

GAL NEWS



A child's advocate in court

4th District—Onslow/Jones/Duplin/Sampson

Summer 2011

Special Points of Interest:

- p. 1 – Ernie Wright Signs 25th Contract as Attorney Advocate
- p. 2 – In-service Training
- p. 2 – Summer Recruitment Opportunities
- p. 3 – Calendar, Birthdays, & Anniversaries
- p. 4 – New Attorney Advocate
- p. 4 – New Volunteers
- p. 5 – Mac Moody Receives Service Award

GAL 4th District Staff

- Rusty Brown
District Administrator
Rusty.Brown@nccourts.org
- Cindi Cunio
Program Assistant
Cynthia.Cunio@nccourts.org
- Andy Webb
Program Supervisor
James.A.Webb@nccourts.org
- Patrick Giddeons
Program Supervisor
Patrick.L.Giddeons@nccourts.org
- Joan Shostak
Military Project Coordinator
Joan.M.Shostak@nccourts.org

Newsletter Staff

Mac Moody
Millard.M.Moody@nccourts.org
(910) 340-8970

www.gal4kids.org

Message from District Administrator

Fellow Advocates, I hope that you all are enjoying your summer with family and friends. It appears that the state budget has taken shape for the next two years, and District 4 GAL has survived cuts that have taken place throughout the state. We certainly want to pass on a big “thank you” to all advocates who continue to support the Guardian ad Litem Program through your advocacy, commitment, and voices.

As for news in our district, we want to welcome aboard our newest Attorney Advocate, Mr. Braxton Price. Mr. Price will begin representing our children in Sampson County in July 2011. In meeting with Braxton on several occasions over the past month, it is apparent that he brings knowledge, community respect, and a determined attitude that will lead to appropriate advocacy for our children, and teamwork with our volunteers.

Guardian ad Litem continues to search for office space in Sampson County. We have met with the County Manager and the Clerk of Court, but without success of securing office space. Due to the increased number of cases, and the limited number of volunteers, we believe that office space in Sampson County is a necessity and we will continue to meet with officials in an attempt to secure it.

Please mark your calendars for July 15th (Friday) 8:30 – 12 noon we will be conducting an In-service Training at the GAL office in Onslow County. This training will include presentations by our Attorney Advocate, PEERS, and Onslow Child Advocacy Center. Please RSVP with Cindi in our Onslow office.

Wish you all the very best this summer,

Rusty Brown, GAL District Administrator

Ernie Wright Signs 25th Contract as Attorney Advocate

Attorney Ernest J. Wright was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 28, 1953. He attended Howard University, Washington D.C., where he earned his B.A., with honors, in 1975. He received his J.D. in 1978 from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio and was admitted in the Ohio Bar in 1978.

Served in the United States Marine Corps in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, HQ Bn. 2nd MarDiv, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was admitted in the North Carolina State Bar in 1982.

Ernie Wright is a member of the North Carolina State Bar, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and former member of the Jacksonville/Onslow County Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors. He was State Chairman of the NC Criminal Justice Partnership Program from 1995-2000. He served as a County Commissioner for Onslow County from 1992-2000. Ernie is general counsel for AFGE, Local 2065; Montford Point Marine Association, and Onslow County Partnership for Children.

Ernie has been an Attorney Advocate for the 4th Judicial District Guardian ad Litem Program since April 1986, more than 25 years of dedicated service!!

Great job Ernie, and thank you for your dedicated service to the children of Onslow County.



Summer Recruitment Events

We have the opportunity to participate in several events over the next few months for recruitment and public awareness. We need volunteers to help operate the booths. Volunteers will represent the Guardian ad Litem Program in distributing information and answering questions. Downtown Alive has events planned for July 9th and August 13th from 2:00pm to 9:00pm. These events will have live music and entertainment, as well vendors. The 28th Annual National Night Out will be held Tuesday August 2nd from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. National Night Out (NNO) is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Jacksonville hosts one of the largest NNO events in the state of North Carolina. All three of these events will be held at the Riverwalk Crossing Park in Jacksonville. We are looking for volunteers to work one or two hour blocks of time for one or all of these events. If you would like to participate, please call the office and let us know which event you would like to participate in, and what times you can be available. There is no cost to the Guardian ad Litem Program for these events and it is a great opportunity to get our name and mission out to the public. If anyone would like to donate bottled water, or can get donations from businesses of bottled water, it is a good draw to our information booth at these hot summer events.



Training for New Volunteers

Our next class for new volunteers will be starting up July 5th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Trainings will be held every Tuesday and Thursday three hours a night for five weeks. If you know anyone that is interested in becoming a GAL Volunteer, it is not too late to get them into these classes. For any active volunteers that would like to participate in the Court Report Writing class, or any of the other classes, you are more than welcome to attend. Please contact the GAL Office and let us know that you plan to attend and which chapter or topics that you are interested in.

Two UNCW Interns to Join Forces

Beginning in August the Guardian ad Litem Program will be hosting two BSW Interns from UNCW. They will be in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for two semesters. They will be with us through April 2012, and one of their primary objectives will be to organize a community child abuse awareness and prevention program for the month of April. We would like to “Paint The Town Blue” for the month of April involving all available community partners and businesses, as well as the general public. I am sure they will be seeking out ideas and assistance from our GAL Volunteers, so when you are in the office stop in to meet and support them in this effort.

In-service Training

We will be hosting an In-service Training in July 15th from 8:30am till Noon. The training will be at the Jacksonville GAL Office in the Halsey Conference Room. At 8:30 our Attorney Advocates will discuss the “Team Philosophy” and how the volunteer, supervisor, and Attorney Advocate all work together to advocate for the child’s best interest. Beginning at 10:00 the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) will do a presentation on Child Sexual Abuse. They will discuss the signs of sexual abuse, reporting the abuse, and the role of the CAC. And we will finish off the training with a presentation from PEERS on the parenting classes that they offer, and which classes may be right for your case. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP so that we know how many that we need to prepare for.

Current Statistics

We are currently serving 200 children in Onslow County, 44 Children in Duplin County, 129 children in Sampson County, and 12 children in Jones County. We currently have 141 volunteers district wide to cover a total of 385 children. We need your help to recruit more volunteers. Our greatest need for volunteers is in Sampson County.

Calendar

July

- 1 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 4 – Independence Day – Office Closed
- 6 – Court in Duplin Co.
- 7 – Court in Sampson Co.
- 8 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 9 – Downtown Alive Event
- 12 – Court in Jones Co.
- 15 – In-service Training Jacksonville
- 18 to 22 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 20 – Court in Duplin Co
- 21 – Court in Sampson Co

August

- 2 – National Night Out
- 3 – Court in Duplin Co.
- 4 – Court in Sampson Co.
- 5 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 9 – Court in Jones Co.
- 13 – Downtown Alive Event
- 15 to 19 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 17 – Court in Duplin Co
- 18 – Court in Sampson Co
- 26 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 31 – Court in Duplin Co.

September

- 1 – Court in Sampson Co.
- 5 – Labor Day – Office closed
- 9 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 14 – Court in Duplin Co.
- 15 – Court in Sampson Co.
- 19 to 23 – Court in Onslow Co.
- 28 – Court in Duplin Co.
- 29 – Court in Sampson Co.

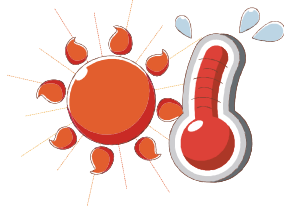
"Don't throw away your friendship with your teenager over behavior that has no great moral significance. There will be plenty of real issues that require you to stand like a rock. Save your big guns for those crucial confrontations."

Dr. James C. Dobson

Birthdays

July

- 2 – Sonya Sheppard
- 5 – Jeralene Merritt
- 6 – Vicki Huffin
- 10 – Cynthia Simon
- 11 – Deborah Newkirk
- 14 – Laurie Baldrige
- 16 – Terri Laughlin
- 17 – Kristi Walls
- 21 – Deborah Ellis



August

- 1 – Faith Watrous
- 2 – Shannon Waller
- 3 – Wayne Aramini
Gary Ange
Christina Newkirk
- 9 – Lindsey Terry
- 12 – Darwin Beane
- 13 – Patricia Raynor
Tamika Johnson
- 15 – Jennifer Goodridge
- 18 – Jerusha Harris
Aishia Greene
- 20 – Larry Herringdine
- 22 – James Barr
Twanta McCrimmon
- 25 – Delores Worrell
- 31 – Shellie Silvester

September

- 5 – Christine Baer
- 8 – Teresa Fisher
- 9 – Helen Flood
Dorine Polson
Richard Saldivar
- 13 – Christina Malu
- 19 – Patrick Giddeons
- 20 – Allison Schwerin
Christy Tyler
- 25 – Felicia Moore
- 27 – Erika Allen
- 30 – Morag Polaski
Kathy Brown

Anniversaries

July

- 2004 – Jennie Gray
- 2008 – Michelle Jackson
- 2010 – Tammy Lovelady



August

- 2006 – James Barr
- 2007 – Linda Harrington
Elizabeth White
- 2008 – Marilyn Boyce
Jerusha Harris
Michelle Silvester
- 2010 – Pashyon Blake



September

- 2002 – Jon Stone
- 2003 – Anna MARRIBLE
- 2005 – Rosa Ann Davis
- 2006 – Barbara Carey



"In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."

Ann Landers

Welcome New Volunteers



All six of these are already at work on cases. Biljana Warner has completed the self-study training and will take the oath in July.



During the last quarter we have seen the addition of 7 new volunteers. In May, Felicia Moore completed the self-study program and was sworn in by Judge Hardison. In June Peggy Eckenrode, Michael Lechette, Aixa Melendez, Tricia Parent and Alfreda Vanderburg completed classroom training and were sworn in by Judge Seaton.

We welcome these Guardians ad Litem and wish them a richly rewarding experience in child advocacy.

New Attorney Advocate in Sampson County



We would like to welcome Braxton Price to the Guardian ad Litem Program. As of July 1, 2011, Braxton will be the new Attorney Advocate in Sampson County. He will be taking the place of Kendra White who has been with the program for the last three years. We wish Kendra the best of luck as she moves on to other endeavors.

Braxton Price was born and raised in Duplin County. After attending Wallace-Rose Hill High School, Braxton attended seminary in Greenville, SC. He completed his B.A. in Religion at Campbell University's Divinity School, concentrating the majority of his studies on philosophy.

Braxton earned the degree of Juris Doctor from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University. While studying law at Campbell, Braxton was a member of the staff of the Law Review, in which his article "Inevitable Inequities: Sovereign Immunity and the Public Duty Doctrine in North Carolina" was published.

After graduation, Braxton became an associate at the Wilmington firm of Clark, Newton, Evans & Bryan, where he practiced Admiralty law and general civil litigation until relocating back home to serve the people of Duplin County. Information for this article was taken from Hunter & Price P. A. website at <http://www.hunterandprice.com/>.



Spotlight on Volunteer – Katelyn Estes

Katelyn has been an Onslow County volunteer only since February of 2011, but is already working on her second difficult case. On her first case she took over for another volunteer that had been working on the case for over two years. We had some concerns about the placement the court was considering, and Katelyn was able to step in and advocate strongly for the best interest of the children.

Katelyn is now on her second case and it is proving to be just as challenging as the first. She is tenacious in her investigation and monitoring of the case and thanks to her diligence has discovered serious violations of court orders that were in place and has been able to aggressively advocate for the safety and protection of these children. Great job!



Spotlight on Volunteer – Tabitha Ernst



Tabitha has been a GAL Volunteer in Onslow County since October 1997. Yes, that is over 13 years of volunteer service. Tabitha's most recent case finally closed today with the child aging out of foster care. The child had been in the custody of the department since 2005, and Tabitha picked up the case in 2008.

Tabitha has gone over and above advocating for her child client, and was a very stabilizing influence. Most recently Tabitha was able to assist her child client in attending her senior prom. With funding from the Guardian ad Litem Volunteer Association (GALVA) her client was able not only able to attend, but was treated to a night she will never forget. Thank you!

Seeds of Revolution in North Carolina

As the 4th of July, the 235th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence from Great Britain approaches; it is a good time to reflect on our heritage. Most Americans are very aware of the momentous events in Massachusetts which led to the Boston Tea Party, The Boston Massacre, The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, the battles of Lexington and Concord and finally the Declaration of Independence signed by 55 delegates from the colonies in Philadelphia, Pa.

Tar Heels can take pride in the fact that North Carolina stood shoulder to shoulder with the firebrands of New England in their protests of what they deemed unfair taxes and oppression emanating from the British Parliament. Several NC events are considered by many historians to be as significant in the run-up to revolution as those in the north.

As early as 1768, North Carolinians were protesting corruption by government officials. Over in the central portion of the state, a group was formed, calling themselves The Regulators. The Regulators at first staged peaceful protests of illegal court fees, dishonest sheriffs and magistrates, and excessive taxes. The protests soon became violent as Regulators refused to pay fees, terrorized government officials and disrupted court proceedings. In New Bern, Governor Tryon, determined to quell this insurrection, marched westward with a large government army. They clashed with militia force of over 2,000 Alamance. The better trained and equipped government force quickly prevailed in the battle. Regulators were forced to swear allegiance to the British Crown – several who refused were tried and hanged on the spot, thus ending what some historians call the first battle of the revolution.

After hearing of the Boston Tea Party of 1773, Penelope Parker of Edenton, NC resolved to show solidarity with the beleaguered Bostonians. In October, 1774 she organized the Edenton Tea Party in which she convinced 51 women to sign a petition, resolving, “The Provincial Deputies of North Carolina having resolved not to drink any more tea, nor wear any more British clothes, many ladies of this province have determined to give memorable proof of their patriotism, and have entered the following honorable and spirited association. . . .” The petition shocked loyal colonists and reverberated all the way to London, prompting prominent loyalist Arthur Iredell to sardonically ask “. . . Is there a female congress at Edenton?”

News of the Battles of Lexington and Concord reached North Carolina a month later and further emboldened the revolutionary spirit. North Carolina Governor Martin was forced to flee with his government to the Cape Fear River. There he laid plans to “. . . put down this horrid and unnatural rebellion.” He organized a force of over 10,000 loyalists to march eastward and join forces with General Lord Cornwallis at the coast. Along the way this force met with a colonial militia force at a place called Moore’s Creek in Pender County. The colonial forces, largely outnumbered and outgunned, evened the odds by removing the planks from the bridge and greasing the supporting beams. Thus impeded, the loyalists were met by withering musketry and cannon fire as they tried to cross the 35 foot wide creek – the battle was over in a very short time and the colonial forces captured a large cache of rifles and gunpowder.

The Battle at Moore’s Creek Bridge, though a small one, showed that the rag tag revolutionists could indeed stand up against the mightiest army in the world and spurred the revolutionary spirit among the colonies.

Researched, edited and compiled from various sources by volunteer Mac Moody.

Mac Moody Receives Rotarian Service Award



Our own Mac Moody is the recipient of the 2011 Rotarian Service Above Self Award. The award was presented to Mac at the monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Rotary Club July 5, 2011. Besides his service to the Guardian ad Litem Program, Mac also volunteers with the Onslow County Literacy Program and with the Onslow County Disabled American Veterans Chapter 16. Mac exemplifies the high ethical standards of the Rotarian, and helps to build goodwill and peace in our community. He truly places service above self. Thanks Mac we are proud of you!



Guardian ad Litem
625 Court Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Phone: (910) 346-5335
Fax: (910) 346-1966



Changing Lives
One Life At A Time

The Window from Which We Look

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood, the next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean", she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband: "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this."

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

