The Basics of Education Advocacy: Special Education

**Sponsor(s):** LAF (Legal Assistance Foundation)

**Date:** 9/10/2015

**Time:** 09:30AM – 11:30AM

**Location:** 120 S LaSalle Street, Room 1078, Chicago, IL 60603

**Speakers:** Julie Pautsch, Esq.

LAF’s Education Pro Bono Project utilizes volunteer attorneys to represent parents and students in special education matters (e.g., seeking services, modifying services, school placement), school discipline matters (e.g., expulsion), as well as other cases where a child’s access to education is jeopardy. This fall, LAF is hosting two basic trainings, one focusing on special education issues and one focusing on discipline and safety issues. Volunteer attorneys are welcome to attend just one of our programs, but are encouraged to attend both.

The purpose of this program is to provide training in education advocacy for attorneys who want to represent parents and students in special education disputes, and have little to no experience in this area. The program will include information on foundational special education laws, key educational concepts, as well as best practices in advocating at special education meetings, mediations, and hearings. Attorneys will also learn how to take on a pro bono case from beginning to end.

**MCLE-IL credit is pending.**

**Commitment:**
Volunteer attorneys are asked to take at least one case pro bono each year.

**Average case length:**
- School Discipline – 2-3 weeks intensive
- Special Education (not due process) – 2-4 months, not intensive
- Special Education (due process) – 3-6 months intensive

**Experience Needed:**
Volunteer attorneys need not have experience in education law as LAF provides comprehensive training, pre-screened cases, and ongoing support.

Attorneys who have an “active” out-of-state law license or an “inactive” Illinois law license are invited to volunteer (but please notify project coordinator of your status because additional paperwork may be necessary). Volunteer attorneys are covered by LAF’s malpractice insurance.

To RSVP for the training, please email Julie Pautsch at Jpautsch@lafchicago.org.