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Client Alert

PSRB Attorneys Join the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

By: Colin E. Connor and Brianna J. Schroeder

Associates Colin Connor and Brianna Schroeder recently graduated from the Child Advocates training program. Child Advocates is the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) chosen by the courts in Marion County to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children. Parents and the State of Indiana are represented by legal counsel, and Child Advocates fills this role for the child. In order to successfully complete the program, Colin and Brianna attended thirty hours of training on child abuse, cultural sensitivity, report writing, and interviewing skills. Colin and Brianna were each recently assigned children that are now no longer waiting for their interests to be represented in court.

Child Advocates assist child welfare professionals to ensure neglected and abused children do not get lost in the system, that their needs are met during the course of their court cases, and that a safe, permanent home is found for them as soon as possible. This is done through placement visits, contact with foster and biological parents, interviews with case managers, and court attendance when necessary.

Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP encourages its attorneys to become involved in the community. Child Advocates is one organization that PSRB has historically supported. Greg Gotwald currently serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors for Child Advocates and also volunteers. Other PSRB attorneys and their families have been involved in the organization in the past as well. Our involvement with Child Advocates is yet another example of PSRB's continued dedication to the Indianapolis community.