



1200 Fifth Avenue, Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

KCBA Pro Bono Services Kinship Care Solutions Project

Volunteer Position: Attorney

Program Description: The Kinship Care Solutions Project provides direct representation to relatives and other caregivers in Nonparental Custody cases (also known as third party custody) through referrals to a pro bono panel of trained attorneys. Kinship Care Solutions Project staff screen cases prior to referral to volunteer attorneys. Volunteers agree to represent one pro bono client in exchange for training and mentoring.

General Duties:

- Provide direct representation for a client in a Nonparental Custody action
- Draft pleadings (including initial filing and motions)
- Appear on behalf of the client at a settlement conference, if the case is contested
- Represent the client at all court hearings, and possibly at trial

Qualifications:

This program is designed for all experience levels. Family law experience is helpful but not required.

- Must be licensed to practice law in Washington State
- Volunteers must attend two 2-hour training sessions (3.5 CLE credits)

Time Commitment: Because each case is unique, it is difficult to estimate how many hours a volunteer might spend on a case. Uncontested cases may be resolved within a few months and contested cases may proceed to trial. Currently, in King County, trials in Nonparental Custody cases are set 11 months from the filing date. Most cases are resolved prior to trial.

Volunteers should seriously consider whether they will have the ability and time to make the commitment necessary to represent a client. It can be very difficult for the client if an attorney has to withdraw from representation. There is no guarantee that the Kinship Care Solutions Project will be able to find a replacement volunteer.

Benefits:

- Work with clients while building negotiation and litigation skills
- Opportunity to represent a client in court with the support of an experienced attorney
- Learn substantive family law and network with practicing family law attorneys
- Attend free or low-cost CLEs, receive CLE credits for pro bono service
- Professional Liability Insurance provided by the KCBA

Training: Comprehensive training on Nonparental Custody actions is taught in a small group setting to facilitate discussion and mentoring. The Kinship Care Solutions Project staff attorney is available for advice and consultation throughout the entire case.

Apply online: http://www.kcba.org/pbs/volunteer_app.aspx