



The Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina

All Children Deserve to Have Their Say in Court

The CLC and the Child Advocacy Clinic: A Winning Partnership

The Wake Forest University Child Advocacy Clinic housed at the Children's Law Center was established in August, 2010. 6-10 Clinic students under the supervision of CLC staff work to protect the best interests of children embroiled in Chapter 50B Domestic Violence cases and Chapter 50 high conflict custody cases . Bob Rosenberg, a 3rd

year student from Fall, 2010 said: "My semester with the CLC was the most rewarding experience I have had at Wake Law." He continued, "My partner and I worked on behalf of a two year old boy stuck in the middle of a high-conflict custody case . We conducted interviews with witnesses and even had the opportu-

nity to testify in court." Due to the work of Bob and his team, a young child was permitted to remain in the custody of his grandmother, in a nurturing and drug-free



CAC Students, Fall 2011



Home is a Place for Love - not Violence

- ☺ CLC receives \$25,000 grant from the Richard J. and Marie Reynolds Foundation
- ☺ The CLC received a funding increase from the United Way for FY 2011-FY 2013
- ☺ 8 Students enrolled in the fall semester of the Child Advocacy Clinic.

The CLC Welcomes Paige Berntson, Child Advocate

The CLC is pleased to welcome Paige Berntson, Child Advocate, to the staff. Paige joined us in April, 2011. She brings a wealth of experience in child advocacy. Previously, she worked for the Children's Law Center of Minnesota and for Family and Children's Service in Minnesota. "I am excited to join the team at the CLC as we advocate for vulnerable children in Forsyth County. I look forward to working with our interns and volunteers and providing a voice for children in the courtroom. " Paige is making an impact in our community. She has already served 32 children!

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How does the CLC help families?

Who does the CLC represent?

The CLC represents children aged 0-18 in high conflict custody cases, domestic violence cases in which custody is an issue, and education matters with the public school system.

What does a GAL do?

Our Guardians ad Litem act as an extra set of impartial eyes and ears for District Court judges. Because we believe that every child deserves to live in a

safe environment, we work tirelessly to investigate home and school environments. We gather information to prepare accurate reports for the Court. GALs represent the best interests of the child.

How do you help children involved in domestic violence cases?



CLC GAL's help build stronger families

The CLC partners with Safe on Seven, an innovative program housed on the 7th floor of the Forsyth County Hall of Justice, to provide assistance to victims who have filed for a Domestic Violence Protective Order. If there is a question regarding the safety or custody of children, District Court judges appoint CLC GALs to investigate and report.

The CLC welcomes New Board Members

James Lambie, the Chairman of the CLC Board of directors is pleased to announce the following three year appointments to the Board.

- ◇ Dr. Anthony Atala, Director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the W.H. Boyce Professor and Chair of the Department of Urology at Wake Forest University.
- ◇ Ms. Lynnette Fuller-Andrews Associate General Counsel for Hanesbrands, Inc.
- ◇ Mr. Rich Keshian, Director at Kilpatrick, Townsend & Stockton
- ◇ Ms. Robin J. Stinson, Family Law Specialist and Director at Bell, Davis & Pitt
- ◇ Mr. Allan Younger, Business Counselor at the Small Business & Technology Center

"We are pleased to welcome five such talented individuals to our Board. They all share a passion for child advocacy and are committed to supporting the CLC as we continue to grow and expand our services," said Mr. Lambie.

The CLC Board of Directors

Mr. James Lambie

Mr. Gary Tash

Chief Judge William Reingold

Mr. Robert Clark

Ms. Ketura Parker

Ms. Susan Gates

Ms. Robin Stinson

Mr. Rich Keshian

Ms. Lynnette Fuller-Andrews

Mr. Allan Younger

Mr. Tripp Greason

Dr. Anthony Atala

Mrs. Penny Spry

Ms. Leslie Winner

Mrs. Amy Kuhlman

Ms. Iris Sunshine

Letter from our Executive Director, Iris Sunshine

Michelle was terrified of her mother's boyfriend (a convicted felon) - she was unable to sleep at night and would lie in bed clutching a baseball bat for protection. She frequently witnessed the domestic violence between her mother and her mother's boyfriend. Michelle often went to bed hungry—without dinner, accumulated numerous absences from school and was not provided the tools for basic hygiene.

Due to the tireless efforts of her GAL, Kristina Varady, a volunteer attorney working at the CLC, and the support of her father and extended family, Michelle is now safe and attending a LEAP program in a new school. Michelle is thriving!

Stories like Michelle's are all too common in Forsyth County. Her story inspires me and my staff to continue our efforts to help the hundreds of children in the greater Forsyth County community who struggle in homes where violence is present. Our intervention makes a tremendous difference in the lives of the children we serve. We intend to continue to have a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children in Forsyth and neighboring counties.

Relationships with attorneys, volunteers, law firms, universities and organizations enable us to reach these children in need. The Wake Forest University Child Advocacy Clinic students and interns from Elon, Emory, Duke, Notre Dame and other law schools have developed their advocacy skills while interviewing numerous witnesses and conducting GAL investigations.

Through our partnership with Safe on Seven, we are able to represent the best interests of children who are the secondary victims of domestic violence. In FY 2010, the CLC served **101 children**. Already in FY 2011 we are working on behalf of **108 children** in domestic violence and high conflict custody cases. Our goal is to help Michelle and the hundreds of children like her find a path to a safe and successful future. If you would like to help us build safer home environments for children, please contact me at isunshine@childrenslawcenternc.org or visit our website at www.childrenslawcenternc.org.

Best regards,
Iris Sunshine

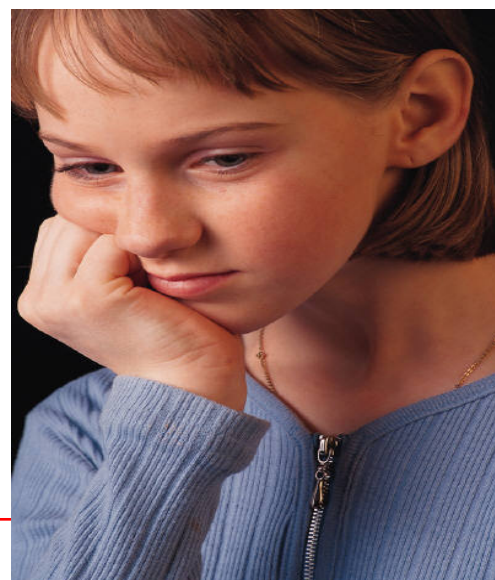
Children who live in a home where there is domestic violence are 15 times more likely to be abused.

More than 2 million children will be exposed to domestic violence in 2011.

Children and Domestic Violence: Breaking the Cycle of Violence

No Child should grow up in a home where violence is present. Children exposed to domestic violence have higher rates of drug and alcohol abuse, and are much more likely to be involved in physically violent relationships themselves. Dr. Jeffery Edelstein, a noted scholar who has written extensively about children and domestic violence, argues that children who witness violence may have worse outcomes than children who are abused. He suggests that this is due to a lack of services for child victims. The CLC is committed to breaking the cycle of violence. **Our Guardians ad Litem recommend age appropriate counseling for every child involved in domestic violence proceedings.** Mandy Kelley, a staff attorney explained, "We make specific recommendations to the Courts for each of our clients based upon our extensive investigations. Every situation is unique but everything that we do is geared towards

protecting the best interests of the child."



The Children's Law Center
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8 West 3rd Street
Suite M-6
Winston Salem, NC 27101
336-831-1909

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Community Partnerships: Making an Impact

The Children's Law Center is the leading advocate for children's legal issues in Forsyth County. Our clients may be small, but the issues they face are large. We recognize that domestic violence harms every member of the family. Intervention is a crucial part of breaking the cycle of violence.

The CLC does not act alone. Community volunteers and pro-bono attorneys provide invaluable assistance. Attorneys from **Kilpatrick, Stockton & Townsend** donated more than

\$200,000 in billable hours to our clients in 2010. Executive Director of Operations Amy Kuhlman said, "Dozens of children who would not have received the protections provided by a GAL had their best interests protected in court due to the dedication and generosity of these attorneys. and this firm." She continued,



Domestic Violence is a Community Problem. The CLC is part of a Community Solution.

"Pro-bono attorneys and student interns enable us to serve more children." The CLC accepts all court appointments and there is never a fee in domestic violence cases. The CLC salutes our corporate partners. Thank you for helping us build safer homes and communities. Thank you for helping us protect the second ary victims of family violence.
