

## E-Newsletter – June, 2011



### **A Message from Caroline**

Dear Friends,

Family Law CASA is mourning the loss of Mabry De Buys, an ex-officio board member and tireless supporter of the organization since the beginning. Mabry supported the organization in many ways; she brought her astute business sense, charm and fortitude to everything she did. At our breakfast in February, we honored Mabry for her hard work on behalf of CASA by giving her the Founder's Award. There is no way to effectively communicate how thankful and honored we are for everything she did for the program, and especially the children and families we serve.

Mabry brought tremendous strength, intelligence, wit and compassion to her clients during her tenure as a shareholder at K&L Gates. She is respected and admired by all who knew her and she will truly be missed.

To read more about Mabry's life, you can read her obituary by [clicking here](#).

Sincerely,  
Caroline D. Davis  
Executive Director





## Don't Miss *CASA Uncorked!*

Family Law CASA's wine tasting, dinner and auction event is coming! Don't miss the exciting evening of sampling some of the most incredible wines from our region, enjoy a gourmet three course dinner and bid on items large and small - all while supporting the children and families we serve.

**Saturday, September 17th**

**5:30pm-9:30pm**

**Columbia Tower Club**

**\$150 per person**

**to RSVP and purchase tickets, please call Dustin at 206-748-9700 or email**

**[djohnson@familylawcasa.org](mailto:djohnson@familylawcasa.org)**

**\*\*We are looking for businesses to sponsor the wine event. This is a great marketing opportunity and helps underwrite the cost of the event. Please contact Dustin if you're interested.\*\***

---

### **Meet Michelle Fontenot, CASA's Program Attorney**

Michelle is a licensed attorney and master's level therapist. She has over 20 years of experience as a child and family therapist. A significant portion of that time was working with children in special education. Her work with school districts was primarily focused on program consultation and teacher training. Michelle first entertained the idea of going to law school when she saw that children with challenges in school often need more than just caring adults and good teachers. These children are often over-looked and under-served in legal settings. During law school, Michelle interned for Columbia Legal Services, the University of Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Center for Children and Youth Justice.



*Why did you decide to work for Family Law CASA?*

I was honored to be considered for the position of program attorney. I volunteered for Family Law CASA last year when I was waiting for bar results and looking for a job. Caroline Davis gave me great training and insight into the powerful work done by Family Law CASA. I loved working with the entire staff so when the opportunity of a staff position arose, I jumped at it.

*What makes you passionate about working for CASA?*

I am passionate about making sure that the court has the information that it needs to make rulings that provide the best for children in these cases. I think that parents in family law cases are often in foreign terrain. If we can assist them in coming up with reasonable solutions for themselves and their children, we all win. I also like being able to use my mental health training in a legal setting. Often the families with whom we work have a multitude of challenges. My experience as a mental health professional helps me in working with these families and keeps my focus on getting the best plan possible for the children.

*What do you get out of being a program attorney?*

I get to work in a place that is doing "righteous work." Assisting the courts in determining what is best for children is work that I can believe in. During these cases, the adults often seem more concerned with tearing each other down. They often forget about what is best for their children. This job allows me to provide the CASA's voice to the court. It is my hope that the child's voice is heard through each CASA advocate from the reports they write and investigations they conduct.

The other thing that I get out of this work is to work with great people. I look forward to coming to work each day. This job is a dream come true for me.

---

## Family Law CASA's New Logo!

Did you notice the new logo at the top of this newsletter? In our continuing effort to brand the organization in a more effective way, CASA's board of directors with the assistance and support of the development committee and some founding board members, a new logo was selected. The logo is an abstract rendering of a child (at the center) surrounded and protected by two adults. A special thanks to Lance Leasure with OrangeGerbera for his help with the design process. We hope you like it as much as we do!

---

## GOOD NEWS!

We are THRILLED and HONORED to report that Family Law CASA has been selected to receive a grant from the Washington Women's Foundation. Each year WWF embarks on a competitive grant process to select one organization in five focus areas - human services, health, education, arts & culture and environment. Their full membership of 500+ women vote to select one nonprofit in each category for an award of up to \$100,000. We are the lucky recipient in the human services category.

This grant will help underwrite the cost of our new program attorney (Michelle Fontenot) and our third advocate supervisor (Nina Dillon). These additions will help us serve an estimated 40 more children each year. Thank you to everyone who helped us get this incredible grant.

---



The Seattle  
Foundation

June 23 give  
**BIG**

## **We Need Your Support!**

Family Law CASA exists because of the generosity and support of concerned community members, like you! There are many ways you can help the program continue - here are a few examples:

The Seattle Foundation's Give BIG campaign is a great way to make your gift even BIGGER! If you give to CASA via the Seattle Foundation's website any time between **7am and midnight on June 23rd** the Seattle Foundation and GiveBIG Supporters will match a portion of every donation received. [Click Here](#) to go to our page.

Don't want to wait until the 23rd? Donate to CASA by sending in a check to 810 Third Avenue, Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98104. Or you can donate online by going to our [donation page](#).

Do you want to become an advocate? We are always looking for new advocates to speak for children in court. Find out how by going to our [advocate information page](#).

[Visit Family Law CASA's full website by clicking here!](#)