

**NEW YORK  
CITY BAR**

**COMMITTEE ON  
FAMILY COURT AND  
FAMILY LAW**

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July 26, 2006

John Mattingly  
Commissioner  
New York City Administration for Children's Services  
150 William Street, 18th Floor  
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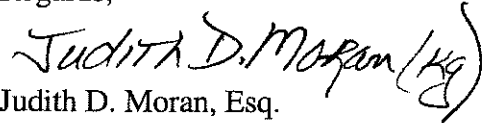
Dear Commissioner Mattingly:

On behalf of the New York City Bar Association and its Committee on Family Court and Family Law, we write to support your agency's burgeoning collaboration with the Nurse-Family Partnership program. We understand that the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) has recently allocated monies from its preventive services budget to underwrite the cost of program support from the Partnership for pregnant teenage mothers in the agency's foster care population.


Our committee first became aware of the Nurse-Family Partnership from an article about it in the February 6<sup>th</sup> issue of THE NEW YORKER magazine entitled "*Swamp Nurse*". The article was so compelling that we decided to make the program the focus of our May committee meeting and invited Dale Margolin an attorney in The Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights Division to speak to us about it. Ms. Margolin's work at Legal Aid involves representing teenage mothers who are themselves in foster care because they have been victims of abuse and neglect. In a follow-up letter to THE NEW YORKER, Ms. Margolin wrote of her experience with the Partnership as follows: "I have seen the positive impact on the Nurse-Family Partnership", she said. Her letter, however, continues with an expression of her concern about the current constraints on the program in so far as its catchment area is limited to certain zip codes in Brooklyn, Upper Manhattan, Queens and most recently, the Bronx.

The fact that ACS has determined that it will use preventive service dollars to fund slots for teenage mothers facilitates increased access to this worthwhile program for the teenagers who so desperately need the help it provides. The Committee endorses this initiative with the hope that a collaborative effort with ACS will enable the Nurse-Family Partnership to flourish and expand in the New York metropolitan area. We would welcome your thoughts or suggestions as to how we might assist you in promoting this much needed preventive service opportunity for some of New York City's most at-risk youth.

Regards,

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