

## National Center for Medical Legal Partnership Appoints National Advisory Council

The National Center for Medical Legal Partnership has named twelve leaders of medical-legal initiatives to the partnership's national advisory council. Members will serve a twelve month term and will act as a bridge between the National Center, the MLP's national network and other stakeholders in the health and legal communities throughout the country.

Attorney Jay Sicklick, Deputy Director of Connecticut's Center for Children's Advocacy and Director of the Center's Medical-Legal Partnership, has been named to the national Advisory Council.

"It's an honor to be selected for the National Advisory Council and I look forward to the opportunity to coordinate resources for the benefit of vulnerable communities throughout the country," stated Sicklick. "Families who live in poverty must have access to appropriate healthcare and we can help ease the process with intervention and support. All children deserve the right to be healthy."

The Council will assist develop resources that support medical-legal partnerships throughout the United States, improving the health of vulnerable communities. In Hartford, the Center for Children's Advocacy's Medical Legal Partnership Project (MLPP) provides access to medical and mental health care for children whose families live in poverty and are unable to access care.

### **"Raising the Bar"**

Medical-Legal Partnerships support innovative teamwork between physicians and attorneys – to provide necessary care to those unable to access it on their own. The partnerships improve the health of vulnerable populations in our poorest cities.



In Hartford, the Center for Children's Advocacy's Medical-Legal Partnership has offices on site at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, and community health centers throughout the city. The Partnership serves virtually 100% of Hartford's low-income families.

Not every illness has a biological remedy. A family forced to choose between food and heat in the winter months cannot be successfully treated with a prescription or a vaccination. Similarly, an asthmatic person will never breathe symptom free – no matter how much medication is administered – if he or she returns from the doctor's office to mold-infested housing, as thousands do. Across the U.S., health care

providers who take care of low-income individuals and families turn to lawyers who practice poverty law to stay healthy and safe.

Medical-legal partnerships integrate lawyers as a vital component of the healthcare team. Through direct service, transforming institutions and influencing policy change, MLPs address the non-medical determinants of health, including income supports for food insecure families, utility shut-off protection during cold winter months, and mold removal from the home of asthmatics.

# 2011 MLP Network Advisory Council

**Brutrinia Arellano, JD RN**

Leadership Intern, Dept. of Health and Human Services, Emerging Leaders Program  
Rockville, MD

**Sylvia Caley, JD**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Georgia State University College of Law  
Atlanta, GA

**Amos Dienard, MD MPH**

Associate Professor, University of Minnesota School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics  
Minneapolis, MN

**Diane Goffinet, JD**

Attorney, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance  
Carbondale, IL

**Shannon Mace, MPH (JD candidate)**

Health and Law Fellow, Health, Education and Legal assistance Project (HELP:MLP)  
Chester, PA

**Rishi Manchanda, MD MPH**

Director of Social Medicine and Health Equity, St. John's Well Child and Family Center  
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**Erik Perez, LLM**

Paralegal, Medical-Legal Assistance for Families, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.  
San Antonio, TX

**Robert Pettignano, MD FAAP FCCM MBA**

Medical Director, Campus Operations and Medical Champion, HeLP, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Emory University  
Atlanta, GA

**Randy Retkin, JD**

Director and Founder, LegalHealth  
New York, NY

**Anne Ryan, JD**

Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Arizona  
Department of Family and Community Medicine  
Tucson, AZ

**Jay Sicklick, JD**

Deputy Director, Center for Children's Advocacy;  
Director, Medical-Legal Partnership Project  
Hartford, CT

**Willis, Earnestine, MD MPH**

Kellner Professor of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin; Director, Center for the Advancement of Underserved Children  
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