



MISSION

To protect the needs and rights of children involved in high conflict divorce and custody cases, while educating and supporting those who have the greatest influence on children.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oregon State Bar
Pro Bono Fair
4/4/07

< Details >

Seminar: Children of High
Conflict Custody Cases

Joan Kelly
World Forestry Center
5/4/07 1-5 pm

Training Workshop:
Effective Legal
Representation for Children
11/2/07

Board of Directors:

Jody Stahancyk, President
Attorney at Law

Dr. Charlene Sabin
Behavioral Pediatrician

Peter Hamilton
*Director of High Schools,
Portland Public Schools*

Geoff Walsh
Mortgage Broker

Dr. Catherine Bolstad
PHD

Personnel:

Leslie Abraham
*Executive Director/
Program Attorney*

Jennifer Gilmore
Staff Attorney

Ben Sadler
*Assistant Director/
Legal Assistant*

**CCS Monthly
Newsletter:**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Jennifer A. Gilmore
Staff Attorney

Child Centered Solutions would like to welcome Jennifer Gilmore, our newest staff attorney, to represent children involved in high conflict dissolutions and custody cases. Ms. Gilmore received her J.D. from Tulane University Law School and her undergraduate degree from Duke University. She has extensive experience in non-profit work and was formerly the International Program Manager for the Advisory Board Foundation and Chief Operating Officer for the Child Protection Unit Network, both located in Manila, Philippines. Jenny is excited about the opportunity CCS provides her to continue to work directly for and with children.



TRAINING WORKSHOP

Child Centered Solutions will offer a full-day training workshop on effective legal representation of children. The workshop will include a combination of lectures by experts in the field, and panels comprised of experienced attorneys and other professionals engaged in this work. Proposed subject areas include basic procedural information, techniques for interviewing children, and ethical standards. The workshop will be open to those attorneys who are either currently representing children in child custody and parenting time disputes, or would like to become more involved. Attorneys who complete the training will be added to the roster of pro bono attorneys willing and able to represent children in Multnomah County. Please contact us for more information.

BOARD SERVICE

By Gerry Swanson

Gerry Swanson is the former President of the Board of Directors for Court Appointed Special Advocates in Multnomah County.



Board service is one of the most critical components of success in the nonprofit world. Without a dedicated and active board of directors, it is extremely difficult to achieve the mission and goals of the nonprofit organization that are integral to maintaining a healthy community. If you have been considering board service, one of our volunteers, Gerry Swanson, a long time Board member and past President of the Board for CASA, has generously supplied his thoughts on the requirements of board service.

Any individual director has a responsibility to properly govern the organization. Governance necessitates developing and maintaining the organization's mission through financial and personnel supervision. Within the responsibilities of governance, each director has three basic duties, which are not exclusive to nonprofit or charity organizations. These duties are to be taken seriously and with the understanding of a potential time commitment. The duties are as follows:

- Duty of Due Care: Active participation, which includes attending board meetings on a regular basis and keeping informed of the organization's activities.
- Duty of Loyalty: Avoiding conflicts of interest.
- Duty of Obedience: Ensuring that the organization's mission is being carried out and that funds are used for lawful purposes.

Additionally, there are a number of responsibilities and expectations for the board members of nonprofit organizations. These include:

- Active participation and coordination of fundraising, including event planning and auctions.
- Community outreach.
- Networking in regard to funding sources, media coverage and professional contacts.

Recruitment of additional board members committed to and passionate about the organization's mission is crucial to effective governance, especially early on when filling board positions. Existing board members along with the executive director are excellent sources for identifying potential new Board members. Often the outgoing board President will serve in the role of coordinating recruitment of future board members.

Diverse backgrounds are important in board formation. Choosing specific candidates will often be dictated by the current needs of the organization: experience in fundraising, knowledge of and influence with potential donors, practical and professional experience with the core mission, and credibility and prestige in the community.

If you understand and are committed to the mission of an organization, board service can be an incredibly beneficial relationship for all involved.

To unsubscribe from CCS Newsletter please email Ben Sadler <ben@childcenteredsolutions.org> with the title "unsubscribe".

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