

Juvenile & Children’s Law Virtual Forum



December 3, 2021 – Nashville, Tenn.

Program Producer: Charlotte Mattingly, Spurgin & Mattingly, PLLC

Total Credits: 2 General; 2 Dual

This program will consist of engaging conversations with court administrators from across the state. Attendees will learn the history of the reasonable efforts and review cases in Tennessee involving the concept. Become enlightened on various methods to understanding youth’s cultural impact on decision making.

9 –10:00 a.m. CDT

DUAL

A View from Court Administration

Court administrators from the three Grand Divisions will discuss their role in the juvenile court system, highlight aspects of their respective court program, and provide practitioners with resources available within the court system and provide insight and practical tips for navigating the juvenile court.

Mary Lindsey, Knox County Juvenile Court

Thomas Coupe, Juvenile Court of Memphis & Shelby County

Kathy Sinback, Davidson County Juvenile Court

Charlotte Mattingly, Spurgin & Mattingly, PLLC

10 – 10:30 a.m.

Enhanced Resource Guidelines

Discussion on Tennessee cases involving the concept of reasonable efforts.

Rachel Wright, Rachel M. Wright

10:30– 10:35 a.m.

Break

10:35 – 12:05 p.m.

Reasonable Efforts and Relative Preference: The Two Critical Issues in Dependency Cases

Reasonable efforts are the most important legal tool for holding the social service agency accountable for its duty to support parents. The presentation will include the history of the reasonable efforts concept and how it should be used in juvenile dependency proceedings by attorneys and judges. Relative Preference is the most important issue for ensuring the best results for children who have been removed from parental care. Both issues will be discussed in detail.

Judge Len Edwards, Retired - Superior Court, Santa Clara County, California

12:05 – 12:35 p.m.

Lunch

12:35- 1:35 p.m.

DUAL

Diversity and Inclusion

A panel discussion on achieving improved outcomes for youth by utilizing holistic approaches to representation. Including understanding trauma issues with youth, the environmental and cultural issues that impact their decisions.

Hon. Sheila Calloway, Davidson County Juvenile Court

Lonnell Matthews, Davidson County Juvenile Court

Judge Jennifer Wade, Davidson County Juvenile Court