



## AVLF GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING AGENDA

December 3, 2018 • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Eversheds Sutherland

### DAY 1: GAL WORK 1.0

8:45-9:00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
9:00-9:15	<b>WELCOME</b> <i>Jamie Perez, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation</i> Restrooms, Parking, Overview of GAL Program
9:15-11:00	<b>OVERVIEW OF GAL INVESTIGATION AND ROLE, DUTIES, &amp; RESPONSIBILITIES</b> <i>Dawn Smith, Smith &amp; Lake LLC</i> <i>Megan Miller, Megan Miller Legal</i> Types of cases GALs serve in, Rule 24.9, obtaining information needed to make a custody recommendation, role of GAL, maintaining file, child meeting role-play and breakout session
11:00-11:10	<b>BREAK</b>
11:10-12:10	<b>FAMILY LAW 101</b> <i>Courtney Dixon, Atlanta Legal Aid Society</i> Physical custody vs. legal custody, parenting time vs. visitation, primary custody vs. secondary custody, joint custody vs. sole custody, legitimation <i>Lori Anderson, Atlanta Legal Aid Society</i> Best interests of child standard <i>Megan Miller, Megan Miller Legal</i> Fulton County Superior Court Family Division practices & procedures
12:10-12:20	<b>BREAK (Lunch provided)</b>
12:20-1:20	<b>PARENTING PLANS</b> <i>Michelle Jordan, Atlanta Legal Aid Society</i> Overview of Fulton County Parenting Plan, nuances, other considerations, how parenting plan should factor into GAL investigation
1:20-2:20	<b>CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND BEST INTERESTS REGARDING CUSTODY/VISITATION</b> <i>Allison Hill, Ph.D., JD, Peachtree Psychological Associates</i> Age-appropriate behaviors, activities, and parenting time; attachment; overnight visitation; parental alienation; developmental consequences
2:20-2:30	<b>BREAK</b>
2:30-3:30	<b>CULTURAL COMPETENCY</b> <i>Dan Bloom, Richardson Bloom &amp; Lines LLC</i> <i>Aisha Blanchard Collins, Blanchard Collins Law Firm</i> Cultural and economic diversity, LGBTQ considerations
3:30-5:00	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: UNIQUE ISSUES IN GAL INVESTIGATIONS</b>

**Brandy Alexander, The Alexander Firm, LLC**  
**Charlie Bailey, Law Offices of Charles E. Bailey**  
**Bobby Burnett, Robert A. Burnett, PC**  
**Susan Hurst, Susan A. Hurst, P.C.**  
**Megan Miller, Megan Miller Legal**  
**Emily Yu, Yu Family Law LLC**

*Low-income cases, when children need costly resources, who determines preliminary legal issues  
(e.g. substantial change in circumstances), issues newer GALs face, judges, pornography & exposure  
issues, when GAL obtains illegally-obtained info, interviewing techniques*