



# GAL Training 2024

**Program dates start May 8. Register today!**

**6** CLE  
GAL Family/Minor

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**1** EPR

# GAL Training 2024

## The gold standard for GAL training

**GAL Training 2024** is designed to prepare both new and experienced GALs to perform their vital role on behalf of children in the family court system. You'll develop a better understanding of the variety of responsibilities GALs are tasked with, as well as practical information on representing the best interests of children.

You'll receive valuable takeaways from seasoned GALs, court commissioners, and a judge that will equip you to face the complex and emotionally charged situations inherent to GAL work. Accept your next GAL appointment with confidence, ready to make sound recommendations to the court on custody and placement.

## How you'll benefit:

- Receive a comprehensive overview of guardian ad litem practice and procedure
- Understand the GAL's role in the investigation process with concrete examples from seasoned GALs
- Pick up practical pointers on conducting interviews and communicating the child's wishes to the court
- Know the statutory factors a GAL must consider when making recommendations on a child's behalf
- Avoid ethical entanglements common to GAL appointments
- Gain insights on what judges and court commissioners expect from GALs
- Make effective recommendations for the custody and placement of children

## Who should attend:

- Guardians ad litem for minors
- Family law attorneys
- Juvenile law and children's attorneys
- Attorneys seeking GAL minor appointments

**Register today!**

## Schedule

**8:00 AM Registration**

**8:30 AM The Role of the Guardian ad Litem**

- Tips for how to interview children
- How to formulate your recommendation and abide by the rules of evidence
- Communicating the wishes of the child to the court
- Conflicts and how to avoid them
- Overcoming the therapeutic privilege
- Dealing with parents that are high conflict

*Michael S. Brandt, Tiffany L. Highstrom, Brad C. Schweiger*

**10:10 AM Break**

**10:25 AM Family Court Commissioner Roundtable**

- Best practices for appearing before a court commissioner
- Examples of procedure in different counties
- What a commissioner wants from a GAL

*Brian Bushaw, Sally-Anne Danner, Kelly Iselin*

**12:05 PM Lunch (on your own)**

**1:15 PM Judge's Perspective – Presenting Your Case to the Court**

- The rules of evidence and how they apply in family law cases
- The witness list and who should testify
- Issuing subpoenas – when do you have too many witnesses?

*Hon. Rhonda L. Lanford*

**2:05 PM Break**

**2:20 PM Ethical Responsibilities When Acting as a GAL**

*Timothy J. Pierce*

**3:10 PM Program Concludes**

*Following start time, schedule will vary slightly from above listed times.*

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[wisbar.org/ondemand](http://wisbar.org/ondemand)

## Faculty

### Program Chair

**Sarah DeKraay**

Murphy Desmond, S.C.  
Madison

### Presenters

**Michael S. Brandt**

Eastbridge Law Group LLP  
Madison

**Brian J. Bushaw**

Family Court Commissioner  
Outagamie County Circuit Court  
Appleton

**Sally-Anne Danner**

Family Court Commissioner  
Fond du Lac County Circuit Court  
Fond du Lac

**Tiffany L. Highstrom**

Stafford Rosenbaum LLP  
Madison

**Kelly Iselin**

Family Court Commissioner  
Walworth County Circuit Court  
Elkhorn

**Hon. Rhonda L. Lanford**

Dane County Circuit Court  
Madison

**Timothy J. Pierce**

State Bar of Wisconsin  
Madison

**Brad C. Schweiger**

Richter & Phillips  
Madison

## Dates / Location

### In-Person Seminar

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

#### State Bar Center

5302 Eastpark Blvd.  
Madison, WI  
(608) 257-3838

### Live Webcast

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

### Webcast Replays

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Friday, May 31, 2024

Monday, June 10, 2024

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Monday, August 12, 2024

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Friday, October 11, 2024

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

## Credits

This program will be submitted to the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners for **6 CLE/GAL Family/Minor credits including 1 Ethics and Professional Responsibility credit.**

## Registration

**ONLINE:** wisbar.org/seminars

**PHONE:** (800) 728-7788

**FAX:** (608) 257-5502

**MAIL:** State Bar PINNACLE Registrations

P.O. Box 7158

Madison, WI 53707-7158

### State Bar CLE/PINNACLE Passbook registrations:

Passbook certificates must be received by the State Bar at least one business day prior to the event. For in-person seminars, walk-in registrations using Passbook Certificates are also welcome.

### Registration cancellations:

Please visit [wisbar.org/cancellations](http://wisbar.org/cancellations) for information on PINNACLE registration cancellation policies.

### Course materials for those attending the seminar:

Course materials are provided in PDF format and are downloadable from *myStateBar* on wisbar.org up to two days prior to and 90 days after your seminar.

### COVID-19 safety information:

Complete and current safety guidelines can be found at [wisbar.org/covidsafety](http://wisbar.org/covidsafety).

## Be the Ultimate

An **Ultimate Pass™** takes you beyond better with unlimited CLE for one annual fee. Three options available.

[wisbar.org/ultimatepass](http://wisbar.org/ultimatepass)



*This  
program is  
sponsored by:*



**Book Bonus!**

## The Guardian ad Litem Handbook

**SAVE 15%** on *The Guardian ad Litem Handbook*. \* This comprehensive resource is filled with practical information on handling GAL appointments, whether you're looking for guidance on the basics or need help with complex issues. Use **discount code CA3629** when you order online or by calling (800) 728-7788.



*\*Discount applies to both print and digital Books Unbound editions of this title and cannot be applied to previous purchases. Offer valid through 12/31/25. For Books Unbound users, discount may be applied to purchase of individual Books Unbound title only and may not be used on the purchase of libraries. Discount cannot be combined with any other offers.*

## Additional Learning Opportunities

### Domestic Violence for Guardians ad Litem 2024

Learn to spot the signs of domestic abuse in disputed custody cases and how to account for abuse in recommendations to the court. Understand the different types of abuse that may be present within a family and the impacts of abuse on children and their parents.

**4 CLE, 1 EPR, 4 GALF, 4 GALMIN, 4 GALDV**

**Webcast Replays:** Apr. 3, 2024 | Apr. 8, 2024 | Apr. 16, 2024 | Apr. 22, 2024 | May 2, 2024  
May 15, 2024 | May 25, 2024 | Sept. 20, 2024 | Oct. 9, 2024 | Nov. 12, 2024

### Minor Guardianships of the Person: Wisconsin Children's Court Practice and Procedure

Gain a better understanding of the history behind minor guardianships in Wisconsin and familiarize yourself with more recent legislative changes. This resource explains the new types of guardianships and their criteria, the pros and cons of each type, and the procedure for modifying or terminating a guardianship.

**Print Book:** #AK0128; 194+ pp.; 2nd ed. 2023-24; **Member:** \$170 | **Nonmember:** \$212.50

**Books Unbound Subscription:** #AE0128\_SUB; **Member:** \$167 | **Nonmember:** \$209

### Family Law Forms Library

Access exclusive State Bar family law forms and checklists and say goodbye to endless paperwork in your family law practice! The *Family Law Forms Library* makes finding the form you need a snap – it's fully searchable by title and keyword. No more making paper copies, scanning forms, or spending hours looking for that one form.

**Online subscription:** #FSFB8000 | **Members only:** \$159/year  
(Discounts available on multi-user subscriptions.)

## GAL Training 2024

**Priority Code: S 4 3 4 1 B**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> State Bar Member          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$239         | <input type="checkbox"/> \$269         |
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Madison

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