



AVLF GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING AGENDA
December 4, 2018 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Eversheds Sutherland

DAY 2: GAL WORK 2.0

- 9:00-9:10** **WELCOME**
Jamie Perez, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
- 9:10-10:30** **PANEL: MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF PARENT & CHILD**
Danielle Levy, Psy.D., Family Psychology of East Cobb
Marsha Schechtman, LCSW, Atlanta Behavioral Consultants
Amy Todey, Ph.D., Peachtree Psychological Associates
Substance abuse, mental illness, disability of parent & child, working with special needs children, resist/refuse, adaptive/maladaptive behaviors, child molestation, dysfunction
- 10:30-11:45** **INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE & GAL INVESTIGATIONS**
Joel Correa, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Dynamics of intimate partner abuse, role in custody considerations and parenting plans
- 11:45-12:00** **BREAK (Lunch provided)**
- 12:00-1:00** **WORKING LUNCH – ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR GALS**
Jenny Mittelman, State Bar of Georgia
GAL's relationship and dynamics with counsel, the child, parties, witnesses
- 1:00-2:30** **WRITING REPORTS/MAKING RECOMMENDATION**
Rebecca Hoelting, Hoelting & McCormack, LLC
Alice Limehouse, Smith & Lake LLC
Audrey Bergeson, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Working discussion/workgroups: how to give recommendations, when to put it in writing, what should be included, difficult recommendations, when & how to submit, confidentiality
- 2:30-2:40** **BREAK**
- 2:40-3:40** **ROLE-PLAY: CROSS-EXAMINATION OF GAL & DISCUSSION**
Sheri Lake, Smith & Lake LLC
Alice Limehouse, Smith & Lake LLC
GAL testimony, cross-examination pitfalls, general inability to question witness or present argument
- 3:40-4:00** **CLOSING**
Jamie Perez, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Video from judge, how to volunteer with AVLF, reduced-fee list, requesting fees, GAL evaluations, AVLF best practices, expectations, sign up for efile/service contact, final questions