

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAM

## CAFL TRIAL PANEL CERTIFICATION TRAINING DATES

**June 1, 2, 3, 15 and 16, 2009 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

**Applications must be received no later than:**

**Monday, April 6, 2009**

**Preference will be given to attorneys practicing in western Massachusetts.**

**The trainings are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each of the five days.**

Applicants must be members of the Massachusetts bar, or be admitted to the bar of another state and be eligible for admission in Massachusetts without having to complete the bar exam. Applicants with extensive trial experience may request a waiver of the two-day trial skills portion of the program. Admission into the training is competitive and not all applicants may be admitted.

Applicants must successfully complete the training course in order to be certified. Attorneys also must attend a 4-hour seminar on medical treatment decisions for children in DSS custody offered by CAFL free of charge once a year. Attorneys who have satisfied the course training requirements are provisionally certified for the first eighteen months after the assignment of the first case. The attorney must work cooperatively with his or her assigned mentor as required by the CAFL Mentor Program Requirements. The mentor will report to the CAFL program regarding the work of the attorney after the eighteen-month period. The CAFL program will then determine whether the attorney will (a) be certified and permitted to take additional assignments without supervision of a mentor; (b) be permitted to take additional assignments with continued mentor supervision, (c) be permitted to continue to take cases with a limitation on the number of cases allowed and/or type of cases assigned or (d) be removed from the panel and have his/her cases reassigned.

Please submit three (3) copies of the completed application, including three copies of the writing sample to:

Rita Caso, Certification Coordinator  
Children and Family Law Program  
Committee for Public Counsel Services  
44 Bromfield Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Incomplete applications and applications submitted to MCLE will not be considered. Applications must be received by CPCS no later than **April 6, 2009**. CAFL will notify applicants in **May, 2009**, whether they have been admitted to the program. You must pay MCLE in advance of the training to reserve a seat. Please do not submit payment to MCLE until after you have received confirmation from CPCS that you have been accepted into the training.

**For further information, please contact Amy Karp, Training Director at (617) 988-8382 or Rita Caso at (617) 988-8444.**

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**APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW  
TRIAL PANEL CERTIFICATION TRAINING**

Counties in which assignments are desired:

1. Name

Law Firm

Office Address

Telephone

FAX

Email address

2. BBO Number

Date of admission to Mass Bar

Date of admission to other Bars:

State

Date

Law School(s) and date of graduation

3. Please attach resume describing education and employment history.

4. Please list trials which you have conducted as lead counsel, including date, duration of trial, the court in which it was tried, judge, opposing counsel, nature of case, and whether the case was tried to a jury. If fewer than five trials were conducted in the last five years, please describe significant evidentiary hearings or appellate proceedings in which you have participated.

5. Please describe experience in utilization of expert witnesses.

6. Please list participation in specialized trial skills training programs (e.g., MCLE, NITA, etc.) within the last five years, including sponsors, locations and dates.

7. Please list participation in other training programs within the last five years, including topics, sponsors, location and dates.

8. Please describe all education and/or experience representing or working with children, adolescents and families.

9. Have you ever been disbarred, suspended, reprimanded, censured, or otherwise formally disciplined, publicly or privately, as an attorney, or as a member of any other profession, or as a holder of any public office whether in Massachusetts or elsewhere? If yes, please explain.

10. Are any charges or complaints now pending before any court or agency concerning your conduct as an attorney, or as a member of any profession or as a holder of any public office? If yes, please explain.
11. Have you previously served on or do you currently serve on any other panel or list for assignment of lawyers to represent indigent clients? If so, list each panel and the dates of service.
12. Have you ever been removed from or suspended or otherwise disciplined by any panel for any period? If yes, give particulars.
13. Have you previously or do you currently accept appointments as a GAL, Court Investigator or CASA? If so please list the courts in which you accept appointments and the type of appointments.
14. Have you ever been removed from a court list or suspended from a court list or otherwise disciplined by any court relative to your appointment as a court investigator, GAL or CASA? If yes, please give particulars
15. Do you speak any foreign languages? If so, give particulars, and describe your level of fluency.
16. The Committee for Public Counsel Services is committed to assuring that the panel of attorneys accepting CAFL assignments is sensitive to the diversity of the client population it serves. What background, experience, and perspectives would you bring to the panel which would further this goal?
17. Please briefly state the reasons you have applied for membership on the CAFL trial panel and briefly furnish any other information which you think would be helpful to the Committee for Public Counsel Services in evaluating your application.
18. Please enclose a short, concise legal writing sample. Whenever possible the writing sample should contain a legal argument or analysis and should not be a court investigation, GAL report, pretrial memorandum, or other document that does not provide a legal argument or analysis.

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.

Signature:

Date: