

# Child Welfare Trial Skills Training

FOR GALS

## Training Schedule

### MONDAY

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| M: 1-115   | Introduction  |
| M: 115-230 | Case Analysis: The Story of the Family<br>Direct Examination: The Words of the Story  |
| M: 230-245 | Break   |
| M: 245-515 | Closing Argument: Organization and Technique<br>Cross Examination: Minimizing and Marginalizing Witness Impact<br>Expert Witness Exam: Moving from Perception to Belief |
| M: 515     | Adjourn   |

### TUESDAY

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| T: 8-10      | Difficult Witnesses: Managing the Challenge<br>Exhibits and Their Foundations: Picture This<br>Making and Meeting Objections: The Rules of the Trial |
| T: 10-1015   | Break  |
| T: 1015-1215 | Opening Statement: Imprinting the Story<br>Ethics and Professionalism: Integrity in the Courtroom  |
| T: 1215-1230 | Closing Remarks  |
| T: 1230      | Adjourn  |

## Session Handout Material

*Trial Advocacy for the Child Welfare Lawyer: Telling the Story of the Family*, Ventrell (NITA / Lexis Nexis)  
*Child Welfare Trial Skills Training Slides*, Ventrell (JLS)

### DETAILS

This training will comprise of a 1-day comprehensive course on the trial skills necessary to try a child welfare case. The program is tailored for lawyers who represent children, in abuse, neglect, and child protection cases. It is designed to make the child welfare lawyer a more persuasive and effective advocate. The session is based on a new book, *Trial Advocacy for the Child Welfare Lawyer: Telling the Story of the Family*, written by JLS Director Marvin Ventrell and published by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and LexisNexis Publishing © 2011. The book and the training are comprehensive treatments of the trial, from case analysis and opening statement through closing argument. A courtroom ethics and professionalism segment is included. The book and training represent a blending of the general art of trial practice with the particulars of child welfare court practice.



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