



## **JOIN THE FIGHT!**

### **GROW YOUR LEGAL PRACTICE AND HELP CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN NEED! APPLY FOR OUR CAFL TRIAL PANEL CERTIFICATION TRAINING!**

The Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services is seeking qualified attorneys to represent children and indigent parents in care and protection/termination of parental rights and child requiring assistance (CRA) cases in the Juvenile Court.

CAFL offers attorneys difficult yet rewarding work with clients in urgent need of zealous representation. Prior to becoming certified, accepted attorneys must successfully complete CPCS' Trial Panel Certification Training, a comprehensive training in this specialized area of law. Certified attorneys will be assigned to represent children and parents in state intervention cases, which often start with an ex parte petition filed by the Department of Children and Families. Immediate responsibilities include preparing for potential emergency custody hearings within 72 hours of an ex parte order. These cases can last 15 months or longer. If you are up for this challenge, please apply for our upcoming training!

**Attorneys accepted into this training will receive a "Certification Payment" of \$5032** upon the following: 1) successful completion of the CAFL Trial Panel Certification Training; 2) receiving appointments on 12 care and protection cases within 18 months of certification; and 3) submission of 500 hours of billing on care and protection cases within 18 months of certification.

**Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until February 1, 2026.**



## Interested attorneys can apply through the Application Portal [HERE](#).

### IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR INTERESTED ATTORNEYS

**CERTIFICATION TRAINING:** Attendance at all days of the training and successful completion of the mock hearing is required to become certified to take CAFL cases. The training will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 11, 2:00-4:00 orientation  
Monday, March 16, 9:30-4:30 – in person  
Thursday, March 19, 1:00-4:30 – zoom  
Monday, March 23, 9:30-4:30 – in person  
Thursday, March 26, 1:00-4:30 – zoom  
Monday, March 30, 9:30-4:30 – in person  
Thursday, April 2, 1:00-4:30 – zoom  
Monday, April 6, 9:30-4:30 – in person  
Monday, April 13, 9:30-4:30 – in person

April 28, 29, & 30, 8:45-5:00 – mock hearings in person. Please leave all three dates open until you have been assigned a mock hearing date.

The training is a mix of in-person sessions, live zoom sessions, and substantial self-directed learning. The training concludes with a full day in-person mock temporary custody hearing. All applicants are expected to hold the three mock hearing dates until you receive the mock hearing schedule.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Attorneys will be assigned to cases, which often start with an ex parte petition filed by the Department of Children and Families. Immediate responsibilities include preparing for potential emergency custody hearings within 72 hours of an ex parte order. These cases can last 15 months or longer.

**COMPENSATION:** Private attorneys will be paid **\$95/hour** for Care and Protection/Termination of Parental Rights cases and **\$75/hour** for CRA matters.

**PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS:** Attorneys must adhere to CAFL's performance standards and meet other requirements outlined in the CPCS

*Assigned Counsel Manual*. Those standards and requirements can be found [here](#).

**SUPPORT:** New panel members will be assigned a mentor who provides support, introduces them to court personnel, helps them learn local practices, attends initial court hearings, and offers assistance.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions about becoming a member of the CAFL Trial Panel, the certification process, or the upcoming training, please contact [CAFLattorney@publiccounsel.net](mailto:CAFLattorney@publiccounsel.net).

**INTERESTED? APPLY Through the Application Portal  
[HERE](#) BY February 1, 2026!**

