



AVLF GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING AGENDA
April 16, 2018 • 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Kilpatrick Townsend

DAY 1: GAL WORK 1.0

- 8:45-9:00** **REGISTRATION**
- 9:00-9:15** **WELCOME**
- 9:15-11:00** **OVERVIEW OF GAL INVESTIGATION AND ROLE, DUTIES, & RESPONSIBILITIES**
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** **BREAK**
- 11:10-12:10** **FAMILY LAW 101**
- *Physical custody vs. legal custody, parenting time vs. visitation, primary custody vs. secondary custody, joint custody vs. sole custody, legitimation*
 - *Best interests of child standard*
 - *Fulton County Superior Court Family Division practices & procedures*
- 12:10-12:20** **BREAK (Lunch provided)**
- 12:20-1:20** **PARENTING PLANS**
Overview of Fulton County Parenting Plan, nuances, other considerations, how parenting plan should factor into GAL investigation
- 1:20-2:20** **CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND BEST INTERESTS REGARDING CUSTODY/VISITATION**
Age-appropriate behaviors, activities, and parenting time; attachment; overnight visitation; parental alienation; developmental consequences
- 2:20-2:30** **BREAK**
- 2:30-3:30** **CULTURAL COMPETENCY**
Cultural and economic diversity, LGBTQ considerations
- 3:30-5:00** **PANEL DISCUSSION: UNIQUE ISSUES IN GAL INVESTIGATIONS**
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



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April 17, 2018 • 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Eversheds Sutherland

DAY 2: GAL WORK 2.0

- 9:00-9:10** **WELCOME**
- 9:10-10:30** **PANEL: MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF PARENT & CHILD**
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**
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**
GAL's relationship and dynamics with counsel, the child, parties, witnesses
- 1:00-2:30** **WRITING REPORTS/MAKING RECOMMENDATION**
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**
GAL testimony, cross-examination pitfalls, general inability to question witness or present argument
- 3:40-4:00** **CLOSING**
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