



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Chief Justice Workman to speak at dedication of Child and Family Law Clinic at law school For immediate release Thursday, April 7, 2011

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Chief Justice Margaret L. Workman will speak at noon on Friday, April 8, in the Marlyn E. Lugar Courtroom at the West Virginia University College of Law as the school dedicates its Child and Family Law Clinic.

The Child and Family Law Clinic was initiated by Professor Valerie Vojdik, who directs the program that works with West Virginia children and families of limited income to promote their health, security and future success.

Chief Justice Workman will speak about how this clinic and a law school class supported by the Court's Court Improvement Program address the legal needs of children and their families so that children can live in a safe and well environment.

Other speakers at the event include Paul D. Bennett, Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Child Advocacy Clinic at the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona; Twentieth Family Court Circuit Judge Randal Minor; Dean Joyce E. McConnell; Professor Vojdik; and several student attorneys who work in the clinic.

In addition to their service to the community, WVU College of Law clinics provide valuable experience to third-year law students who work under the supervision of faculty and volunteer attorneys while assisting families with issues like adoption, custody and guardianship matters, domestic violence, protection orders, abuse and neglect, and a host of other family legal services.

The school also has formed The WVU College of Law Medical-Legal Partnership, conceived in cooperation with the West Virginia University Children's Hospital. This partnership provides faculty-directed law students who participate in the resident continuity clinics and work with children and families to resolve legal problems that can affect health, such as eligibility for Medicaid or WVCHIP, services under Medicaid and Medicare, or private insurance issues.

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