



Oklahoma Guardian Ad Litem Institute

1ST ANNUAL CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN CONFERENCE

INVESTIGATE. REPORT. PROTECT.

**SpringHill Suites
Quail Springs
3201 W. Memorial Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73134**

**OCTOBER
26-27, 2018**

This course has been approved by the Oklahoma Bar Association Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission for 12 hours of CLE credit, including 1 hour of ethics credit

\$250.00 if you register and pay by October 16, 2018
\$300.00 if you register or pay after October 16, 2018

WWW.OKGALINSTITUTE.ORG

CONFERENCE AGENDA

KICKOFF HAPPY HOUR, THURS. OCT. 25TH

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM

**1492 NEW WORLD LATIN
CUISINE, CASADY SQUARE
9213 N PENN, OKC, OK 73120**

Join us for a fun-filled conference kickoff happy hour. Lite appetizers provided.

Sponsored by Michelle Greene, Barham Clark Law PLLC, & Monica Y. Ybarra

DAY 01, FRI OCT. 26TH

8:15 AM- 9:00 AM

**REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
BUFFET**

9:00 AM- 9:15 AM

WELCOME

Sharon Byers, Oklahoma GAL Institute

9:15 AM-10:05 AM

**ETHICS: AUTHORITY & ROLE OF
THE GAL, AND ETHICAL
PRACTICES**

Define the role of the GAL and gain awareness to avoid ethical pitfalls. From confidentiality to conflicts of interest, this presentation will get you started on the right (ethical) foot.

Presented by Rachel Stoddard-Morris

10:05 AM-10:50 AM

**GETTING STARTED:
PREPARATIONS BEFORE
ACCEPTING YOUR FIRST
ASSIGNMENT**

Before accepting your first case, you need to get organized. Learn best practices for billing, forms, procedures, and more.

Presented by Michelle Smith

DAY 01 (CONT.)

10:50 AM-11:35 AM

GAL INVESTIGATIONS: INTERVIEWS

Interviews are one of the most important tools in your toolbox. Receive guidance about who to interview (or not), learn effective interviewing techniques, and the dos and don'ts of interviewing.

Presented by Jennifer Irish

11:35 AM- 11:50 AM

BREAK

11:50 AM- 1:45 PM

WORKING LUNCH FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION RESILIENCE: THE BIOLOGY OF STRESS & THE SCIENCE OF HOPE

This is a two-part session.

Part 1: The Film

Researchers recently discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood. As the new documentary "Resilience" reveals, toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death. It also chronicles the movement that is determined to fight back. Trailblazers are using cutting-edge science and field-tested therapies to protect children from the insidious effects of toxic stress—and the dark legacy of a childhood that no child would choose.

Part 2: Panel Discussion with panelists

Sherry Fair, Hon. Ken Stoner, & Major Paco Balderama; Moderated by Linda Manaugh & Pat Potts

1:45 PM-2:00 PM

BREAK



DAY 01 (CONT.)

2:00 PM- 2:30 PM

GAL INVESTIGATIONS: OBTAINING RECORDS

Obtaining records from the courts, DHS, law enforcement, medical providers, and others can be a daunting task. Learn how to navigate these bureaucratic waters to obtain the information you need.

Presented by Sharon Byers

2:30 PM- 3:20 PM

GAL INVESTIGATIONS: SITE VISITS

A GAL is often required to visit children, parents, family members, and other collateral contacts outside of the office. This session explores the who, what, when, where, why, and how of conducting safe site visits.

Presented by Bridget Childers

3:20 PM- 3:30 PM

BREAK

3:30 PM- 4:15 PM

THE GAL'S ROLE IN LITIGATION

Understanding your role in the litigation process is imperative. From motion practice to mediation, a GAL is an important contributor at every stage. Learn how to effectively participate in the process to protect children.

Presented by Michelle Smith

4:15 PM- 5:00 PM

LESSONS LEARNED: TIPS, TRICKS, & HELPFUL HINTS

No matter how much training you receive, some lessons come only by experience. Luckily, experienced GALs are willing to share those hard-earned lessons with you. Find out what others wish they knew before putting on a GAL hat.

Presented by Stacey Wiebelt

DAY 01 (CONT.)

5:30 PM- 7:30 PM

NETWORKING SOCIAL: TOPGOLF OKC

13313 PAWNEE DRIVE, OKC 73114

Get to know your GAL colleagues and join us for a unique OKC experience!

Includes buffet dinner, non-alcoholic beverages, and unlimited TopGolf play. Due to the generous support of our sponsors, this networking social is included in the price of registration.

Generously sponsored by Mullins Mullins Sexton & Reaves, PC and Phillips Murrah P.C.

DAY 02, SAT OCT. 27TH

8:30 AM- 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION

9:00 AM- 10:00 AM

GAL REPORTS: WRITING AN ACCURATE, INFORMATIVE, EFFECTIVE REPORT

The format and content of GAL reports varies. This session will provide an overview of different report writing techniques, including organization, content, and style, and provide guidance for writing effective reports.

Presented by Jama Pecore

10:00 AM- 11:00 AM

KNOW YOUR JUDGE: JUDICIAL EXPECTATIONS AND PREFERENCES

Understanding what family law judges expect from a GAL is essential to effective advocacy. We've polled judges from across the state to learn what they expect from a GAL, and we'll share those insights with you. You'll also have an opportunity to share pieces of helpful advice or wisdom that you've learned along the way.

Presented by Reagan Barham & Monica Y. Ybarra



DAY 02 (CONT.)

11:00 AM- 12:00 PM

THE GAL AS A WITNESS: PRESENTING AND DEFENDING YOUR REPORT

If your case proceeds to a contested hearing or trial, you will likely be called to testify and/or present your report to the Court. In this session, experienced practitioners will demonstrate effective report presentation and cross-examination, and provide advice for giving compelling testimony.

Presented by Steve Holden & Nicholle Jones Edwards

12:00 PM

CONFERENCE SURVEY & DISMISS



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**OCTOBER
26-27, 2018**

12 CLE hours, including 1 hour of ethics
\$250 Early Bird (register & pay by October 16, 2018)
\$300 after October 16, 2018

Full name: _____ OBA# _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email**: _____

Will you be attending the Topgolf networking event on Friday evening? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Payment Type: ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

For Credit Card Payment:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV/CVC# _____

Signature: _____

Register on-line: www.okgalinstitute.org, Or Make Checks Payable to: OK GAL Institute

**All materials will be provided by email by October 24, 2018, so an email address MUST be provided

Send questions, completed registration forms & payment (if not registering on-line) to:

Sharon Byers, sharon@okgalinstitute.org, 1701 Signal Ridge Drive, Suite 110, Edmond, Oklahoma 73013, (405) 888-5449, fax: (405) 888-5433