievements.

**NYSBA Committee on Children and the Law**

[www.nysba.org/ChildrenandtheLaw](http://www.nysba.org/ChildrenandtheLaw)



**Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:** NYSBA will make reasonable modifications/accommodations to allow participation in its services, programs, or activities by persons with disabilities. NYSBA will provide auxiliary aids and services upon request. NYSBA will remove architectural barriers and communication barriers that are structural in nature where readily achievable. To request auxiliary aids or services or if you have any questions regarding accessibility, please contact Katherine Suchocki at 518-487-5591.



For overnight room accommodations, please call the Hilton New York at 1-800-445-8667 and identify yourself as a member of the New York State Bar Association. Room rates are \$259.00 for single/double occupancy. Reservations must be made by Friday, December 23, 2011. You also can reserve your overnight room on the web at [www.nysba.org/12accomm](http://www.nysba.org/12accomm).



For questions about this specific program, please contact Katherine Suchocki at 518-487-5590 or [ksuchocki@nysba.org](mailto:ksuchocki@nysba.org). **For registration questions only, please call 518-487-5621. You can fax your registration form to 866-680-0946.**

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL MEETING

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