



Our Wonderful Law Students!



Pictured: Ben, Maegan and Holly at St. Gabriel's Church in Olney

The approaching end of the academic year give us the chance to recognize our outstanding law students. This year we had two interns from the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of law -- Eli Holloway and Holly Jones -- three from the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law-- Benjamin Bell, Maegan McUmber and Andrew Hutchinson -- and one from Widener University Delaware Law School -- Bobby Adams. In exchange for pro bono credit towards their graduation requirements, our students provided prompt, excellent research services, answering some difficult legal questions with detailed reports. This year, we were also able to invite students to our clinics, court appearances and phone conversations with clients. Thanks to you all, and we hope to see you again in the fall!



Celebrating a Win in Family Court

We spent a morning in Family Court recently with a client who was seeking an order giving her shared custody of her teenaged son and daughter. Several years ago her husband, from whom she is separated, obtained an order giving him almost full custody. Our client was limited to seeing her children one night a week and every other weekend. This seemed an unusually harsh arrangement given that our client, who had been homeless a number of years ago, had an apartment, a job, and no significant impairments.

The children, who were each enrolled in good Philadelphia high schools, were having academic problems. The parents spent most of their court time defending their respective parenting styles. The father's more permissive

style was different from our client's approach.

After hearing from the parents, the judge excused them and called the two children in to testify. The daughter was very frank in admitting that she was not very motivated by her schoolwork and could not be bothered to attend the tutoring sessions that were available to her. When the parents returned and the father testified unequivocally that he was completely on top of his daughter's schoolwork and that he "knew" she was having no academic issues, our client's case was made and she was given the shared custody she was seeking. She will now have her kids with her on alternating weeks, and it seems likely that their academic performance will improve.

We took this photo just after the judge announced her decision and have our client's permission to post it here. Family Court cases involve a long journey -- this one was open for over six months -- and are full of emotion and drama. We were impressed in this case by the amount of time the judge spent on the matter -- over two hours! -- and the opportunity she gave all of the parties, including the children, to express their views and respond to her questions.

SAVE THE DATE!! ANNUAL CELEBRATION THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

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