

**Registration Form: Family Law Update for Parent Attorneys – June 21, 2014**

Please fill out the following registration form and return it, along with your check in the appropriate amount, to the New York State Defenders Association, 194 Washington Ave., Suite 500, Albany, NY 12210-2314; Fax 518-465-3249. Your registration form must be received by **Friday, June 13, 2014**. The registration fee is \$65.00 for Public Defenders, Legal Aid, 18-B Attorneys, and NYSDA Members. For all others, registration is \$85.00. Please make check payable to NYSDA. **PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am not engaged in the prosecution of criminal cases. Do you have any special needs?   
Please check all that apply:  NYSDA Member  18-B Attorney  Legal Aid Society Attorney  Defender Office  
To pay by credit card:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express  
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**MCLE Credit**  
NYSDA has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an Accredited Provider of Continuing Legal Education in the State of New York (2013-2016). This transitional/nontransitional program has been approved in accordance with the requirements of the Continuing Legal Education Board for a maximum of 5.5 credit hours of which 0.5 credit hour may be applied toward Ethics and Professionalism. No CLE credit may be earned for repeat attendance at any accredited CLE activity within any one reporting cycle. Tuition assistance for financial hardship is available.

NEW YORK STATE DEFENDERS ASSOCIATION  
194 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 500  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12210-2314

# Family Law Update for Parent Attorneys

*Presented by  
the Monroe County  
Public Defender's Office  
and the  
New York State  
Defenders Association*

**Saturday, June 21, 2014**

Central Library of Rochester  
& Monroe County  
115 South Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14604

**5.5 MCLE Credits**

## P R O G R A M

10:30–11:00 am

### Registration

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11:00 am–12:30 pm

### Significant Child Welfare Case Law Update

Margaret Burt

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12:30–1:00 pm

### Lunch (provided)

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1:00–2:00 pm

### Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children

Robyn Powell

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2:00–2:15 pm

### Break

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2:15–3:30 pm

### Know Your Rights: Protecting Parental Rights While Incarcerated

Tenisha Cummings and  
George Kottas

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3:30–4:30 pm

### Defending against Allegations of Derivative Neglect and Abuse and Some Collateral Consequences in Article 10 Proceedings

Rhian Jones

## S P E A K E R S

**Margaret A. Burt** is an attorney in private practice and an independent consultant providing training statewide and nationally on child maltreatment and termination of parental rights to the ABA, NY Public Welfare Association, Family Court Judges and law guardians. Early in her career she was employed by the Monroe County Public Defender's Office and then prosecuted proceedings in Family Court as First Deputy County Attorney in that county. Margaret also serves on the Appellate Division Attorney for the Child Program Curriculum Development committee. In addition to the extensive training she does, Margaret also works with state and federal legislative staff to draft legislation related to children's issues. Margaret was the 2005 recipient of the Women's Bar Association of the State of NY Stephanie Kupferman Juvenile Justice Award for epitomizing a juvenile justice advocate; was named the "2007 Child Advocate" by Children Awaiting Parents, a national adoption advocacy organization; and was the 2008 co-recipient of the New York State Bar Association, Committee on Children and the Law Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare.

**Tenisha Cummings** is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law, where she was a Stein Scholar for Public Interest. As a member of Prisoner's Rights Advocates (PRA) and in conjunction with her Stein Scholar Seminar work, Tenisha collaborated on a proposal to raise the minimum jail standards in New York City. Tenisha has interned for the National Center for Law and Economic Justice, The Bronx Defenders, and as part of the Fordham's Leitner Center International Human Rights Clinic, Tenisha also worked with paralegals in Malawi conducting research for a prisoners rights litigation project aimed at preventing arbitrary detention and torture within Malawian prisons.

**Rhian D. Jones** graduated from the University of Wales, Swansea with a Bachelor of Laws with honors in 1998. Having completed the Bar Vocational Course required to train as a Barrister and having been admitted to the Honorable Society of the Middle Temple, Rhian was called to the Bar of England and Wales in October 1999. Rhian joined

the Monroe County Office of the Conflict Defender in 2003. For over six years, Rhian litigated on behalf of individuals accused of child abuse, child neglect and those charged with domestic violence offenses. Rhian has tried nearly one hundred cases in Monroe County Family Court, and is therefore mindful of the correlation between certain Family Court cases and related criminal offenses. Since the spring of 2009, Rhian has developed an independent practice in Criminal and Family Law, including second chairing the defense in a multiple murder trial. Rhian continues to maintain an independent practice while serving of counsel to Easton Thompson Kasperek Shiffirin LLP.

**George Kottas** received his JD from Fordham University School of Law, where he coordinated the efforts of the Student Hurricane Network to assist legal services providers and other non-profits in the Gulf Coast. While at Fordham, George also worked in the Immigrants' Rights Clinic and interned at The Bronx Defenders and the Federal Defenders of New York. George received his BS in International Politics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and earned an MS in Teaching from Pace University. He has also been an adjunct professor at Fordham School of Law.

**Robyn Powell** is an Attorney Advisor at the National Council on Disability, in Washington, DC, an independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on matters concerning people with disabilities, and principal author of *Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and their Children*. Previously, Robyn was the Disability Rights Program Manager at the Equal Rights Center, also in Washington, DC. Robyn has also served as Assistant Director for Policy and Advocacy for the Disability Policy Consortium, in Boston, MA and Staff Attorney for Greater Boston Legal Services. While in law school, Robyn interned for both the National Council on Disability and the Disability Law Center, the Massachusetts Protection & Advocacy agency. Robyn is a disabled woman with a strong interest in the rights of parents with disabilities. Robyn holds a BS Degree in Social Work from Bridgewater State University and a JD from Suffolk University Law School in Boston.