



The New York Public Welfare Association  
148<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference

*The Ripple Effects of  
Care, Compassion, and  
Respect*

**LEGAL BROCHURE**

July 16-19, 2017  
The Saratoga Hilton Hotel  
Saratoga Springs, New York

## Monday, July 17, 2017

Download workshop materials at [www.nypwa.org](http://www.nypwa.org) one week before conference. Arrive **at least 10 minutes** early for each session to sign in. If you do not sign in and sign out for each session, you will **NOT** receive CLE credits.

9:00AM - 10:30AM

**Ethics for Government Attorneys (1.5 Ethics CLEs provided by OTDA):** This session will feature a panel from the Office of Legal Affairs discussing the Rules of Professional Conduct applying to governmental attorneys and relating them to day to day practice.

**Presenters:** Brian S. Wootan, Esq., Deputy Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA; Edward W. Stano, Esq., Associate Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA; Nikita M. Valcik, Esq., Senior Attorney, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA

11:00AM - 12:15PM - **Welcome & Opening Address**

12:15PM - 1:15PM - **Lunch**

1:30PM - 3:00PM

**Raise the Age Legislation for Attorneys (1.5 CLEs provided by NYPWA):** This presentation will provide an overview of the Raise the Age legislation enacted in New York State in 2017 with a focus on aspects of most importance to local social services attorneys.

**Presenter:** Cassandra Kelleher-Donnaruma, Esq., Senior Attorney & Bureau Head, NYS OCFS

3:30PM - 5:00PM

**Working with Adult Service Clients: Focusing on the Interdependent Relationship Between the DA and Social Services (1.5 CLEs provided by NYPWA):** This workshop will focus on how two specific systems (District Attorney and Social Services) interact and engage with adult service clients, working towards creating an individualized plan to assist the elderly so they have safer abuse-free lives. Emphasis will be placed on effective communication and collaboration between both agencies, sharing information, confidentiality (under SSL 473-3) and creating trusting relationships. The workshop will also de-mystify the criminal justice process for social service providers and agency attorneys. The presenters will describe how APS can make an effective referral to the DA's office and law enforcement, the type of information required to initiate a criminal investigation, useful interviewing techniques of victims, kinds of evidence of abuse that should be documented and preserved by APS and when police can and cannot make an arrest. Statutes governing the secrecy of grand jury proceedings will be highlighted and Penal law statutes that apply to older adults or disabled people being abused will be referenced.

**Presenters:** Arlene Markarian, Esq., Unit Chief Elder Abuse Unit, Nassau County District Attorney's Office; Karen R. Garber, Esq., LMSW, Program

Coordinator, Nassau County DSS; Sarah Smith, LCSW-R, BCD, APS  
Assistant Director, Nassau County DSS

**Tuesday, July 18, 2017**

9:00AM - 10:30AM

**Case Law Update on CPS and Permanency Issues (1.5 CLEs provided by NYPWA)**: Hear the critical details on new case law in child welfare covering Abuse, Neglect, Dispositions, and Permanency Hearings.

**Presenter:** Margaret A. Burt, Esq., Counsel to the NYPWA

11:00AM - 12:15PM

**Case Law Update on Foster Care, TPRs, and Adoptions (1.5 CLEs provided by NYPWA)**: Hear the critical details on new case law in child welfare covering Foster Care, Terminations of Parental Rights, and Adoptions.

**Presenter:** Margaret A. Burt, Esq., Counsel to NYPWA

12:15PM - 1:15PM - **Lunch**

1:30PM - 3:00PM

**NYS Child Permanency Mediation (1.5 CLEs provided by NYS Judicial Institute)**: The workshop will review what child permanency mediation is, how the program works in NY State, benefits of the program and give examples of case types. A panel of participants will also accompany the presentation to give first-hand knowledge of their experiences of the child permanency mediation program.

**Presenters:** Suzanne Shafer, MA, NYS Child Permanency Mediation Project Manager, Child Welfare Court Improvement Project; Honorable Julia Brouillette, Esq., Family Court Judge, Oneida County; Kim Conidi, Esq., Attorney, Erie County DSS; Kathleen Sullivan, Citizens Concerned for Children, Inc.; Alice Decker, Esq., Broome County Public Defender's Office

3:30PM - 5:00PM

**What DSS Attorneys Need to Know about Good Quality CPS Investigations (1.5 CLEs provided by NYPWA)**: The panel will discuss the basic requirements under the regulations for CPS workers to respond to a SCR report. The state trainers for new CPS workers will describe what workers and supervisors are trained in regarding good practice in doing complete, quality investigations. The role of the DSS attorney in helping to decide policy issues and setting up procedures for such key things as taking and/or retaining field notes, photographs, texting and emailing with clients, and collection of physical evidence will be highlighted.

**Presenters:** Margaret A. Burt, Esq., Counsel to the NYPWA; Mike McNally, Senior Manager, Center for Development of Human Services; Gene D. Skarin, Esq., Trainer, Center for Development of Human Services

## Wednesday, July 19, 2017

9:00AM - 10:30AM

**Practical Considerations for Child Support Lawyers (1.5 CLEs provided by**

**OTDA):** A panel from the Office of Legal Affairs will provide a survey of the responsibilities of an attorney representing the child support enforcement unit. The session will cover the basic actions and proceedings, with practical tips for attorneys new to child support. (i.e., discovery tips, case file preparations, trial tactics, etc.)

**Presenters:** Brian S. Wootan, Esq., Deputy Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA; Edward W. Stano, Esq., Associate Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA; Nikita M. Valcik, Esq., Senior Attorney, Office of Legal Affairs, NYS OTDA

11:00AM - 12:00PM

**Attorneys' Meeting with OTDA & DOH Counsel**

**Facilitator:** Paula Engel, Esq., Onondaga County Department of Law

**OTDA:** Krista Rock, Esq., General Counsel & Other Attorneys

**DOH:** Daniel Tarantino, Esq., Director, Bureau of Health Insurance Programs, Division of Legal Affairs

12:00PM - **Conference Adjourns**

### **Documents for Legal Sessions**

Materials for all legal sessions (except *Ethics for Government Attorneys* and *Practical Considerations for Child Support Lawyers*) will be posted at [www.NYPWA.org](http://www.NYPWA.org) by July 10. Please download the documents in advance, especially the caselaw report, and print or save them on your laptop or tablet to read during the session. OTDA will provide copies for their workshops.

### **CLE Information**

Three entities will provide a total of 12 CLEs (eight 1.5 CLE sessions). NYPWA is providing CLEs for *Raise the Age Legislation for Attorneys*; *Working with Adult Service Clients: Focusing on the Interdependent Relationship Between the DA and Social Services*; *Case Law Update on CPS and Permanency Issues*; *Case Law Update on Foster Care, TPR, and Adoptions*; and *What DSS Attorneys Need to Know about Good Quality CPS Investigations*. OTDA is providing CLEs for the *Ethics for Government Attorneys* and *Practical Considerations for Child Support Lawyers*. NYS Judicial Institute is providing CLEs for *NYS Child Permanency Mediation*.

1.5 CLEs in Ethics and Professionalism will be provided for *Ethics for Government Attorneys*.

10.5 CLEs are in Areas of Professional Practice.

All sessions are suitable for transitional and non-transitional attorneys.

### **CLE Financial Aid Policy**

CLE financial assistance is available for attorneys who wish to attend NYPWA conference CLE courses but who find it difficult to attend due to the cost. Please contact the NYPWA at [info@nypwa.org](mailto:info@nypwa.org) for more information.