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Guardian ad Litem Program seeks advocates

For Immediate Release

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (March 17, 2008) Guardians ad Litem represent the best interests of some 2,500 abused and neglected children involved in the court system through no fault of their own. Court decisions impacting a child's future require a spokesperson on behalf of the child, an objective adult to provide independent information about the best interests of the child. Approximately 250 specially-trained community volunteers serve as Guardians ad Litem. Of those, less than ten percent are Black and Black children represent 37 percent of youth needing advocates. The program seeks culturally competent advocates, especially for children of color. The Fourth Judicial District Guardian ad Litem Program is hosting a child advocacy networking event to create awareness within the local community about the need for culturally competent child advocates. Attendees will receive information about how to become a volunteer Guardian ad Litem, view presentations and meet current Guardians ad Litem and others involved in the juvenile court process.

- WHAT:** Guardian ad Litem program child advocacy networking event
- WHEN:** Wednesday, March 19, 2008 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** Babalu Restaurant, 801 Washington Avenue, Minneapolis, MN, 55401
- WHO:** Concerned citizens who have experience with children (parenting, other personal, volunteer or professional experience assisting youth), common sense and a desire to help children.
- NOTE:** Media are welcome to attend.

About the Fourth Judicial District

The State of Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District serves only Hennepin County and is the state's largest trial court with more than 750,000 cases received annually. The mission of the Fourth Judicial District is to provide a system of justice that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies. For more information, visit the Web site at www.mncourts.gov/district/4/.

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