



National Family Justice Center Alliance
Webinar Training
CEU Accreditation
Provider # PCE 5095
MCLE Accreditation
Provider # 15493

Webinar Course Description

Title: Meeting the Civil Legal Needs of Survivors: The Center for Solo Practitioners

August 19, 2014

10:00-11:30 am PT (12:00-1:30 pm CT, 1:00-2:30 pm ET)

Salaried attorneys and pro bono services do not meet all the legal needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Funding sources for full-time attorneys are scarce. The Alliance and Thomas Jefferson School of Law have partnered to create a sustainable, new model for providing legal services to victims and their children.

This webinar will:

- Look at the Complex Legal Needs of Victims Through the Eyes of a Survivor
- Describe the "Incubator" Models for Legal Services Developing in Law Schools Across the Country
- Present the San Diego "Accelerator" Model Known as the Center for Solo Practitioners (CSP)
- Provide an Overview of the New Justice Legal Network for CSP Graduates and Other Lawyers Interested in Providing Public Interest Legal Services
- Discuss the Steps Necessary to Develop a Similar Model in Family Justice Center Communities Across the United States
- Discuss Next Steps

This session is approved for .5 California Minimum Continuing Education (CEU) credit and 1 Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit. The Family Justice Center Alliance is a California approved provider of CEU for MFT, LCSW, LEP, LPCC (Provider # PCE 5095) and MCLE for attorneys (Provider #15493). Professionals in states outside of California should check with their own state board to determine whether these credits are approved in their jurisdiction. Information on how to obtain credit will be provided during the webinar and within the course materials.

Presenters:

Casey Gwinn, JD - President and Co-Founder, National Family Justice Center Alliance
Gael Strack, JD - CEO and Co-Founder, National Family Justice Center Alliance
Lilys McCoy, JD - Director, Solo Practice Concentration and Incubator Program at TJSL
Patrick Long, JD - Attorney, Law Office of Patrick B. Long



Welcome to the National Family Justice Center Alliance Webinar!

While waiting for the presentation to begin, please read the following reminders:

- The presentation will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
- If you are experiencing technical difficulties, email natalia@nfjca.org
- To LISTEN to the presentation on your phone, dial (702) 489-0003
Access Code: 698-885-214 or listen on your computer speakers
- Attendees will be muted throughout the presentation
- To send questions to the presenter during presentation:
 - Click on “Questions” in the toolbar (top right corner)
 - Type your comments & send to presenter
- There will be a Q & A session at the end of the presentation.
- The presentation will be recorded & posted on www.familyjusticecenter.com
- Please complete the evaluation at the end of the presentation. We value your input.

Meeting the Civil Legal Needs of Survivors: The Center for Solo Practitioners

August 19, 2014



www.familyjusticecenter.com



Your host today:



Casey Gwinn, JD
President,
Family Justice Center Alliance



Family Justice Center Alliance



Casey Gwinn, JD



Gael Strack, JD



Jennifer Anderson



Natalia Aguirre



Chris Burlaka, CPA



Sara Wee, MPH

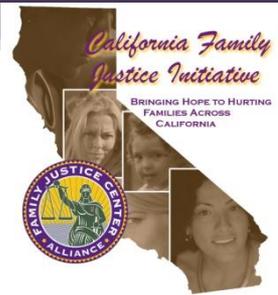


Yemi Akilo



Michela Farnsworth,
MSW





Thank You to Our Sponsor

Thank you to the US Department of Justice, Office
on Violence Against Women
for making this training possible!

This project is supported all or in part by Grant No. 2012-TA-AX-K017 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



2015 International Family Justice Conference

San Diego April 21-23, 2015





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- The checklist will also be emailed after the webinar training.



Today's Presenters:



Casey Gwinn, JD
President,
Family Justice Center Alliance



Lily McCoy, JD
Director,
Solo Practice Concentration and
Incubator Program at TJSL



Gael Strack, JD
CEO,
Family Justice Center Alliance



Lisbet Perez
Survivor and
Small Business Owner



Patrick Long, JD
Attorney,
Law Office of Patrick B. Long



Fred Rooney, JD
Director,
CUNY School of Law,
Community Legal Resource Network

Meeting the Civil Legal Needs of Survivors: The Center for Solo Practitioners

August 19, 2014



www.familyjusticecenter.com

Casey Gwinn, JD
President,
Family Justice Center Alliance



Overview and Background: San Diego Justice Accelerator Model



Agenda

- Overview and Background – Casey Gwinn, JD
- The Need and the Challenges - Gael Strack, JD
- A Survivor’ s Perspective - Lisbet Perez
- The CUNY Model – Fred Rooney, JD
- The San Diego “Accelerator” Model – The Center for Solo Practitioners – Lilys McCoy, JD
- Solo Practitioner Experience – Patrick Long, JD
- The Future: Justice Legal Network – Casey Gwinn, JD
- Questions

Overview and Background

Unmet needs around civil legal services

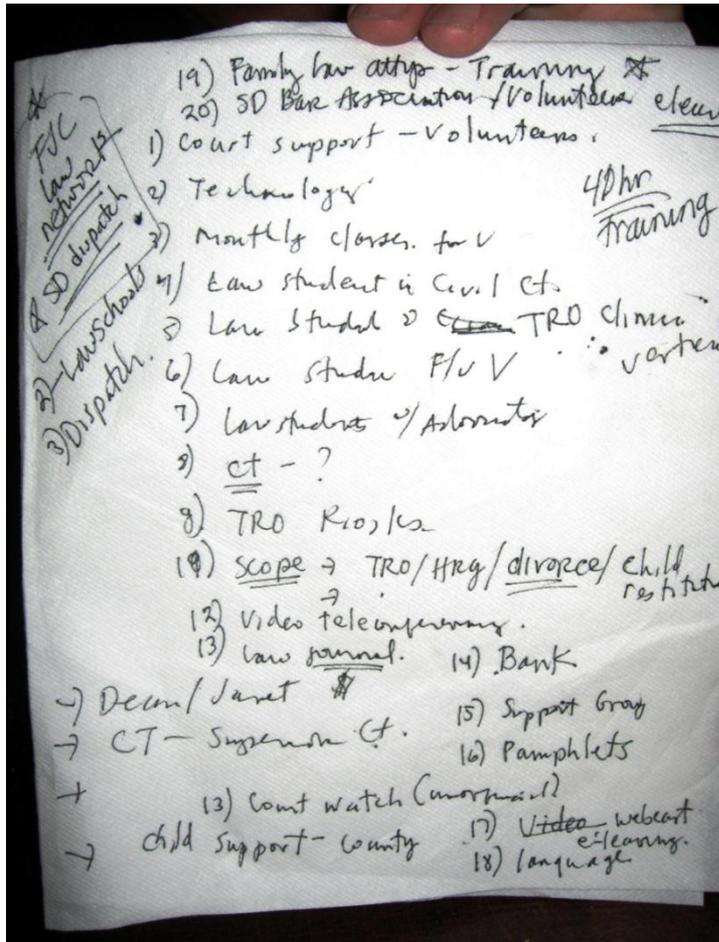


The Array of Models

- Public Interest Attorneys (Salary and Benefits)
- Pro Bono Attorneys
- Student-Led Legal Clinics
- Law School-Based Clinical Programs
- Legal Assistance to Victims' Grant Projects
- And now...Incubators



Started on a Napkin in 2008



- Six years after opening the San Diego Family Justice Center
- After the President's initiative with 15 Centers across the United States
- After International Interest
- All centers were experiencing the same demand for services – civil legal services
- Current system wasn't working
 - Funds for attorneys (limited)
 - Legal aide model (limited)
 - Pro bono Attorneys (limited)



Held Focus Groups/Partner Brainstorming Sessions to Develop the Legal Network Vision





The “Dream Big” Vision

At the Family Justice Center

- County-wide Legal Network of Civil Legal Services connected to a Regional Family Justice Center Model
- Civil Intake with Coordinated Civil Legal Meetings to Navigate the Criminal, Juvenile and Family Court
- Identify high risk, legally complicated cases
- Provide support through Court
- Provide long-term support

With our Partners

- Develop strong partnerships with the Law Schools
- More classes on IPV
- Students intern at Restraining Order Clinics
- Develop a practicum course in Family Court where students handle protection order hearings
- Develop a strong pro-bono program for the FJC
- Develop trial advocacy course



Gael Strack, JD

CEO & Co-Founder

National Family Justice Center Alliance

The Need and the Challenges



Legal Network Launched with Avon Funding

- Program of the FJC Alliance
- Launched in July 2009 as a TRO clinic at the request of the SDFJC and funded with funds from OVW, grants to encourage arrest
- Initially with a Staff of Three – Two attorneys and one Advocate
- Demand for services was HIGH



Supported by 15 Intern & Volunteer Positions

- Intern Positions:
 - Coordinator
 - Legal Screener
 - TRO Duty
 - Administration
 - Advocacy
 - Special Projects
 - CFJI
 - National
 - International





Victim Survey

- In December, we conducted an analysis of the first 300 clients served at the Legal Network with the help of survivors, interns and staff





Results of the TRO Study

- Reviewed outcomes from 297 Clients (July through Dec 2009)
 - All data was recorded in ETO
 - Analyzed what the clients requested in the application to what the clients received after the hearing
- Conducted phone surveys with 70 Clients
 - Interviews were conducted by survivors and Brenda Lugo assisted with Spanish-speaking Clients



Findings from Surveys

- Clients requested more support in the TRO Process in filling out forms (46%), court preparation (62%) and debriefing after the hearing (50%).
- Clients expressed a strong interest and need for court support (78%); more risk assessment and safety planning (29%) and additional legal assistance (32%).
- Clients said they did not understand what was happening in court (57%).



Findings

- Clients need additional assistance with:
 - Collecting the evidence
 - Court preparation and support
 - Obtaining additional services for themselves and children
 - Court representation at the OSC hearing
 - Legal representation for child custody, child support, paternity, divorce and/or immigration matters.



Benefit of Court Support

“I was a mess. I did not understand anything that was happening. Then three VOICES committee members showed up to be with me in court and I pulled it together. It was amazing.”



After 5 years of running the Family Justice Center Legal Network

- Existing model was not sustainable
- Primarily funded with grants which come & go
- Civil legal services are difficult to fund
- Need became clear:
 - A new model that could be sustainable and work for MORE victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking

Lisbet Perez
Survivor and
Small Business Owner



A survivor's experience



Survivor's Perspective

- Need for civil legal services
- Seeking legal assistance for immigration
- Challenge finding help
- Benefit of civil legal services
- Excited about the Center for Solo Practitioners and Justice Legal Network

Casey Gwinn, JD
President,
Family Justice Center Alliance



Clients Need More but How Do You Provide More Civil Legal Services?



Journey to Co-location with The Center for Solo Practitioners

- Learned of Fred Rooney and the CUNY Incubator Model
- Fred Rooney Came to San Diego to work with Cal Western School of Law and Thomas Jefferson School of Law
- Thomas Jefferson agreed to build an incubator model with the FJC Alliance
- Lily McCoy hired by Thomas Jefferson as a full-time Project Coordinator

Fred Rooney, JD

Director,
CUNY School of Law,
Community Legal Resource
Network



The CUNY Model



Lilys McCoy, JD
Director,
Solo Practice Concentration and
Incubator Program at TJSL

Thomas Jefferson School of Law: Center for Solo Practitioners



The Partnership Begins September 2012



Family Justice Center Alliance

2 hours ago · 🌐

The official signing to start the Center for Solo Practitioners at the Family Justice Center Alliance! Thanks to Thomas Jefferson School of Law for their incredible partnership in initiating this program.





The First Cohort





Backdrop

- 4.3 Million Self-Represented Litigants in California
- Court-Funding Crisis
- Fewer Law Firms Hiring
- ABA and State Bar Call for “Practice Ready” Graduates
- Generational Predisposition Toward Entrepreneurship



Selection Process

- Application
- Interview



Self-Selection Process

- Self-select for entrepreneurship
- Self-select for collaborative environment
- Self-select for access-to-justice
- Self-select for value-centered law practice
- Self-select for community service
- Self-select for professionalism and ethics



Structure

- Boot Camp
- Introduction to Mentors
- Weekly Meetings (group and individual)
- Grant Initiatives
- Quarterly Strategic Planning Meetings
- Space (see next page)



Structure

- Space
 - Locking Desk
 - WiFi
 - High-Speed Copier
 - CEB
 - WestLaw at a Dedicated Terminal
 - Conference Rooms
 - Knox Attorney Service
 - Light Reception



Patrick Long, JD
Attorney,
Law Office of Patrick B. Long

Solo Practitioner Experience in the Accelerator Program



Experience in the Accelerator Program

Center For Solo Practitioners

- Joining
- Working together as Solos
- Referrals
- Pro Bono / Low Bono Work

Family Justice Center Alliance

- Work space at discounted rate
- Training

Family Justice Center

- Working with Legal Services and Client Services
- Services provided by attorneys
- Possible paid clients

Working with Clients

- Services provided
- Explaining what to expect in court
- Next step in process: Custody, dissolution

Justice Legal Network

The Future...



Build an Army of Co-Located, Private Practice Attorneys

- Center for Solo Practitioners (1 Year Program) – Operated by Thomas Jefferson (or a local law school)
- Graduate into the Justice Legal Network (with chapters across the country)
- Recruit Other Solo Practitioners to the Justice Legal Network Model
- Specialized Training and Support from the FJC Alliance (or a local Family Justice Center)
- Manage a Pro-Bono, Fixed Fee, and Sliding Scale Legal Services Model with Grant Funding and Coordinated Social, Medical, and Mental Health Services through the San Diego Family Justice Center and Other Allied Agencies



Justice Legal Network

- The vision is bigger
- Justice Legal Network is a network of solo practitioners, operating their private practices together, along with a public interest law focus on cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and child abuse
- Justice Legal Network picks up where the Center for Solo Practitioners leaves off
 - Made up of Attorneys who have completed their commitment from the “Solos” and have a heart for the cause
 - Other interested solo practitioners



Family Justice Center Alliance

Friday at 9:43 AM 🌐

A great night last night with the Center for Solo Practitioners (sponsored by Thomas Jefferson School of Law) and advocates and therapists from The Chadwick Center for Children and Families. We dreamed together about increasing civil legal services for survivors and their c... [Continue Reading](#)



QUESTIONS?



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2015 International Family Justice Conference

San Diego April 21-23, 2015



“Health Matters, Hope Heals: What Every Professional Needs to Know About Trauma”



Thank you for joining today's presentation!

Family Justice Center Alliance

707 Broadway, Suite 700

San Diego, CA 92101

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Fred Rooney
Director,
Touro Law Center's International Justice Center
for Post-Graduate Development

Fred Rooney has been credited with creating the first business incubator model for lawyers and for being a catalyst in the transformation of legal education in the US. His work in the development of post-graduate legal education and the powerful incubator that he began in 2007 is forcing law schools to rethink their responsibility to their graduates and to the millions of individuals in the US who lack access to justice. His work is innovative and entrepreneurial and is impacting on thousands of people in the US and abroad.

In June 2013, Fred completed a 10-month Fulbright in the Dominican Republic where he launched the first law school incubator outside of the United States. Three months later, the American Bar Journal named Fred a "2013 Legal Rebel" and recognized him as "the Father of Incubators." Today, he serves as the director of Touro Law Center's International Justice Center for Post-Graduate Development.

Fred earned his J.D. from the City University of New York's (CUNY) School of Law in 1986. In 1998 he returned to CUNY Law to direct a "unique public/private partnership" that offered a network of support and resources for CUNY Law graduates committed to increasing access to justice through their solo and small firm practices. The *New York Law Journal*, *New York Times*, *Legal Times* and *American Bar Association Journal* have highlighted Fred's successes and bar associations and law school faculty and administrators across the US rely on Fred's work when designing their own post-graduate programs.

In January 2010, Fred was awarded the 2010 Father Robert Drinan Award by the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) and on February 5, 2010, he accepted the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services' 2010 Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access, which was awarded to CLRN. The Brown Award recognizes innovative programs that meet the legal needs of those who do not qualify for legal aid yet still aren't able to afford typical legal fees.

On February 5, 2014, Fred was added to the Fulbright Specialist Roster by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Institute of International Education's Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).



Lilys D. McCoy

Director,
Center for Solo Practitioners and Solo Practice Concentration
J.D., University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law;
B.A., University of California at San Diego, California
Phone: (619) 961-4353
E-mail: lmccoy@tjssl.edu

Attorney Lilys D. McCoy received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at San Diego in June 1987 with Department Honors in Political Science. She graduated from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in May 1991 and was admitted to the California State Bar in December 1991. In 1999, she completed Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College in Dubois, Wyoming. Ms. McCoy has practiced almost exclusively in the area of civil litigation since 1992 and has tried both jury trials and bench trials, as well as representing clients in judicial arbitrations, contractual arbitrations, and mediation hearings. From 1999 until 2012, Ms. McCoy dedicated her practice to representing plaintiffs in consumer protection cases, including automobile fraud, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act cases, and Fair Credit Reporting Act cases.

In addition to her practice, Ms. McCoy participates in a number of local and state bar organizations. She reported on Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act ("Lemon Law") jury instructions for the Jury Instruction Committee of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of California. She was a co-author of the amicus brief submitted by the Consumer Attorneys of California to the California Supreme Court in the case of *Gavaldon v. DaimlerChrysler Corporation* (2004) 32 Cal.4th 1246. She was a member of the American Inns of Court (Enright Inn) from 1998 to 1999 and is an instructor for the San Diego Inn of Court Evidence and Trial Workshops (2003 through present). She is now on the Board of Directors for the San Diego Inn of Court.

Ms. McCoy served as president of Lawyers Club of San Diego from 2002-2003 and as Chair of the Lawyers Club Judicial Endorsements Committee from 2003-2005. In 2007, Ms. McCoy received the Belva Lockwood Award from Lawyers Club. Ms. McCoy served as Co-President of the Tom Homann Law Association from 2005-2007 and received that organization's 2008 Co-President's Award. She served as Chair of the Conference of California Bar Association from 2009 to 2010.

Ms. McCoy was selected as a San Diego Daily Transcript Top Attorney in 2006, and was selected for San Diego Super Lawyers in 2007 and 2009. Ms. McCoy has spoken on consumer protection issues to community and legal organizations including Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, the Camp Pendleton Legal Assistance Office, and the Southwest Navy Legal Service Office. In 2004 and 2005, Ms. McCoy helped coordinate the consumer law segment for the San Diego Superior Court, North County Division, Youth-Day-in-Court program. She currently volunteers with the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of California, CARE Program, which exists to provide education on consumer issues to schools and other community organizations.

She also serves as an instructor of Civil Litigation, Evidence Law, and Business Law at the U.C. San Diego Extension Paralegal Program.

Ms. McCoy has an AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell.



Gael B. Strack

Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder
National Family Justice Center Alliance
gael@nfjca.org or 760-445-3559
www.familyjusticecenter.org
Biographical Information

Gael B. Strack is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of the National Family Justice Center Alliance which provides technical assistance to over 100 existing and pending Family Justice Centers across the world. Gael also oversees the Strangulation Training Institute and the Family Justice Center Legal Network which provides legal services to victims of domestic violence.

Prior to this position, Gael served as the Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center from October 2002 through May 2007. In that capacity, she worked closely with 25 on-site agencies (government and non-profit) who came together in 2002 to provide services to victims of domestic violence and their children from one location. The San Diego Family Justice Center was featured on Oprah in January 2003, recognized as a model program by President Bush in October 2003 and was the inspiration for the President's Family Justice Center Initiative which launched 15 Centers across the nation.

Prior to her work at the Family Justice Center, Gael was a domestic violence prosecutor for 17 years at the San Diego City Attorney's Office. She joined the office in 1987 and served in many capacities including an Assistant City Attorney for former City Attorney Casey Gwinn and Head Deputy City Attorney responsible for the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Unit. Gael has also worked as a deputy public defender and a deputy county counsel for the San Diego County Counsel's office handling juvenile dependency matters. She graduated from Western State College of Law in December 1985.

Gael is a former board member of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, past President of the San Diego Domestic Violence Council and former commissioner of the ABA's Commission on Domestic Violence. In her spare time, Gael is an adjunct law professor for California Western School of Law teaching "Domestic Violence and the Law." Gael has been honored with numerous awards, including San Diego Attorney of the Year for 2006 and most recently by United States Attorney General Eric Holder as the 2010 Recipient of the National Crime Victim Service Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services.

Gael has also co-authored a series of strangulation articles in the Journal of Emergency Medicine, the National College of District Attorney's Practical Prosecutor, and the Journal of the California Dental Association. Gael has co-authored five books with Casey Gwinn, JD, on the Family Justice Center movement including a Guide to Co-Located Services in the Middle East and in Mexico. Gael has also co-authored a book with Judi Adams, called "The Big Girls Club – Little Girl Rules for the Big Girl Workplace" which describes the ten rules of friendship that can help women thrive and succeed in the changing workplace.



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Webinar Training

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Presented by Fred Rooney, Lilys McCoy, Patrick Long, Lizbet Perez, Gael Strack & Casey Gwinn
August 19, 2014

Certificate of Attendance
1.5 Hours

Gael Strack

Gael Strack, JD
Co-Founder and CEO
Family Justice Center Alliance

Natalia Aguirre

Natalia Aguirre
Director of Technical Assistance
Family Justice Center Alliance

Date of Issue: August 26, 2014