

REPORT OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
FAMILY COURT PANELS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO
CHIEF JUDGE LEE F. SATTERFIELD

October 2015

On June 12, 2009, Administrative Order 09-07 established a procedure for selecting attorneys to serve on Family Court Panels to represent parties in juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect cases, and other Family Court matters. This directive provided for the re-establishment of Family Court Panels in 2011 and every four years to follow.

On April 15, 2015, Administrative Order 13-07 directed the Family Court to establish a procedure for selecting attorneys to serve on the Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) Panel, review attorneys qualified for appointments on the Mental Health and Mental Habilitation Panels, and create a provisional category for all Family Court Panels. The Administrative Order reiterated the need to re-establish all Family Court Panels in 2015.

The seven Family Court Panels reestablished in 2015 are: the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect Panel (CCAN) on which attorneys represent parents and caretakers in Neglect and other Family Court matters; the Guardian *Ad Litem* Panel (GAL) on which attorneys represent the best interest of children in neglect cases and other Family Court matters; the Juvenile Delinquency Panel (JUV) on which attorneys represent juveniles accused of delinquency offenses; the Persons in Need of Supervision Panel (PINS) on which attorneys represent juveniles accused of status offenses; the Special Education Panel (SPED) on which attorneys represent educational decision makers seeking educational services for children; the Mental Health Panel (MH) on which attorneys represent adults in mental health matters; and the Mental Habilitation Panel (MHAB) on which attorneys represent adults in mental habilitation cases.

The Application Process

The application period began on April 1, 2015 and closed on June 15, 2015. Prior to the announcement of the re-establishment process, the Presiding Judge of the Family Court spoke with attorneys in March 2015 at the Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute luncheon to notify them of the upcoming process and to answer their questions about it. The Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect held a brown bag discussion on April 10, 2015, at which several members of the Family Court Panels Committee answered questions from attorney applicants about the panel selection process. Furthermore, information about the re-establishment process, including application forms, was posted on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia website. Finally, information was distributed weekly in an e-mail from the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) Branch Office to current Family Court Panels members and to prospective applicants who had expressed an interest in being considered for the Family Court Panels.

Applicants were invited to apply for one or more of seven Family Court Panels. The application requested information about the applicant's educational background, work experience, relevant training, substantive knowledge about issues common in the Panels for which they had applied, and trial experience. The application also asked for the names of up to

five Superior Court judicial officers familiar with the applicant's work and a description of significant cases handled before the Court. If an applicant had not practiced before the Superior Court, the applicant was asked to provide judicial references from other jurisdictions. Finally, it asked applicants to detail any criminal history and/or history with the Office of Bar Counsel, as well as to provide a Certificate of Discipline from every jurisdiction in which they were admitted to practice law, and a Certificate of payment of bar dues from the District of Columbia Bar.

The Family Court Panel Committee received a total of 220 applications for one or more of the seven Family Court Panels by the June 15, 2015 due date.

The Evaluation Process

The Committee solicited comments electronically from all current Superior Court Associate Judges and Magistrate Judges, as well as Senior Judges, on the qualifications and abilities of each applicant based on that judicial officer's observations and experiences. In addition, Committee members directly contacted the individual judges listed in each application for comments about the applicant who had cited the judge as being familiar with their work, including judicial officers in other jurisdictions. While some applicants were unknown to any judicial officer and received no comments, other applicants received numerous evaluations from a variety of judges.

Every Family Court Panels Committee member received approximately 25 applications to review carefully and to present to the full Committee. The Committee met on September 9 and 10 for about six hours each day, and on September 29 for about two hours to review and discuss applications. Each application was discussed individually, with the assigned Committee member outlining the applicant's background and experience, highlighting special features in the application, and summarizing judicial evaluations and comments received for the applicant. After receiving this information, the Committee as a whole discussed and deliberated on whether an applicant should be placed or not placed on the panels to which he or she had applied. Usually there was unanimity. In very few instances, a formal vote took place. In less than a handful of cases, the decision was deferred for the assigned Committee member to secure additional information about the applicant before a final decision was made.

Recommendations of the Family Court Panel Committee

These recommendations are the result of the evaluation process that Committee members applied to this project. They are based on the review of applications, input received from judicial officers and deliberations between all committee members. Where judicial comments raised concerns about billing practices, recent vouchers were reviewed and compared with each other. At all times Committee members endeavored to balance the need for effective representation on the one hand, with the expected need for attorney appointments on the other hand. The outcome is described below.

The Committee recommends 71 attorneys for appointment to the GAL Panel, with seven attorneys included in a Provisional capacity. This number is a reduction from the 79 attorneys previously appointed to this Panel. Ten prior panel members chose not to reapply, eleven were removed and thirteen new attorneys added.

The Committee recommends 113 attorneys for appointment to the CCAN Panel, with twelve attorneys included in a Provisional capacity. This number is a reduction from 130 attorneys previously appointed to this Panel. Sixteen prior panel members chose not to reapply, eighteen were removed and nineteen new attorneys added.

The Committee recommends 31 attorneys for appointment to the Special Education Panel, with three attorneys included in a Provisional capacity. This number is a reduction from the 41 attorneys previously appointed to this Panel. Four prior panel members chose not to reapply, ten were removed and four new attorneys added. This panel requires a high degree of specialized knowledge and attorneys must be highly qualified to be selected for the panel. The Committee recommends that we increase efforts to supplement the Special Education Panel with qualified attorneys and that we seek to actively encourage and expedite consideration of such applications in the future.

The Committee recommends 52 attorneys for appointment to the Juvenile Panel, with seventeen attorneys included in a Provisional capacity. This number is a reduction from the 54 attorneys previously appointed to this Panel. Two prior panel members chose not to reapply, fifteen were removed and fifteen new attorneys added.

The Committee recommends 43 attorneys for appointment to the PINS Panel, with two attorneys included in a Provisional capacity. This number is an increase from the 30 attorneys previously appointed to this Panel. Thirteen prior panel members were removed and twenty-six new attorneys added.

The Committee recommends 26 attorneys for appointment to the Mental Health Panel, with five attorneys included in a Provisional capacity. This number is a decrease from the 33 attorneys previously appointed to this Panel. One prior panel member did not reapply, thirteen prior panel members were removed and seven new attorneys added.

The Committee recommends 25 attorneys for appointment to the Mental Habilitation Panel, with none included in a Provisional capacity. This number is a decrease from the 60 attorneys previously appointed to this Panel. One prior panel member did not apply and thirty-four attorneys were removed. There has been a significant decrease in the number of Mental Habilitation matters initiated each year, thus justifying the large reduction in the size of this panel.

Applicants to all panels were required to state if they were fluent in any language other than English. Applicants who claimed to be fluent in Spanish were required to take a test, administered by the Court Interpreter's Office. Sixteen applicants claimed to be fluent in Spanish, but only thirteen sat for the test. Of the thirteen test takers, only six passed the test. The Committee recommends that we increase efforts to supplement the Panels with qualified attorneys who are fluent in a foreign language, particularly Spanish, and seeks to actively encourage and expedite consideration of such applications in the future.

The Committee recommends that the effective date of changes to the Family Court Panels coincide with the date the Administrative Order is issued, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

On behalf of the District of Columbia Superior Court, the Committee thanks all attorneys who applied to the Family Court Panel, staff who assisted with this process and the judicial officers who provided input to help guide our selections.

Respectfully submitted:

Judge Hiram E. Puig-Lugo, Co-Chair
Judge Julie R. Breslow, Co-Chair
Judge Janet Albert
Judge Carol A. Dalton
Judge Tara J. Fentress
Judge Noel T. Johnson
Judge Lloyd U. Nolan, Jr.
Judge Florence Y. Pan
Judge Heidi M. Pasichow
Judge Maribeth Raffinan
Judge Mary Grace Rook

Appendix 1

Final GAL Panel List

Last Name	First Name	Spanish Language Test Results
Abebe	Meti	Provisional
Adamczyk	Anna Dorota	
Akinshola	Tinuade Sarah	
Balawejder-Schwartz	Lauren A.	
Barnett	Iris Sokolow	
Beaujuin	Marie Arnolda	
Boehm- Russell	Stacey	
Bouchet	Rahkel	
Braxton	Cathy Ann	
Browne	Sabine	
Burns	Steven Duane	
Christian	Tamara Mcdowell	
Clark	Margaret	
Clark	Margaret Mary	
Daniel	Deborah Cason	
Daniels	Carolyn	
Darby	Maria	Provisional
Davis	Danielle L.	
Del Cuadro-Zimmerman	Judith	Provisional
Desjardins	Jamie Lauren	
Devlin	Thomas Chesley	
Donohue	Claire	
Duncan	Glen C.	
Dunkley	Karen Elisa	
Ecenbarger	William	Pass
Epstein	Jenny Elizabeth	
Eshman	Dennis Christopher	
Feezor	Charles	
Gilmore	Jack	
Glassman	Kimberly	
Gonzalez	Alfonso	
Gould	Nancy Katherine Deshler	
Hamilton	Dorian Francia	
Henry	Murphy Bonita	Pass
Holloway	Chandra Walker	
Howe	Shippen	Provisional
Huebner	Lawrence Hart	
Imoisili	Abimbola	
Jacobson	Marissa Ann	
Jefferson	Errika	
Jemmott	Adriane Catherine	Provisional
Jose	Joseph William	
Katz	Judith	
Khadilkar	Sonali	Provisional

Krell	Jonathan Matthew	
Labelle	Robert Michael	
Liu	Carol	
Lydon	Thomas Patrick	
Marblestein-Deare	Adriane R.	
Moore	Janice L.	
Murnane	Andrew William	
Osakwe	Lucy Vera	
Patel	Kirti	Provisional
Renton	Jennifer Ann	
Ricchiuto	Rosemarie	
Rode	Amrutha	
Roth	Pamela H.	
Rubin	Dana	
Schamest	Joanne	
Shefter	Frances Lynn	
Singh	Sharon	
Skillman	Phillip	
Sutaria	Shetal V.	
Tapia	Barrie Lynn	Pass
Taylor-Smith	Sharon	
Thorpe	Robyn	
Watsky	Stephen L.	
Williams	Cherise Lenore	
Willingham	Kwame	
Woodman Jr.	Ronald G.	
Wynn-Euell	Beverli Beth Varner	

Appendix 2

FINAL CCAN PANEL LIST

Last Name	First Name	Spanish Language Test Results
Abebe	Meti	Provisional
Aceves-Amaya	Joy (Joyce)	
Adamczyk	Anna Dorota	
Akinshola	Tinuade Sarah	
Allburn	Megan Delaney	Provisional
Balawejder-Schwartz	Lauren A.	
Barikor	Francis	
Batra	Ashok	
Bauer	Allison K.	Provisional
Beaujuin	Marie Arnolda	
Blackwood	Larry Banks	
Bouchet	Rahkel	
Bower	Karen	
Braxton	Cathy Ann	
Browne	Sabine	
Cabezas	Marco Antonio	
Chandler	Cindy	
Christian	Tamara Mcdowell	
Clark	Margaret	
Clark	Margaret Mary	
Colbert	Ronald	
Curtis	Joel Robert	
Daniel	Deborah Cason	
Daniels	Carolyn	
Del Cuadro-Zimmerman	Judith	Provisional
Desjardins	Jamie Lauren	
Devlin	Thomas Chesley	
Dickey	Martha Louise	
Donohue	Claire	
Duncan	Glen C.	
Dunkley	Karen Elisa	
Ecenbarger	William	Pass
Epstein	Jenny Elizabeth	
Eshman	Dennis Christopher	
Evans	Joy Blerkom	
Feezor	Charles	
Garner	Keisha	Provisional
Gilmore	Jack	
Glassman	Kimberly	
Gonzalez	Alfonso	
Gould	Nancy Katherine Deshler	
Grissett-Morton	Nycole	
Haile	Hagos	
Hamilton	Dorian Francia	

Hardy	Felisha	
Hayes	David	
Henry	Murphy Bonita	Pass
Holloway	Chandra Walker	
Howe	Shippen	
Huebner	Lawrence Hart	
Imoisili	Abimbola	
Ipyana	Aminata Fulani Nefetari	
Iwuji	Chidinma Martina	
Jacobs	Gary Phillips	
Jacobson	Marissa Ann	
Jefferson	Cynthia Russell	
Jefferson	Errika	
Jemmott	Adriane Catherine	
Jimoh	Bashiru A.	
Jones	Kim	Provisional
Jose	Joseph William	
Katz	Judith	
Khadilkar	Sonali	Provisional
Labelle	Robert Michael	
Lavine	Robert Jay	
Lofty	Sabina Manette	
Lydon	Thomas Patrick	
Malovrh	Karen	
Marblestein-Deare	Adriane R.	
Margulies	Howard S.	
Martin	Colleen J.	
Mitchell	Karen H.	
Moore	Janice L.	
Mount	William	Provisional
Murnane	Andrew William	
Myles	Monica Anastasia	
Nair	Madhavan K.	
Nordone	Cynthia	
Nussbaum	Howard Steven	
Oladokun	Adejumoke G.	
Orlow	Lisa H.	
Osakwe	Lucy Vera	
O'Toole	Thomas	
Pascale	Jon	
Patel	Kirti	Provisional
Renton	Jennifer Ann	
Ricchiuto	Rosemarie	
Rode	Amrutha	
Roth	Pamela H.	
Rubin	Dana	
Schamest	Joanne	

Schiff	Steven H.		
Singh	Sharon		
Skillman	Phillip		
Soler-Perez	Marie I.	Provisional	Pass
Spicer	Patricia Mary		
Stokes	Shayla	Provisional	
Susskind	Ethan Max		
Sutaria	Shetal V.		
Tapia	Barrie Lynn		Pass
Taylor-Smith	Sharon		
Terrell	Julius Patrick		
Thorpe	Robyn		
Vila	Jorge M.		Pass
Washington	Russell Claude		
Watsky	Stephen L.		
Webb	Melody Regina		
Williams	Cherise Lenore		
Williams	Eric		
Willingham	Kwame		
Woldemariam	Samson	Provisional	
Woodman Jr.	Ronald G.		
Wynn-Euell	Beverli Beth Varner		

Final SPEC ED

Appendix 3

Panel List

Last Name	First Name	Spanish Language Tests Results
Aceves-Amaya	Joy (Joyce)	
Barnett	Iris Sokolow	
Boehm- Russell	Stacey	
Comeau	Sarah L.	
Davis	Danielle L.	
Donney	Gene R.	
Flohre	Sarah Liley	
Glassman	Kimberly	
Hamilton	Dorian Francia	
Henry	Michelle Ann	
Huebner	Lawrence Hart	
Imoisili	Abimbola	
Jester	Elizabeth Tracy	
Margulies	Howard S.	Provisional
Mascagni	Coury	
Moran	Charles A.	
Nabors	Stevie	Provisional
Oladokun	Adejumoke G.	
Onwueme	Ebele	
Osakwe	Lucy Vera	
Ostrem	Nicholas	
Prakash	Anjali	
Renton	Jennifer Ann	
Ricchiuto	Rosemarie	
Riller-Givens	Tracy	
Rode	Amrutha	
Roth	Pamela H.	
Shefter	Frances Lynn	
Watsky	Stephen L.	
Williams	Eric	
Zucker	Jonathan	Provisional

Appendix 4

Final Juvenile Panel List

Last Name	First Name	Spanish Language Test Results
Ali	Khadijah	Provisional
Allburn	Megan Delaney	Provisional
Blackwood	Larry Banks	
Bookhard	Bryan	
Brown	Bryan	
Browne	Sabine	
Davidson	Joel R.	
Dickey	Martha Louise	Provisional
Dollar	Lauren	Provisional
Donney	Gene R.	Provisional
Donohue	Claire	
Feezor	Charles	Provisional
Ferrer	Eduardo Raul	Pass
Gilmore	Jack	
Glassman	Kimberly	Provisional
Gowen	Christopher J.	
Hardy	Felisha	
Harris	Geoffrey Oscar	
Henning	Kristin Nicole	
Ipyana	Aminata Fulani Nefetari	
Jacobs	Gary Phillips	
Koehler	Stanley Jamison	
Labelle	Robert Michael	
Lacey	Francis T.	
Lawrence	Elizabeth	
Lester	Thomas Edwin	
Loucheim	Whitney Trevelyn	
Lydon	Thomas Patrick	
Malovrh	Karen	Provisional
Marblestein-Deare	Adriane R.	
Margulies	Howard S.	
Mascagni	Coury	Provisional
Mount	William	Provisional
Nair	Madhavan K.	
Opaigbeogu	Chiemeka	
Orlow	Lisa H.	
Osakwe	Lucy Vera	
Page	Derrick	
Poole	Troy	Provisional
Regunathan	Ravi	
Renton	Jennifer Ann	Provisional
Robinson	Ralph	Provisional
Schrager	Seth Lee	
Skillman	Phillip	

Spain	Penelope	
Sutaria	Shetal V.	Provisional
Swaney	Julie Marie	Provisional
Wade	Lydia	Provisional
Wall	Charles	
Williams	Eric	
Williams	Wanda Denise	
Woodman Jr.	Ronald G.	Provisional

Appendix 5

Final PINS Panel List

Last Name	First Name	Spanish Language Test Results
Aceves-Amaya	Joy (Joyce)	
Beaujuin	Marie Arnolda	
Blackwood	Larry Banks	
Browne	Sabine	
Clark	Margaret Mary	
Davis	Danielle L.	
Dollar	Lauren	Provisional
Donney	Gene R.	
Duncan	Glen C.	
Dunkley	Karen Elisa	
Feezor	Charles	
Ferrer	Eduardo Raul	Pass
Gilmore	Jack	
Glassman	Kimberly	
Hapworth	Peter J.	
Hardy	Felisha	
Howe	Shippen	
Imoisili	Abimbola	
Jacobs	Gary Phillips	
Jefferson	Errika	
Jones	Kim	Provisional
Kambui	Ayanna D.	
Krell	Jonathan Matthew	
Lawrence	Elizabeth	
Lydon	Thomas Patrick	
Marblestein-Deare	Adriane R.	
Margulies	Howard S.	
Mascagni	Coury	
Murnane	Andrew William	
Oladokun	Adejumoke G.	
Orlow	Lisa H.	
Page	Derrick	
Ricchiuto	Rosemarie	
Rode	Amrutha	
Schamest	Joanne	
Schiff	Steven H.	
Skillman	Phillip	
Sutaria	Shetal V.	
Wall	Charles	
Williams	Eric	
Williams	Wanda Denise	
Woodman Jr.	Ronald G.	
Wynn-Euell	Beverli Beth Varner	

Appendix 6

Final MH Panel List

Last Name	First Name	Spanish Language Test Results
Adamczyk	Anna Dorota	Provisional
Blackwood	Larry Banks	
Boehm- Russell	Stacey	Provisional
Bower	Karen	Provisional
Christian	Tamara Mcdowell	
Connelly	John Joseph	
Desjardins	Jamie Lauren	
Devlin	Thomas Chesley	
Fitzpatrick	Charles Henry	
Feezor	Charles	
Gonzalez	Alfonso	
Gould	Nancy Katherine Deshler	
Haney	Dorene	
Katz	Judith	
Krell	Jonathan Matthew	
Mitchell	Ronald	
Nair	Madhavan K.	
Onwueme	Ebele	Provisional
Renton	Jennifer Ann	
Resnick	Marc	
Ricchiuto	Rosemarie	
Robinson	Ralph	Provisional
Rode	Amrutha	
Schiff	Steven H.	
Singh	Sharon	
Thorpe	Robyn	

Final MHAB Panel

Appendix 7 List

Last Name	First Name	Spanish Language Test Results
Batra	Ashok	
Bernstein	Sandra	
Connelly	John Joseph	
Curtis	Joel Robert	
Daniels	Carolyn	
Devlin	Thomas Chesley	
Fitzpatrick	Charles Henry	
Gauche	Joan F.	
Gutterman	Herbert	
Howard	John	
Imoisili	Abimbola	
Jose	Joseph William	
Kunnirickal	Isaac	
Mitchell	Ronald	
Moore	Janice L.	
Murnane	Andrew William	
Orlow	Lisa H.	
Resnick	Marc	
Rode	Amrutha	
Schiff	Steven H.	
Terrar	Edward	
Toth	Richard	
Ullman	Shawn R.	
Weedman	Amy	
Whitlatch	Morgan	