

Friday, January 19, 2024

2 – 5:15 p.m.

Family Law Section

3.0 MCLE Credit Hours, 3.0 JCLE Credit Hours for Family Court Judges Supreme Court

Commission on CLE Course #: 240025

Room Location: Magnolia

Family Law Section: Judicial Considerations

It's the return of Hollywood Squares. Judge Vance Stricklin and Judge Holly Wall will act as the game show hosts while two "contestant" Family Court Judges select from a panel of famous "squares" to answer Family Court challenges. Which "squares" will score the most points for our "contestants"? Do you know the correct answers to the questions about the latest legislation, relevant code sections, evidentiary rules, and more?

South Carolina continues to have one of the fastest growing foreign-born populations in the country, which sadly includes an increasing number of victimized immigrant youth that have been abused, neglected or abandoned. One of the central forms of protection and humanitarian relief for these vulnerable youth is an immigration protection called Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). Before a child can file for this protection, a state court must issue an order making specific findings of fact to demonstrate the child's eligibility. Therefore, SC family courts – in child welfare, custody and juvenile justice cases – may be asked to issue an order to establish the youth's eligibility to apply for SIJS.

This practice area comes with many complex challenges under both state and federal law, but also, many critical advancements in recent years. The panelists will provide a basic overview of Special Immigrant Juvenile status, but also cover a range of hot topics, including significant visa backlogs, new federal regulations, recent federal appellate decisions regarding SC family court orders, and the latest policy advancement to grant deferred action to SIJ-approved petitioners with access to work authorization. Finally, the speakers will provide important practice tips and reminders for practitioners and judges on establishing a youth's eligibility for SIJS and screening for other possible forms of relief.

The Honorable Bruce Bannister will provide a detailed update on all legislative issues relevant to the Family Court Bench and Bar.

Agenda

2 – 3:15 p.m.

Hollywood Squares Returns: Who Knows the Law?

The Honorable C. Vance Stricklin, Jr.
S.C. Family Court
Columbia, SC

The Honorable Holly H. Wall
S.C. Family Court
Florence, SC

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

**Addressing the Needs of Immigrant Youth in SC Family Courts:
Legal Updates & Best Practices Regarding Special Immigrant
Juvenile Status**

Patricia S. Ravenhorst
*SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Greenville, SC*

The Honorable Melissa Buckhannon
*S.C. Family Court
Conway, SC*

The Honorable Michèle Patrão Forsythe
*S.C. Family Court
Charleston, SC*

Dennis Gmerek
*S.C. Department of Social Services
Columbia, SC*

Khristina Siletskaya
Columbia, SC

Olivia Jones
*Olivia Jones Law, LLC
Columbia, SC*

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.

Legislative Updates

The Honorable Bruce Bannister
*Bannister, Wyatt & Stalvey, LLC
Greenville, SC*

Course Planner/Moderator:

Mary Frances Quindlen
*Quindlen Law Firm, P.A.
Beaufort, SC*