

## Committee on Children and the Law 2016 Robert J. Schack Memorial Program

Friday, January 29, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

New York Hilton Midtown

Beekman Suite, Second Floor | 1335 Avenue of the Americas (between 53rd and 54th Streets) New York City

### The Rainbow and the Judge: Representing LGBTQ Children in Family Court and the Child Welfare System.

**3.5 MCLE Credits** (3.5 Credits in Areas of Professional Practice)

This program will offer practicing attorneys guidance in representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning children in Family Court, including child welfare and other proceedings; consider issues of family acceptance and family intervention; explore the needs of the children and survey the resources available for them; and present the perspectives of a judge, agency and former foster child.

**Register Online** [www.nysba.org/AM2016Children](http://www.nysba.org/AM2016Children)

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#### PROGRAM AGENDA

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| <b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b>   | <b>Registration</b>  |
| <b>9:00 – 9:05</b>        | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b><br><i>George E. Reed, Jr., Esq., Program Chair</i>  |
| <b>9:05 – 10:20</b>       | <b>Representing LGBTQ Children and Youth: Background and Legal Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduction</li><li>- Terminology</li><li>- Facts on LGBTQ Youth, including Gender Dysphoria</li><li>- Rules of Professional Responsibility, Applicable Law and Regulations</li></ul> Speakers: <b>Hon. Jacqueline B. Deane</b><br><b>Kimberly Forte, Esq.</b><br><b>Jennifer Gunnell, LCSW</b><br><br>(1.5 credits in areas of professional practice)  |
| <b>10:20 – 10:30</b>      | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| <b>10:30 – 10:55</b>      | <b>Pathways into the System and the Realities of Everyday Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Do LGBTQ Youth Enter the Child Welfare System for the Same Reasons as Other Children? Do Lawyers, Judges and Other Child Welfare Professionals Know When a Child Identifies as LGBTQ? Why would they? How should they?</li><li>- Do Child Welfare Systems Have Preventive Models to Help LGBTQ Youth Avoid Out-of-Home Care?</li><li>- Once an LGBTQ Youth Enters Care, What do Lawyers, Judges and Other Professional Need to Know to Improve Everyday Practice based on "Best Practices"?</li></ul> Speakers: <b>Jennifer Gunnell, LCSW</b><br><b>Hon. Ronald Richter</b><br><br>(0.5 credit in areas of professional practice) |
| <b>10:55 – 11:20</b>      | <b>Experience of a Former Foster Youth and Current Youth Advocate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Speaking from the Foster Youth Perspective</li><li>- Role of the Youth Advocate</li></ul> Speakers: <b>Jarel Melendez</b><br><b>Hon. Ronald Richter</b><br><br>(0.5 credit in areas of professional practice)  |
| <b>11:20 – 12:10 p.m.</b> | <b>Panel Discussion: Practice Tips to Provide Culturally Competent Representation and Judicial Oversight</b><br>Speakers: <b>Hon. Jacqueline B. Deane</b><br><b>Kimberly Forte, Esq.</b><br><b>Jarel Melendez</b><br><b>Jennifer Gunnell, LCSW</b><br><b>Hon. Ronald Richter</b><br><br>(1.0 credit in areas of professional practice)   |
| <b>12:10 p.m.</b>         | <b>Adjournment</b>   |

Committee Chair  
**Betsy R. Ruslander, Esq.**, Director, Office of Attorneys for Children, Appellate Division, Third Department, Albany

Program Chair  
**George E. Reed, Jr., Esq.**, White Plains

Program Faculty  
**Hon. Jacqueline B. Deane**, Judge of the Family Court, Kings County  
**Kimberly Forte, Esq.**, Legal Aid Society, New York City  
**Jennifer Gunnell, LCSW**, Assistant Program Director, LGBTQ Program, SCO Family of Services, New York City  
**Jarel Melendez**, Youth Advocate Coordinator, Lawyers for Children, New York City  
**Hon. Ronald E. Richter**, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Child Care Association, New York City

### 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 Bar Association's achievements.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION


Under New York's MCLE rule, this program has been approved for a total of 3.5 credit hours (3.5 Areas 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: Simone Smith, One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207 or via e-mail [ssmith@nysba.org](mailto:ssmith@nysba.org).


**Special Note for Attorneys Representing Children and Family Court Assigned Counsel Panel Members:** Attorneys for Children and Family Court (and Family Court appeals) Assigned Counsel panel members who are members of the New York State Bar Association are eligible to apply for a fee waiver for this program. If you qualify, you cannot register online. You must download the waiver form at [www.nysba.org/ChildrenandtheLaw](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. To inquire about these waivers, please contact Simone Smith at (518) 487-5591. All waivers must be received by **Wednesday, January 13, 2016**. 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.

### Register Online | [www.nysba.org/AM2016Children](http://www.nysba.org/AM2016Children)

Learn more about the Committee on Children and the Law  
[www.nysba.org/ChildrenandtheLaw](http://www.nysba.org/ChildrenandtheLaw)

 **Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:** NYSBA welcomes participation by individuals with disabilities. NYSBA is committed to complying with all applicable laws that prohibit discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of its goods, services, programs, activities, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations. To request auxiliary aids or services or if you have any questions regarding accessibility, please contact Katherine Suchocki at 518-487-5590.

 For overnight room accommodations, please call the New York Hilton Midtown at 1-800-445-8667 and identify yourself as a member of the New York State Bar Association. Room rates are \$260.00 for single/double occupancy. Reservations must be made by Monday, December 21, 2015. You also can reserve your overnight room on the web at [www.nysba.org/am16accomm](http://www.nysba.org/am16accomm).

 For questions about this specific program, please contact Katherine Suchocki at 518-487-5590. **For registration questions only, please call 518-487-5621. Fax registration form to 518-463-5993.**

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION



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