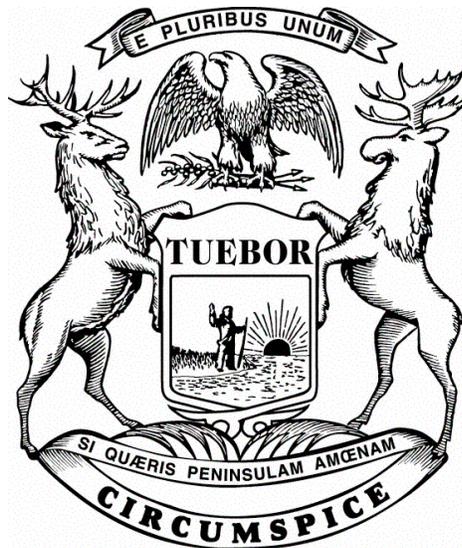


TELLING A STORY: TRIAL SKILLS FOR THE CHILD WELFARE LAWYER

August 16, 2012

Lansing Community College West Campus
Conference Center
5708 Cornerstone Drive
Lansing, Michigan 48917



Sponsored by:
State Court Administrative Office
Child Welfare Services Division
and
Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

This project was funded by a federal Children's Justice Act grant to the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect administered through the Michigan Department of Human Services, under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, CFDA 93.643, being sections 107(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) as amended (42 USC 5101 *et seq.*); and the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as amended (42 USC 10601 *et seq.*). In addition, this is a joint project of the State Court Administrative Office and the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, chaired by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Weaver, retired Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This training will provide child welfare lawyers the trial skills necessary for zealous advocacy in every child welfare case. It is tailored for lawyers who represent children, parents, and state agencies in abuse and neglect cases. Marvin Ventrell, Director of the Juvenile Law Society, will take participants through a typical child welfare case. Along the way, Mr. Ventrell will highlight opportunities to improve argument and case presentation by developing and adhering to a focused theme. The training is based on Mr. Ventrell's book, *Trial Advocacy for the Child Welfare Lawyer: Telling the Story of the Family*. Each training participant will receive a copy of the book on the day of the training. The training is a combination of lecture, demonstrations, and participant learn-by-doing performances that focus on the following skills: Opening and closing statements, handling difficult witnesses, direct and cross-examination, expert testimony, and making objections. Mr. Ventrell has presented this training across the country to rave reviews from child welfare attorneys. This is a one-of-a-kind training opportunity that will benefit lawyers at every experience level.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Lawyer-guardians ad litem, Parents' Attorneys, Assistant Attorneys General, Prosecutors, and anyone interested in improving trial advocacy skills.

AGENDA

Presenter: **Marvin Ventrell, Esq.**, Executive Director, Juvenile Law Society, Denver, CO

8:15-9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00-10:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction Case Analysis: The Story of the Family Direct Examination: The Words of the Story Closing Argument: Organization and Technique
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.-Noon	Cross Examination: Minimizing and Marginalizing Witness Impact Expert Witness Exam: Moving from Perception to Belief
Noon-1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Difficult Witnesses: Managing the Challenge Exhibits and Their Foundations: Picture This Making and Meeting Objections: The Rules of the Trial
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15-4:00 p.m.	Opening Statement: Imprinting the Story Ethics and Professionalism: Integrity in the Courtroom
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn

TRAINING COSTS

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR THIS TRAINING. The training is generously funded by the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Training materials and a lunch will be provided. **Travel, meals other than lunch, and lodging expenses are the responsibility of the participant.**

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. However, there may be some exceptions to ensure geographic diversity and participation across professions. *Due to space limitations, restrictions have been placed on the number of individuals per agency and discipline who may attend this training. Registration will not guarantee attendance.*

A confirmation notice will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the training. If you have not received a confirmation by August 10, 2012, contact Heather Leidi at LeidiH@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5322.

LODGING INFORMATION

A limited block of overnight rooms has been reserved at the Country Inn & Suites for August 15, 2012, at a rate of \$65 per night for single-occupancy lodging and \$85 per night for double-occupancy lodging. This block of rooms will be released back to the hotel after August 1, so please make your reservation early. We cannot guarantee these rates after the August 1 deadline. **Please note:** You are responsible for your lodging expenses.

Country Inn & Suites: To make your reservations at the Country Inn & Suites call 517-827-7000 and reference "081512STAT" to ensure that you receive the reduced rate. Country Inn & Suites is located at **6511 Centurion Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917**. Directions can be found at the following websites:

Site Map: <http://www.countryinns.com>

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

TRAINING REGISTRATION

Online Registration: [Click here](#)

OR

Follow the steps below:

- 1) Go to the Child Welfare Services webpage:
<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/CWS/TrainingDevelopment.htm>
- 2) Select: **"Upcoming CWS Off-Site Programs"**
- 3) Select: **"Schedule of Upcoming Programs"**
- 4) Select: **"Telling a Story: Trial Skills for the Child Welfare Lawyer "**

5) Click: “**Register**” and complete the form

Please use **Internet Explorer** as your browser when registering for this training. If you have problems registering, please contact Heather Leidi at LeidiH@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5322.

You should submit your registration as soon as possible to increase the likelihood that your registration will be confirmed. Your registration is a commitment to attend the entire portion of the training for which you register. Please do not register to attend this training unless you have scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend.

If you need to cancel after you have been confirmed to attend this training, please contact Heather Leidi at LeidiH@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5322 as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. On-site registration is **not** available.

Please note that registrations will not be accepted after August 13, 2012.