

- The Annual Parental Defense Conference was held May 6th and 7th, 2010 at the Zermatt Resort in Midway, UT. Over One-hundred and Seventy (170) individuals participated, with over One-hundred and Sixty-five (165) attorneys attending. Among the other attendees were paralegals, Court Mediators, a family advocate, and a law student who is working at a parental defense firm. This was the largest gathering of those interested in child welfare and parental defense since we began coordinating this conference in 2006, with approximately 16% of the attendees attending for the first time. It should be noted that this was the first year that the conference was coordinated with and attended by the attorneys who work as Guardians ad Litem. Thus, this was not only our largest gathering of parental defense attorneys since we began, but this year's conference was also the largest gathering of child welfare attorneys as the entire Guardians ad Litem contingent joined us.

Seventy-two percent (47%) of the conference attendees rated the conference as excellent overall and Forty-six percent (46%) rated the conference as good. One respondent indicated that the conference was fair and one rated the conference as poor. Attached is a list of participants in the conference.

The conference was designed to improve the quality of legal representation for parents in Utah. Topics for the conference included the application of the American with Disabilities Act to Child Welfare Law, the Indian Child Welfare Act, Mediation in Child Welfare, Attachment as it relates to visitation and many other aspects of representing parents. Attached you will find a copy of the conference agenda.

- Extended financial assistance to parental defendants who have been found by the court to be indigent for expert witness services, paralegal services on appeal, and court transcripts for appeals, subject to certain monetary limits. Only two counsel requested financial assistance.
- Conducted training seminars giving attorneys throughout Utah Continuing Legal Education.
- Continued to confer with, and act as a resource for parental defense attorneys in Utah. Some of the issues on which assistance was provided were: discovery, procedural and time requirements, possible courses of action, and admissibility of evidence. The PDA also continued to observe practice in different courtrooms and engaged judges, assistant attorneys general and guardians ad litem to obtain information in order to assist in improving the practice of parental defenders.
- Continued to provide valuable information to parental defenders via e-bulletins and newsletters. Attorneys receive information on community resources, family advocates, Child Welfare Ombudsman, as well as, legislative and legal updates, and news items relevant to representing parents.
- Continued maintaining and uploading content to the website in order in efforts to

make it more robust.

- Expenditures under the contract between the Department of Administrative Services and the PDA have once again been used as an “in kind match” for a federal grant submitted by the Court Improvement Project for court training programs.
- 137 Attorneys trained for a total of 1166.82 hours of training provided.