



Supreme Court of Illinois  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS COURTS

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Dear Registrant,

Thank you for your interest in serving as appointed appellate counsel on the Juvenile Abuse & Neglect – Appellate Counsel Registry. The AOIC Courts, Children and Families Division through its Ad Hoc Committee on Parent Representation has been exploring strategies to address the lack of attorneys available to file appeals for parents in juvenile abuse and neglect cases. To that end, and with the support of the Supreme Court of Illinois, the Committee is implementing a supplemental statewide registry for the appointment of appellate counsel for respondent parents in juvenile abuse and neglect proceedings. Specifically:

- The supplemental registry will be established and maintained by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts – Courts, Children and Families Division (CCFD).
- Juvenile court judges who opt to utilize the registry may contact the CCFD through a designated email ([jaappeals@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:jaappeals@illinoiscourts.gov)) to request assistance in appointing appellate counsel for a specific case. The CCFD will thereafter provide the judge with contact information for an attorney from the registry.
- The requesting judge will handle the appointment of that attorney, with the attorney's fee being paid pursuant to the local rules of the appointing jurisdiction. *Please see the sample letter attached hereto for more detailed information.*
- Upon referral of an attorney registrant and their appointment to a case, their name will be rotated to the bottom of the registry to ensure an equitable distribution of cases among the various registrants.

The success of the proposed registry, however, will be contingent upon the recruitment of knowledgeable attorneys to serve as appointed appellate counsel. In enrolling to serve as appointed counsel on this registry, you may be appointed to represent clients in any appellate district within the State of Illinois and will be expected to appear for any and all applicable remote proceedings. Please note that attorney compensation for billed time on such matters will be payable by the appointing jurisdiction, and **not** from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

Attorneys who join the roster strengthens the court's ability to appoint experienced counsel in juvenile abuse and neglect appeals. Should you have any questions regarding the registry, application, or instructions, please contact Edward Siemer, Child Welfare Attorney, (217) 557-9748 or [esiemer@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:esiemer@illinoiscourts.gov). We would like to offer a special thanks and appreciation to the members of the Committee for their vision in the creation of the registry. Attached please find an overview of Committee's membership and purpose. Your attention and commitment to the children of Illinois is valued and greatly appreciated – Thank You.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Siemer  
Child Welfare Attorney  
Courts, Children and Families Division  
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

**Juvenile Abuse & Neglect – Appellate Counsel Registry**  
**Application**

**Applicants must:**

- Be an attorney in good standing and licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois
- Possess a working knowledge of the Juvenile Court Act, Appellate Court Rules and procedures, and other applicable statutes and regulations; and
- Successfully complete two (2) training webinars: *Effective Appellate Advocacy in Termination of Parental Rights Cases, Part I and II* found on the Illinois Judicial College PATH LMS system.

**Applicant Information**

Full Name (as listed on ARDC registration):

ARDC Registration Number:

Business Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

Email:

**Please Address the Following Questions:**

1. Are you an attorney in good standing and licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois?

Yes            No

2. Are you currently covered by malpractice insurance?

Yes            No

3. Approximately how long have you been engaged in the practice of law?

Please identify the three (3) most recent cases for which you have been responsible or had a significant role, including (a) the name of the case, (b) the case number (c) the jurisdiction in which the case was handled and (d) a very brief description of the case and your role.

Case Name:

Case Number:

Jurisdiction:

Description:

Case Name:  
Jurisdiction:  
Description:

Case Number:

Case Name:  
Jurisdiction:  
Description:

Case Number:

4. Please describe your relevant experience, specifically with regard to juvenile abuse and neglect proceedings. Please identify the three (3) most recent juvenile and abuse and neglect cases for which you have been responsible, including (a) the name of the case, (b) the case number (c) the jurisdiction in which the case was handled and (d) a very brief description of the case.

Case Name:  
Jurisdiction:  
Description:

Case Number:

Case Name:  
Jurisdiction:  
Description:

Case Number:

Case Name:  
Jurisdiction:  
Description:

Case Number:

5. Have you ever served as counsel in appellate court proceedings? If so, please identify the three (3) most recent cases for which you have been responsible, including the case number, the district in which the matter was handled and a very brief description of the case.

Yes

No

Case Number:  
Description:

District:

Case Number:  
Description:

District:

Case Number:  
Description:

District:

6. Have you ever served as counsel in an appeal of juvenile abuse and neglect matters, including but not limited to termination of parental rights proceedings? If so, please identify the three (3) most recent cases for which you have been responsible, including the case number, the district in which the matter was handled and a very brief description of the case.

Yes            No

Case Number:  
Description:

District:

Case Number:  
Description:

District:

Case Number:  
Description:

District:

7. Have you successfully completed the required training webinars found at the Illinois Judicial College PATH LMS System, namely ***Effective Appellate Advocacy in Termination of Parental Rights Cases, Part I and II***? We will consider your application without your having completed these webinars. If you have not completed them, however, you must successfully complete them upon enrollment and provide a copy of the Certificate of Completion to the AOIC-Courts, Children and Families Division via email at [jaappeals@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:jaappeals@illinoiscourts.gov) before accepting any appointment.

Yes            No

8. Please provide the name and email information of a judge and/or supervising attorney with firsthand knowledge of your relevant experience and qualifications to serve as appellate counsel for respondent parents in appeals of juvenile abuse and neglect matters.

Name:

Email:

Name:

Email:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**In signing this document, you hereby affirm and certify that you possess an appropriate working knowledge of the Juvenile Court Act, the Appellate Court Rules and Procedures, and other applicable statutes and regulations, such that you will be sufficiently capable of providing quality appellate representation for respondent parents in appeals of juvenile abuse and neglect cases.**

*Please submit your completed application to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts – Courts, Children and Families Division at [jaappeals@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:jaappeals@illinoiscourts.gov)*