

Guardian ad Litem

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

GALs,

Starting this week, Judge Scott's July 12th term, our juvenile court will be transitioning to 2 days of in-person hearings at the courthouse while continuing to hold 2 days of Webex virtual hearings. Our other two judges will be following suit and this will be how things are calendared at least for a few months. The use of Webex hearings has been codified into NC statutes and will still be used for some cases (involving out of state parties) even after we return to in-person hearings 4 days a week. All three judges have set their calendars utilizing this split appearance arrangement and below is what they have decided:

Judge Scott: In-Person (Tuesdays and Wednesdays); Webex (Thursdays and Fridays)

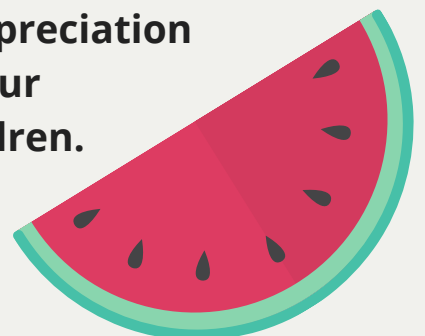
Judge Dotson-Smith: In-Person (Tuesdays and Fridays); Webex (Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Judge Dray: In-Person (Tuesdays and Wednesdays); Webex (Thursdays and Fridays)

We want to make your return to the courthouse and in-person settings as easy as possible on each of you and those who have concerns about going back can raise those with your supervisor. The GAL program will not be pushing anyone into court who is not comfortable returning yet.

If you have a preference for in-person or webex we can attempt to have your case set that way at calendar call like we do for dates and times of day, understanding of course that we will not always have our requests granted. Our thanks and appreciation to all of you as we undergo yet another transition in our advocacy of Buncombe County's most vulnerable children.

-Coby Wellshear, District Administrator



Volunteer Spotlight



Izabella on a Safari

Izabella Van Raalte has a truly international background: Born, raised and educated in Europe, she immigrated to the United States just in time to start a promising career in biochemistry. Before that could be realized, however, she met her Dutch-born husband who was in the US Foreign Service. With the Agency for International Development they spent the next 30 years living and working in eight different countries, 2-4 years at a time. It was in those countries—mostly underdeveloped—that Izabella first became exposed and sensitized to the ravage and devastation that poverty can inflict on families, especially their children. That awareness stayed with her until she retired, initially in Washington DC and for the last four years in Asheville. She has been a GAL volunteer since October 2018.

Why Did You Start Your Work with GAL? I became aware of GAL Program during the Leadership Asheville Course offered by OLLI. The GAL program was one of the volunteer opportunities mentioned and described during that course. I did not hesitate to apply: the Program's focus on the children of neglected or otherwise disadvantaged families presented a unique opportunity for me to advocate and to work with and for children.

What Has Been the Most Fulfilling Piece of this Work? The most satisfying aspect of my work as a GAL volunteer has been the experience of working with children. Our younger years are critical to a serene and stable adult life, and the GAL's love and support of the kids can make all the difference, not only to the children's lives but often also to their families.

What Advice Would You Give to Current GAL's? The cases presented to the GAL's often seem hopeless and, because of the multiplicity of factors involved, always complex. Faced with such challenges the most important skills a GAL can bring to the equation are empathy, patience and persistence. With these attributes, and the dedication and commitment to the GAL cause, there are very few cases where the conditions and environment for the children cannot be substantially improved.

CELEBRATING OUR GAL'S WITH 10+ YEARS OF SERVICE

Norman Gottlieb 26 years

Betty Hermelee 26 years

Betsy Longoria 23 years

Pam Gretz 20 years

Tina Hvitfeldt 19 years

Olivia Lamotte 19 years

Mary Park Ford 19 years

Barbara Gardner 14 years

David Horn 14 years

Kelly Keith 13 years

Patricia Poteat 13 years

Larry Rohan 13 years

Ann Simpson 13 years

Nancy Waldrop 13 years

Joni Marion 12 years

Cindy Fuller 12 years

Betsy McCormick 11 years

Tom Byers 11 years

Genevieve Fortuna 11 years

Mary Ogden 11 years

Denise Snodgrass 11 years

Mychal Bacoate 10 years

Norma Warren 10 years

Anne Bonnyman 10 years

THANK
YOU

FALL '21 GAL TRAINING

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY
ACCEPTED
WWW.VOLUNTEERFORGAL.ORG

Guardian ad Litem



A child's advocate in court

YOU ARE LOVED.

You make me smile.



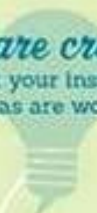
I think about you when we're
apart.

I will do my best to
keep you safe.

{ Sometimes I will say no.
I have faith in you.
I know you can handle it. }

You are creative.

Trust your instincts.
Your ideas are worthwhile.



You are
CAPABLE.
You are
DESERVING.

You are
STRONG.
You can say no.
Your choices matter.

You make a
difference.

Your words are powerful.
Your actions are powerful.
Your emotions may be powerful.
And you can still choose
your actions.
You are more than your emotions.

You are a good friend.
You are kind.

You don't have to like what someone is saying
in order to treat them with respect.
Someone else's poor behavior
is not an excuse for your own.

You are imperfect. So am I.

You can **change** your mind.
You can learn from your mistakes.
You can ask for **help**.

You are learning.
You are growing.
Growing is hard work.

I believe you.
I believe **in** you.

Your body is your own.
You have say over your body.

You are important.
Your ideas matter.
You are able to do work
that matters.

I see you
working
learning
every
day.

You make
a difference
in my life.

Your ideas are *interesting*.

You've made me think of
things in a **COMPLETELY
NEW WAY.**

I'm excited to see what you do.

Thanks for helping me.

Thank you for
contributing
to our
family.

I enjoy your company.

It's
FUN
to do things with you.

I'M
GLAD
YOU'RE
HERE.

I'm happy to talk with you.
I'm ready to listen.
I'm listening.

I'm proud of you.

I'm grateful you're in my life.

MY WORLD
IS BETTER
with you in it

You make me
SMILE.

I
LOVE
YOU.

You are valuable.
You are interesting.
You are beautiful.

When you make a mistake
you are
still beautiful.

I am curious what you
THINK.
How did you do that?

positive THINGS to SAY to kids

**Buncombe County
Guardian ad Litem Program
District 28
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Asheville, NC 28801**



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GALbuncombe](https://www.facebook.com/GALbuncombe)**

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