



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, COUNTY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2012 - 16

APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANS *AD LITEM*

Pursuant to Cook County Circuit Court Rule 10.7(II)(b), the court will select attorneys to serve staggered three-year terms as guardians *ad Litem* and these attorneys may apply for extensions of their terms thereafter. The rule does not expressly state that *any* extension must be a three-year term, but does require staggering of appointments. All current Guardians *ad Litem* terms end November 2012 and do not stagger. Thus, this court shall grant extensions of terms less than three years so to comply with the required "staggered" rule. All current Guardians *ad Litem* have applied for extension of appointments.

Accordingly, effective December 3rd, 2012, with the approval of the Chief Judge, the following appointments of attorneys to serve as Guardian *ad Litem*, in proceedings under the Illinois Adoption Act (750 ILCS 50/0.01) *et seq.*, are hereby made as follows:

1. **Ellen E. Douglass**: is a lawyer with 33 years of experience and concentrates mainly in the practice of Probate, Elder Law and Estate Planning. She has experience as a Guardian *ad Litem* in the Probate Division as well. Upon application her appointment shall be extended to a one-year term, which shall terminate November 30th, 2013.
2. **Genie Miller Gillespie**, is a lawyer with 20 years of experience mainly in the practice of adoptions, including substantial *pro bono* legal work. She was appointed as a Guardian *ad litem* since 2006 to present. Upon application her appointment shall be extended to a one-year term, which shall terminate November 30th, 2013.
3. **Nancy Hablutzel**, is a lawyer of 32 years of experience whose sole practice is as a Guardian *ad Litem* in adoptions. She has done numerous *pro bono* work and teaches at Chicago Kent Law School. She was originally appointed in 2006 to present. Upon application, her appointment shall be extended to a two-year term which terminates November 30th, 2014.
4. **Charisse L. Hampton**, a lawyer of 21 years of experience, whose main practice involves child-related cases with DCFS, probate, juvenile and family law, was originally appointed in 2010 to present. Upon application her appointment shall be extended to a two-year term, which shall terminate November 30, 2014.
5. **Shelley B. Ballard**, is a lawyer with 24 years of experience in adoption matters and she previously served as a back-up Guardian *ad Litem* sometime in the 1990's, but is currently not a Guardian *ad Litem*. Upon application, she is hereby appointed as Guardian *ad Litem* to a three-year term, terminating November 30th, 2015.

6. Diana Lopez, is a lawyer with 12 years of experience who mainly concentrates in Domestic Relations, child custody, parentage and other family law matters. She was originally appointed in 2006 to the present. Upon application her appointment is extended for a one-year term which shall terminate on November 30th, 2013.

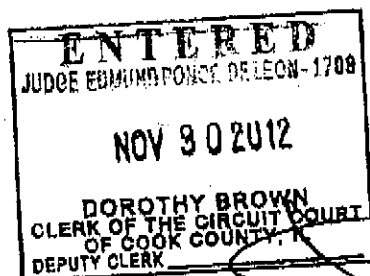
7. Gilbert J. Grossi, was a former Judge for 23 of years having heard criminal and civil matters, which included child-related matters in criminal law and domestic violence. He has a prosecutorial-investigative background having also served as criminal prosecutor. Upon application, he is hereby appointed as Guardian *ad Litem* to a three-year term, which shall terminate on November 30th, 2015.

8. Paul W. Barbahen, is a lawyer of 28 years of experience mainly in the practice of Family Law, including child custody matters. He has also practiced in Juvenile, Child abuse and neglect, probate, criminal law and selected adoptions. He has extensive trial and mediation experience. Upon application he is hereby appointed as Guardian *ad Litem* to a three-year term, terminating November 30th, 2015.

Furthermore, effective December 3rd, 2012, Guardians *ad Litem* shall be assigned cases filed on or after December 3rd, 2012, as designated in accordance with the following schedule, unless otherwise ordered by the Court:

<i>Guardian ad Litem</i>	Assignment of Cases	Appointed to End
Ellen E. Douglass	Cases ending with "0"	November 30, 2013
Shelley Ballard	Cases ending with "1"	November 30, 2015
Genie Miller Gillespie	Cases ending with "2"	November 30, 2013
Gilbert Grossi	Cases ending with "3"	November 30, 2015
Nancy Hablutzel	Cases ending with "4" and "5"	November 30, 2014
Paul W. Barbahen	Cases ending with "6"	November 30, 2015
Diana Lopez	Cases ending with "7"	November 30, 2013
Charisse L. Hampton	Cases ending with "8" and "9"	November 30, 2014

Entered this 30th day of November, 2012. This order shall be published and spread of record.



Judge Edmund Ponce de Leon #1708
 Presiding Judge, County Division