

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
TITLE 26 PARENTING INVESTIGATOR/GUARDIAN AD LITEM  
CERTIFIED REGISTRY

This Updated Contact Information Sheet is required annually for Guardians ad Litem currently serving on the Pierce County Superior Court RCW Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem Certified Registry. Completion of the full Renewal Application form is required every three years.

THIS IS PUBLIC INFORMATION

Print Name: Amber Austin  
This is my current Updated Contact Information to serve as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, State of Washington, as required under RCW Title 26. I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that my renewal application on file is true and correct.

Signed at: Tacoma (City), Washington on 1/30/19 (Date)

Signature: Amber Austin

Complete all information below and check each box where contact information has changed since last year's application was submitted.

Business Address: 524 Tacoma Ave. S.

City: Tacoma State: WA Zip Code: 98402

E-Mail Address: aa@amberaustinlaw.com

Business Telephone Number: 253-300-5617  FAX: 253-426-1758

WSBA# and Year Admitted to Practice Law #38914 2017

Please state the total number of hours/credits of training you received this year. (List HOURS/CREDITS, Date, Sponsor and Topic). Attachments may be made to show this, however you must state the total number of HOURS/CREDITS you received between last application (March 23, 2018) and this application.

3 Day Mandatory GAL Training 11/18 19.5 hrs  
2 Hours Pierce County GAL monthly Training - 10/18  
11/18

Please Continue to Next Page

My Renewal Application was last submitted on 3/14/18  
(Completion of the Application form is required every three years.)

Number of appointments you have received as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem and all counties eligible for appointment during the last application/Certified Registry year (March 23, 2018 to Present):

Appointments in Pierce County: 0

Appointments in 0 County: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointments in 0 County: \_\_\_\_\_

Criminal history, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030: A current (dated on or after January 1, 2019) and completed Washington State Patrol Conviction Criminal History Record must be received by the Court.

As an attorney, I would like to serve on the registry as a paternity guardian ad litem.

Agree

Disagree

I certify that I have thoroughly studied the provisions and requirements of Title 26 and Superior Court Guardian ad Litem Rules and believe I am fully qualified to be appointed as a Parenting Investigator/ Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, Washington. Additionally, I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that my renewal application on file is true and correct.

*Amber Austin*

Signature

11/30/19

Date of Signing

Amber Austin

Print Name

Tacoma, WA

Place of Signing

Please return completed Updated Contact Information Sheet, Code of Conduct, and Washington State Patrol Request for Conviction Criminal History (WATCH Report) by **March 15, 2019, 4:30 PM** to:

Pierce County Superior Court Administrator  
Room 334, County City Building  
930 Tacoma Ave South  
Tacoma, WA 98402-2108

## **Policy 2: Pierce County Superior Court RCW 26.09.220 and RCW 26.12.175 Guardian Ad Litem Code of Conduct**

All Guardians ad Litem shall fully comply with this Code of Conduct and the requirements of Superior Court GALR.

1. The appointed Guardian ad Litem shall decline the appointment if he/she is not qualified, competent, or able to complete the matter in a timely manner.
2. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain the ethical principles of his/her own profession in addition to compliance with this Code of Conduct.
3. The Guardian ad Litem shall promptly advise the court of any grounds for disqualification or unavailability to serve.
4. The Guardian ad Litem shall avoid self-dealing or association from which the Guardian ad Litem might directly or indirectly benefit, other than from compensation as a Guardian ad Litem.
5. The Guardian ad Litem shall not guarantee or create the impression that any portion of the investigation will remain confidential, and shall inform all witnesses that the information gathered by the Guardian ad Litem must be reported to the court.
6. All records, including contemporaneously maintained time and expense records, and excluding information that is confidential by law or sealed by court and as further defined by Superior Court Policy, of the Guardian ad Litem shall be made available to the parties and their attorneys for review upon request, without formal discovery request(s) being made. Copies of the records may be made by the parties and their attorneys under circumstances that assure that the file remains complete, organized and intact.
7. The Guardian ad Litem shall be available to testify if called by a party. Reasonable notice is required and funds deposited in the registry for preparation and time at trial.
8. Once admitted to the **RCW 26.09** Certified Registry, all Guardians ad Litem shall fully comply with all continuing education requirements established by Pierce County and GALR.
9. The Guardian ad Litem shall report to D.S.H.S. and the court, any child abuse as defined in **RCW 26.44.030, RCW 26.12.175** and **RCW 26.12.177**.
10. The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the foregoing, has read the same and GALR, and agrees to be governed by all.

1/30/19  
Date

  
Signature

[Amended effective June 6, 2016]

APPLICATION FOR PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
TITLE 26 PARENTING INVESTIGATOR/GUARDIAN AD LITEM  
CERTIFIED REGISTRY

2018 MAR 14 PM 2:47

This application is for Parenting Investigator/Guardians ad Litem who are not currently serving on the Pierce County Superior Court Title 26 Certified Registry.

THIS IS PUBLIC INFORMATION

This is my application to serve as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, State of Washington as required under RCW Title 26. I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that my application is true and correct.

Signed at: Tacoma (City), Washington on 03/13/2018

Signature: 

WSBA # and Year admitted to practice law: #38914, 2007

If a current or inactive member of another state's bar association, please indicate bar association number and year admitted, and if applicable, year you became inactive: N/A

Printed Name: Amber Austin

Business Address: 524 Tacoma Ave. S.

City: Tacoma State: WA Zip Code: 98402

Business Telephone Number: (253) 302-5617 FAX: (253) 426-1758

E-Mail Address: aa@amberaustinlaw.com

Bilingual:  Yes  No If so, in what language(s): N/A

Please indicate the county, date and location where you are enrolled for the mandatory training (only approved training qualifies) if not completed by the application closing date, **March 16, 2018**:

Training Sponsored by: (Name) Superior Crt. Judge's Associaion/WA Admin. Office of Courts

(Address) TBD

(County) Spokane (Dates) TBD-Fall of 2018

(Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Only** this application may be utilized. Late applications shall **not** be accepted for any reason. All questions **must** be answered in the order in which they are given. Answers that only refer to a resume or vitae are **not** acceptable although a resume is required and you may attach supporting materials. Please return completed application, resume and any materials by **March 16, 2018 4:30 PM** to:

Pierce County Superior Court Administrator  
Room 334, County City Building  
930 Tacoma Ave South  
Tacoma, WA 98402-2108

2018 MAR 14 PM 2:47  
Superior Court Administration  
Received By

**THIS PART OF THE APPLICATION IS PUBLIC INFORMATION**

**A.** Level of formal education, indicating university issuing the degrees and years obtained:

Law School, Florida Coastal School of Law, Juris Doctorate - 2006.

**B.** Please list all trainings you have attended, the sponsor, month/year attended and the materials covered in each training that relate to Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem statutory duties. Attach all Certificates of Attendance/Completion.

5/2014 - Facilitative Mediation for Collaborative Law Professionals -PCCDR  
2/2014 - Collaborative Law Training - CLPPC  
3/2018 - Settlement Conference Training - Center for Dialogue and Resolution (aka: PCCDR)

**C.** Number of years experience as a Guardian ad Litem under RCW 26.09.220 and/or RCW 26.12.175 in other counties, if any:

1. Please list all counties and each year you were appointed in each county to serve on a RCW 26.09.220 and/or RCW 26.12.175 Certified Registry. For each county, please indicate all dates for any break in service.

For example:

7/1/2005 – Present, Thurston County, first served May, 2006

7/1/2000 – 7/1/2001, King County, never served

N/A

**D.** Number of appointments you have received as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem and all counties eligible for appointment during the last Certified Registry year:

Appointments in Pierce County: 0

Appointments in \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointments in \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Percentage of your total case load in other counties that RCW 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem work represents overall:

F. Criminal history, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030: A current (dated on or after January 1, 2018) and completed Washington State Patrol Conviction Criminal History Record must be received by the Court. If not attached, the expected date the Court will have the record: \_\_\_\_\_

G. Have you been named as a defendant or respondent in any case involving allegations of domestic violence or anti-harassment?  
Yes  No

If yes, state the date, name of the court, court cause number, summary of the allegations, and the disposition of the case.

H. Have you been named as a petitioner or witness in any civil or criminal proceedings involving domestic violence or anti-harassment?  
Yes  No

If yes, state the date, name of the court, court cause number, summary of the allegations, and the disposition of the case.

I. Evidence of your knowledge, training, and experience, in the following areas, pursuant to RCW 26.09.220 and /or RCW 26.12.175. You must complete **in full**, the information requested below, in the space provided, in addition to attaching the required resume or vitae. However, answers that only refer to a resume or vitae are **not** acceptable.

- 1) Child development, child sexual abuse, and child physical abuse and neglect:

5/18 plan to attend Children's Judicial Conference

**2) Clinical and forensic investigative and interviewing techniques:**

N/A

**3) Family reconciliation and mediation services:**

5/2014 - Facilitative Mediation for Collaborative Law Professionals -PCCDR  
2/2014 - Collaborative Law Training - CLPPC  
3/2018 - Settlement Conference Training - Center for Dialogue and Resolution

**4) Knowledge of relevant statutory and legal requirements to determine the best interest of the minor child in the context of a dissolution or parentage proceeding:**

RCW 26.09.002-public policy behind the best interest of the child standard  
RCW 26.09.187-standards for applying the standard in Parenting Plan/Residential Schedules. UCCJEA matters and UPA matters.

**5) A general understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity and their implications for working with youth of color and their families in the context of a dissolution or parentage proceeding:**

3/16 Cultural Bias CLE - WSBA  
My current experience working with diverse families in my practice.

**6) Legal procedures:**

Pierce County Local Rules, WA Court Rules, RCWs, on occasion WACs and my general practice of applying these rules as a family law attorney.

**J. The number of times you have been removed for failure to adequately perform your duties as Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem or for any other cause. For each removal, give a brief explanation with the county, case name and cause number, and attach all relevant documents from the court file along with a copy of the court order of removal.**

0

**I also certify the following:**

**K.** I will successfully complete the mandatory training required by the Pierce County Superior Court (only approved training qualifies) and under the laws of the State of Washington and immediately submit my Certificate of Attendance.

AGREE  DISAGREE

**L.** My normal hourly rate is \$ \$ 250.00. My hourly rate to serve as Parenting Investigator/ Guardian ad Litem by stipulation and agreement is \$ \$ 150.00.

On rotational draw cases, my hourly rate is \$75.00 per hour. Retainer and any additional fees are **only** allowed by order of the Court which shall be obtained **in advance** of incurring fees, or county pay if a paternity case.

AGREE  DISAGREE

**M.** I am presently not serving, nor have I recently applied to serve, as a Judge or Commissioner pro tempore in Pierce County Superior Court. I understand that I am not permitted to serve in both capacities.

AGREE  DISAGREE

**N.** I have no criminal history or license suspension or revocation.

AGREE  DISAGREE

**O.** I am not the subject of any pending investigation or action by a government agency, professional organization or one that would result in either a criminal conviction or a license revocation or suspension.

AGREE  DISAGREE

**P.** I will not accept any appointment involving a conflict of interest, and in the event I discover a conflict in the course of an appointment/investigation, I will immediately advise the parties, counsel, and court.

AGREE  DISAGREE

**Q.** I have read and understand the applicability to me and agree to be bound and governed by the Pierce County Superior Court Administrative Policy #1 for the Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardians ad Litem Certified Registry.

AGREE  DISAGREE

R. I have read, signed, returned, and understand the applicability to me of the Pierce County Superior Court Administrative Policy #2 Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem Code of Conduct and agree to be bound and governed by the Code of Conduct.

AGREE  DISAGREE

S. I have completed in full, signed and attached the confidential supplement to this application.

AGREE  DISAGREE

If you disagree for **any** answer above (K-S), please explain in full on the addendum page and attach it to your application materials.

T. Please provide full disclosure of the following:  
(If you need more space continue on the Addendum page.)

1) Any felony convictions or any convictions involving theft, dishonesty, or moral turpitude.

N/A

2) Suspension or revocation of professional certification or license.

N/A

3) Pending investigation of action for either 1 or 2 above.

N/A

U. Have you ever posted or filed anything to any social media network pages (e.g. facebook), blogs, e-mail or declarations or other material in court or administrative proceedings that would raise a question whether you are a person who respects and complies with the law and who will at all times act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary? If yes, please provide details on Addendum Page.  Yes  No

I certify that I have thoroughly studied the provisions and requirements of Title 26 and believe I am fully qualified to be appointed as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, Washington.



Signature

3/14/2018

Date of signing

Amber Austin

Print Name

Tacoma, WA

Place of signing

**Please continue to next page.**

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4. The Guardian ad Litem shall avoid self-dealing or association from which the Guardian ad Litem might directly or indirectly benefit, other than from compensation as a Guardian ad Litem.
5. The Guardian ad Litem shall not guarantee or create the impression that any portion of the investigation will remain confidential, and shall inform all witnesses that the information gathered by the Guardian ad Litem must be reported to the court.
6. All records, including contemporaneously maintained time and expense records, and excluding information that is confidential by law or sealed by court and as further defined by Superior Court Policy, of the Guardian ad Litem shall be made available to the parties and their attorneys for review upon request, without formal discovery request(s) being made. Copies of the records may be made by the parties and their attorneys under circumstances that assure that the file remains complete, organized and intact.
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10. The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the foregoing, has read the same and GALR, and agrees to be governed by all.

03/14/2018

Date



Signature

[Amended effective June 6, 2016]



AMBER N. AUSTIN  
ATTORNEY

March 14, 2018

Title 26 GAL Registry Review Committee  
Pierce County Superior Court Administrator, Rm. 334  
930 Tacoma Ave. S.  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: Written Statement for Title 26 Registry Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am interested in serving as a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) for several reasons, but primarily because there appears to be a great need for more volunteers for this service. I am a practicing family law attorney in Pierce County and I have seen first-hand both the need for GALs, and the abuse of this resource in family law cases. I understand the demand we make on the GALs who are currently available for cases and wish to offer some help to the backlog and over-work that many of these professionals are facing.

Over the past year, I have come to recognize the great need in our community for 'other professionals' to be involved in legal matters affecting children Pierce County (meaning persons in addition to lawyers and judicial officers, and even counselors – who may or may not be willing to participate in court cases). So many of my clients ask me "can my child testify or speak to the Judge?" and "when does my child get a say in where they must spend time?" My answer to them is usually to offer counseling or other type of mental health therapy, knowing that the issues they are facing may not meet court action thresholds or be an extreme case, but are none-the-less still issues. It is my thinking that if we have more trained professionals available, then more of these cases would get the help they need (not just the shockingly tragic cases). Further, the cases that are assigned would get processed faster with more GALs available to share in the workload.

On a different note, my personal interest and passion is interpersonal communication. I have a strong desire to learn more about helping people resolve conflict outside of traditional litigation. I believe that working with families in a way that can shed light on who they are, how they arrived at this place of contention, and how they can best move forward is an important task. I want to learn more about how to help people, how to improve communication and specifically improve how children are affected by court actions which involve them. I am completing mediation certification through the Center for Dialogue and Resolution, which I believe will strengthen what I have to offer as a GAL, if selected for the panel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

AMBER AUSTIN



**Pierce County  
Center for Dispute Resolution**

This is to acknowledge that

**Amber Austin**

has completed the 32-hour

**Facilitative Mediation for Collaborative Law  
Professionals**

on May 6, 7, 13 and 14, 2014

Issued this 14th day of May, 2014



Maraiise Hood-Quan, Executive Director

738 Broadway, Suite 400, Tacoma WA 98405  
www.pccdrr.org

# Certificate of Completion

it is hereby acknowledged that

*Robert M. ...*

successfully completed 12.25 CLE credits and 0.5 CLE Ethics credits (12.75 total) of the

**Two Day Basic Collaborative Law training**

conducted on

Feb 28-Mar 1, 2014, in Tacoma, WA,

by

Jennie Bouska-Coddington, CDFIA™, MLO-314335, Tom Cena, Attorney,  
Phyllis Duncan-Souza, MSW, LICSW, Tammis Greene, Attorney,  
Teena Johnson, Attorney, and Wendy Rawlings, MS, LMHC.

*Leslie Bottimore*

Leslie Bottimore

President

Collaborative Law Professionals of Pierce County

*Steve Fisher*

Steve Fisher

Chair - Training Committee

Collaborative Law Professionals of Pierce County

# Amber Austin WSBA#38914

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524 Tacoma Ave S, Tacoma, WA 98402 | 253-302-5617 | aa@ambraustinlaw.com

## Objective

To further my skills in the practice of law and conflict resolution through service as a Guardian ad Litem to residents of Pierce County.

## Education

**JURIS DOCTORATE | MAY 2006 | FLORIDA COASTAL SCHOOL OF LAW**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE | JUNE 2002 | WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

Major: Communication, Minor: Political Science

**ASSOCIATES OF ARTS DEGREE | JUNE 2000 | TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Major: General Studies

**ASSOCIATES OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DEGREE | JUNE 2000 | TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Major: Paralegal Studies

## Skills & Abilities

### DIRECT CLIENT CONTACT

- I am the sole owner of my own family law practice in Tacoma's Old Town, providing one-on-one legal service for my clients from the initial client intake process through trial and/or alternative resolution of cases. I provide the daily contact functions of the office, client billing, and all client meetings; in addition to all legal work for clients including legal research and writing, litigation discovery, document drafting and filing, court appearances, and all case negotiation.

### COMMUNICATION

- Settlement Conference Training – Pierce County Center for Dialogue and Resolution - 2018
- Pierce County (CLPPC) Collaborative Law Training - 2014
- Mediation Training - 2014
- Continued law office management/ethical/issue specific training related to client representation - ongoing

### COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

- Pierce County Washington Women Lawyer's Co-President - current
- Lawyer's Helping Hungry Children Board Member – 2015-2017
- Tacoma Community College Paralegal Program Advisory Board - current
- Collaborative Law Professionals of Pierce County member – current
- Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association Family Law Section member – current
- Washington State Bar Association & Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association member – current

## Awards

**SUPER LAWYERS NAMED AS A RISING STAR 2017**

**BUSINESS EXAMINER'S 40 UNDER 40 RECIPIANT 2017**

**TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD 2015**

**PIERCE COUNTY WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYER MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2014**