

# NEWS FROM OUR HOUSE

## FALL 2017

The Children's **LAW** Center of Connecticut • Protecting Children & Strengthening Families



The Children's  
**LAW**  
Center

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### Eric Frazer: A Trailblazer in Child-Centered Family Law



**Dr. Eric Frazer**

When you first meet Dr. Eric Frazer, one thing is clear: he is passionate about and dedicated to helping children, parents, and professionals involved in the family court process. The Children's Law Center of Connecticut has been lucky enough to benefit from Dr. Frazer's knowledge and support over the years through his many professional trainings on challenging family law topics and free access to Child Custody Analytics, the online program he co-founded to help attorneys through complex family court matters.

Dr. Frazer is a licensed clinical psychologist with a specialty in Forensic Psychology, and his resume does not end there: among many other professional accomplishments, he has more than 16 years of experience conducting psychological evaluations, co-founded Child Custody Analytics, holds a part-time faculty position at Yale Medical School, and regularly provides trainings to the CT Bar Association and other legal and professional groups.

Dr. Frazer was first introduced to CLC several years ago when we asked for his help with forensic evaluations for our clients. "It was an opportunity to do positive work for clients, but it was also a great way for me to learn more about [CLC] and the important services you provide—legal representation, mediation, and more." He added that CLC's mission resonated with him, as we hold child-centered values at the core of our work.

Since that initial ask for help with evaluations, CLC is grateful to have had Dr. Frazer return to our offices for many trainings not only for our staff, but also for other attorneys and mental health professionals in the family law field. His trainings focus on the most challenging topics and psycholegal intersections that professionals face, such as substance abuse and access schedules, coercion and domestic violence, and relocation. Dr. Frazer is enthusiastic about the trainings, which give him an opportunity to bring together legal topics with psychological research. He states, "the intersection between psychological issues and the law brings lots of challenges, and these trainings help work to bridge that gap." He strives to make these trainings more than just lectures and structures them to be multi-disciplinary discussions and collaborations about the toughest issues professionals tackle in the family law discipline.

Dr. Frazer also provides a great resource to CLC and the rest of the international family law professional community through his company Child Custody Analytics, providing attorneys with expert child custody and psychological information they need to provide solutions to those complicated issues. After being involved in family law cases for many years as evaluators, co-parenting specialists, and mediators, he and co-founder Dr. Linda Smith believed that there needed to be a way to democratize access to expert child custody information and relevant psychological information without having to hire an expert. Child Custody Analytics walks attorneys through each step of a case: case planning, gathering information and evidence, court preparation, settlement, and, if need be, litigation.

Through all of this work, Dr. Frazer strives to help keep custody other issues child-centered and non-adversarial. He has observed how emotional family conflict is for everyone involved, and realizes how common it is for divorcing parents to struggle with managing emotions. "By giving parents and attorneys research-informed information, it can make the process less emotional, better for the children, and help them preserve a sense of family, even as a divorced family."

"I'm privileged to be a part of the CLC family," he noted. "The organization has a tireless effort to focus on families within family law. You're constantly coming up with innovative solutions, doing better work, and disseminating your success for the good of the greater family law community." We are humbled by and grateful for Dr. Frazer's kind words, and know that we would not be able to make the same advances without his continuous, vital support.

# The Children's Law Center Annual Gala

NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Delamar West Hartford

Join us for our Annual Gala at the NEW Delamar West Hartford! Enjoy cocktails, culinary stations, and live and silent auctions in support of CLC's mission to protect the interests of indigent children whose parents are involved in high-conflict family court disputes. For sponsorships and tickets, contact Paige at [paige@clct.org](mailto:paige@clct.org) or 860.232.9993.

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## Hellos and Farewells at CLC

Earlier this year, we said goodbye to Staff Attorney Kathryn Bissonnette and Professional Assistant Brooke Garcia. Both have taken on new roles at Brown, Paindiris, & Scott. We wish them all the best and know that they will do many amazing things at their new ventures!

As sad as goodbyes can be, we couldn't be more excited to have two new staff members on the CLC team!



Attorney Jodie Comer Oshana is returning to CLC, having previously been both a CLC intern and a CLC Staff Attorney. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Maine, her Masters in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Connecticut, and her Juris Doctorate from Quinnipiac University School of Law with an honors concentration certificate in Family and Juvenile Law. Attorney Oshana is also a PhD candidate in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut and will graduate in December 2017. She is an experienced family law attorney and has practiced previously at CLC and at a private law firm with her practice focusing in family law. She also has an extensive background in child development and family studies, and has been teaching courses at the University of Connecticut since 2008.



Adelina Santiago, our new Professional Assistant, has 18 years of experience in the legal field. She worked as an Intake Specialist for Statewide Legal Services and as an Operations Assistant Screener for the Connecticut Legal Rights Project. She is pursuing her Paralegal Degree at Post University. Adelina loves working with clients and is excited to further develop her knowledge by building on her past professional experience.

## Helping Kids... One Call at a Time!

Because of your support, CLC is able to run a free, statewide legal hotline open to anyone needing family law advice. Last year, this service touched the lives of 1,781 children through 1,225 phone calls.



85% of callers reported that the Law Line was "helpful" or "very helpful."



48% of callers indicated that their family law problem had improved since contacting our Law Line.

"Thank you for being there for us and for taking the time to discuss our situation. We weren't getting any answers and felt like we would never find sound advice before calling CLC."

-Law Line Caller

# Welcome to Our Newest Board Members!

The Children's Law Center is excited to announce the addition of two new members to our Board of Directors: Laura A. Post and Dan A. Brody!



Laura A. Post is Vice President of Global Insights for The LEGO Group, the Danish toy company. Ms. Post leads the company's research and insights function, which gathers intelligence from consumers around the world and helps bring the voice of kids and families into the business. Ms. Post has been at The LEGO Group for 29 years, and is based in the company's Enfield, Connecticut offices.

She is passionate about helping children learn and grow through creativity and play. Ms. Post is an appointee to the Connecticut Early Childhood Cabinet and has also served as a director of the LEGO Community Fund U.S., The LEGO Group's U.S. corporate charity. Ms. Post has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Connecticut. She and her husband live in West Hartford, CT and have two daughters.



Dan A. Brody is a litigation attorney at the law firm Robinson & Cole LLP, where he focuses his practice on complex business litigation matters, government and internal investigations, corporate compliance, and criminal defense. In addition to his main areas of practice, Dan devotes significant time to pro bono cases. For example, Dan provides free representation to victims of domestic

violence, and their children, who are seeking restraining orders. Dan's commitment to using his legal education to assist children and families in need started while he attended law school. During law school, Dan volunteered at the Hartford Jobs Corps Academy where he taught legal principles, dispute resolution strategies, and community-related law to high school and college-aged students. Also as a law student Dan taught a semester-long First Amendment law course to students at Portland High School. Dan, a resident of West Hartford, enjoys playing soccer and staying active.

## Funder Spotlight: The Walmart Foundation

The Children's Law Center is grateful to have received a generous \$25,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation. These funds support our Legal Representation program, in which CLC provides legal representation to impoverished children caught in the middle of their parents' high-conflict family court cases. Last year, our Legal Representation program served 554 children in 368 families across the state of Connecticut.

"We are incredibly thankful for the Walmart Foundation's generosity in supporting our work," states CLC Executive Director Justine Rakich-Kelly. "Our mission is imperative to Connecticut's most vulnerable children, and funders like the Walmart Foundation enable us to continue protecting impoverished children who would otherwise not have legal representation in their parents' family court cases."

The Walmart Foundation strives to create opportunities for people to live better lives and to make a positive impact on the communities Walmart serves. Last year, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation donated over \$1.4 billion cash and in-kind, in addition to over 1.2 million hours of volunteer work. Their State Giving Program works to identify local needs within each state, including hunger relief and community engagement. For more information on the Walmart Foundation's work and impact, go to [www.giving.walmart.com](http://www.giving.walmart.com).

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## What's Happening at CLC

We've been keeping busy at CLC, and having fun along the way!



The Petit Family Foundation, one of our generous funders, held a fun and inspiring 5K. Our staff members had a great time walking for the cause!



Each year we get together to celebrate our phenomenal interns. We had a great group of hardworking students helping the office run smoothly this summer!



We moved! But not too far away—we're on the second floor of 30 Arbor Street in Hartford, CT. Our new space is great for trainings and meetings, like the first Board meeting in our new office, pictured above.



The Hartford Evergreen Masonic Lodge #88 has generously supported our work in the past, and we're excited to have them as the Visionary Sponsor for our Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 Gala!