

STAR Watch

Statewide Technology Assistance Resources Project

A publication of the Western New York Law Center, Inc.



Volume 11 Issue 5

Sept-Oct 2007



Additional On-line Trainings and Presentations Available

Western New York Law Center (Buffalo, NY) and Empire Justice Center (Rochester, Albany, White Plains, NY) have joined together to make four more trainings in various aspects of civil law and two presentations available for viewing over the web by attorneys and staff. One of the trainings qualifies for CLE credit. Experienced attorneys viewing this presentation may receive New York State Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit (subject to NYS Unified Court System guidelines). For a variety of technical reasons, it is not possible to give CLE credit for the remaining trainings and presentations.

Included on the following pages of this issue of Star Watch, are descriptions of the trainings and presentations, names of presenters, length of the presentation, and if available, the amount of CLE credit.

Each of the trainings and presentations include course materials that can be viewed online or downloaded and printed out at the viewer's discretion.

Most of these trainings are already available for viewing. All trainings will be available by November 15, 2007.

To view the trainings...

Start up your web browser and go to this location: <http://onlineresources.wnylc.net>

On the left side of the screen, click on "Online Training"

Click on the desired training; a registration form will be displayed

Fill out the registration form; then click on "Submit form"

A link to the presentation will be sent to the email address provided in the registration form



In this issue...

- ★ • *Additional On-line Trainings and Presentations Available* ★
- ★ • *WNYLC Web Statistics* ★
- ★ • *Who We Are* ★





If you are an attorney and wish to receive CLE credit, you must fill out the course evaluation and attorney affirmation forms and mail it to the address on the form along with payment for processing of the CLE credit request. New York State Bar Association rules require that the forms be mailed. They cannot be submitted electronically.

Course Descriptions

Listed below are descriptions of the trainings offered, presenters, viewing times, CLE credits for attorneys, and cost for processing the CLE credit request. If you are not an attorney or you do not wish to receive CLE credit for viewing the training, no payment is required.

Handling SSI Child Disability Cases

This training covers child SSI regulations including:

- Defining disability for kids, including an overview of childhood SSI Disability determinations, brief history of the regulations, and sequential evaluation.
- Evaluating functional equivalence including general considerations: age-related function, effects of treatment and/or medications, effect of structured setting, need for assistive devices, impact of chronic illness, considering the totality of the evidence, maladaptive behavior, and definition of “marked” and “extreme” functional limitations, as well as functional domains (what are they

are, how they differ from “broad areas of function”, considerations within each domain, and evidentiary sources/development).

- Practical application of concepts such as typical impairments, developing a kids’ case, what to expect at a hearing (including ethical considerations).
- Post-eligibility issues

Date of original presentation: 03/26/2007

Presenters: C. Callery, L. Tarantino

Location: Rochester, NY

Viewing time: Part 1: 1:57:50; Part 2: 2:16:40. Both parts of this training must be viewed for CLE credit.

CLE Credits: 0.5 Ethics, 1.0 Skills, 3.5 Professional Practice

Cost for CLE credit: \$90.00 Not-for-Profit Agencies; \$150.00 Private Practice Attorneys

Flipping Out – Eliminating Fraudulent Flipping in Buffalo

This presentation to the local community provided information on the Mayor’s Anti-Flipping Task Force (AFTF), strategies being used to eliminate illegal property flipping, and dialogues about solutions to property flipping.

Date of original presentation: 03/24/2007

Presenters: Sam Hoyt, NYS Assembly-member, 144th District; Dennis Kozuch, Chief of Staff to NYS Senator William Stachowski; Kathleen Lynch, Esq.,



Coordinator of the AFTF, Western New York Law Center; Michele Johnson, Community Activist, and Tracy Krug, Department of Economic Development, Permit and Inspection Services, City of Buffalo

Viewing time: 1:28:04

CLE credit is not available for this training

Strategies for Maximizing Access to Medicaid

An in-depth look at Medicaid budgeting methodologies and how to help clients choose the one that is best for them. The workshop covers spend down provisions, pooled trusts, Medicaid buy-in for working people with disabilities and Medicare savings programs as a means of obtaining low-income subsidy for Part D.

Date of original presentation: 06/06/2006

Presenters: V. Bogart, T. Szczygiel

Location: Albany, NY (Partnership Conference)

Viewing time: 1:39:29

CLE credit is not available for this training

Predatory Lending: What a Legal Services Advocate Needs to Know

Refinance abuses, mortgage servicing abuses, property flipping, and deed theft are hurting New York homeowners. This training discusses legal strategies to

assist victims of these practices. The panelists discuss the various forms of predatory mortgage lending, how to identify a predatory loan and/or scheme, the laws available to help clients, and how advocates can avail themselves of resources in their community to combat the problem.

Date of original presentation: 06/06/2006

Presenters: R. Case-Grammatico, K. Lynch, J. Zinner

Location: Albany, NY (Partnership Conference)

Viewing time: 1:30:53

CLE credit is not available for this training

HALT Buffalo Summit: Campaign to Halt Abusive Lending Transactions & Mortgage Fraud

On June 28, 2007, a conference sponsored by the New York State Banking Department, the Anti-Flipping Task Force of Buffalo, and Mayor Byron W. Brown was held in Buffalo to discuss how to Halt Abusive Lending Transactions (HALT). This event included a series of presentations and panel discussions exploring the unique real estate, mortgage lending, and home ownership-related challenges facing the Greater Buffalo Area.

CLE credit is not available for this presentation.



Part 1: Welcome and Keynote

Speakers

Speakers: Jane Azia, Director of Non-Depository Institutions and Consumer Protection, NYS Banking Department; Honorable Byron W. Brown, Mayor, City of Buffalo

Viewing time: 0:19:13

Part 2: Panel Discussion: Community Perspective – Predatory Lending & Mortgage Fraud

Panelists: Carol Brent, Esq., Legal Services for the Elderly and Disabled; Rebecca Case Grammatico, Esq., Empire Justice Center; Athena McCrory, Esq., Legal Aid Bureau; Francis J. Offerman Jr., Esq., Volunteer Lawyers Project

Viewing time: 1:03:38

Part 3: Current Research

Presenters: Holly D. Lindstrom, Data Analyst, Western New York Law Center; Barbara van Kerkhove, Research Analyst, Empire Justice Center; Bradley J. Bartram, Economic Crime Investigator – Hilbert College

Viewing time: 0:54:35

Part 4: New Legislation: NYS Home Equity Theft Prevention Act

Presenters: Steve Kirchgraber, Deputy Superintendent of Banks, Consumer Services Division, NYS Banking Department; Summer Lee, Fair Lending Specialist, NYS Banking Department

Viewing time: 0:40:07

Part 5: Panel Discussion: Government Response

Panelists: Kumiki Gibson, Commissioner, NYS Division of Human Rights; Heather Yannello, Special Agent, HUD Office of the Inspector General; Daniel E. Shapiro, First Deputy Secretary of State, NYS Department of State; Jane Azia, Director of Non-Depository Institutions and Consumer Protection, NYS Banking Department; Anna G. Oles, Coordinator, NYS Department of Housing and Community Renewal; James M. Morrissey, Assistant Attorney General, NYS Office of the Attorney General

Viewing time: 1:07:57

Part 6: Industry Perspective and Closing Remarks

Panelists: Ken Markison, Senior Director Regulatory Counsel, Mortgage Bankers Association; Gregory Krauza, President, NY Association of Mortgage Brokers; James E. Knight, President-elect, Buffalo Niagara Association of Realtors; Peter Battaglia, Underwriting Counsel, TICOR Title Insurance Company (Moderated by Hon. John J. La Falce, Congressman (Retired), U.S. House of Representative, 1975 – 2002)

Viewing time: 1:13:33

HIV as a Disabling Condition: Maximizing SSI/SSD

This training will provide case managers with basic information about Social Security’s disability benefit program. Topics covered include basic descriptions of SSI and SSD programs and



eligibility requirements, as well as an overview of how SSA determines disability. Also included will be information about the application process, strategies for developing strong applications, appeal rights and time limits for denied applications.

The training will help clients to assemble the necessary documentation to successfully apply for Social Security's disability programs. By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Differentiate between Social Security Disability (SSD) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Interpret income and resource rules for SSI eligibility
- Explain how disability is determined by Social Security
- Assist clients with filing applications for benefits
- Help clients to develop and obtain medical records and other evidence in support of their applications
- Recognize time limits for filing appeals and help clients file timely appeals

Date of original presentation: 09/20/2007

Presenter: L.J. Fisher, Esq.

Location: Syracuse, NY

Viewing time: 1:40:03

CLE credit is not available for this training

Tips & Advice for Viewing

Dialup connections won't work. You must have an Internet connection

capable of handling at least 160Kbps. If you are unsure of the connection speed at your location, start up your web browser and go to <http://www.speakeasy.net/speedtest/>. Under the caption "CHOOSE A SERVER:" are 8 cities. Click on the one that is closest to your location and the speed test will automatically start. When the test finishes, if the "Download speed" is greater than 160 Kbps, your Internet connection is fast enough to handle the webstream.

If more than one person is planning to watch a presentation in office, it would be a better use of bandwidth for everyone to watch together since every computer connection to the webstream will consume 160Kbps of your office's bandwidth.

Having problems with the presentation? Please check out the Star Watch article "Improve Your Webstreaming Experiences" that can be found at this link: <http://www.wnylc.net/pdf/star-watch/Mar-Apr06.pdf>. It provides the tools and techniques to diagnose and solve problems with viewing webstreamed presentations.





WNYLC Web Statistics For September 2007

Total Hits.....289,725
 Number of Pages Viewed.....89,747
 Total Visitors.....47,400
 Average Hits/Day.....9,345
 Average Pages /Day.....2,895
 Top Web Browsers Used:
 Internet Explorer 7.x.....48%
 Internet Explorer 6.x.....32%
 Firefox.....10%
 Safari.....1%

Top 5 Operating Systems Used:
 Windows XP.....74.53%
 Windows 2000.....8.10%
 Windows Vista.....3.78%
 Windows 98.....3.32%
 Mac OS.....1.67%



WHO WE ARE

Joe Kelemen - Attorney
 Kathleen Lynch - Attorney
 Tom Karkau - Programmer
 Sherry Soules - Administrator
 Holly Lindstrom - Data Analyst



Wnylc@wnylc.com



716-855-0203



www.wnylc.net

Western New York Law Center, Inc.
237 Main Street, Suite 1030
Buffalo, New York 14203