



It's simple. Many people need legal care to be healthy.



MLP MAKING A DIFFERENCE

With the help of our *pro bono* partners, MLP | Boston has helped many parents/guardians facing health crises to make alternative guardianship arrangements for the loved ones under their care. But what happens when a vulnerable adult patient's guardian stands between her and the medical treatment she needs (and wants) to be healthy? Thanks to advocacy by long-time MLP | Boston *pro bono* volunteer Ken Shulman of Day Pitney LLP, one patient's unsupportive guardian has agreed to resign his duties, and the patient is in the process of getting a new, supportive guardian.



A TIMELY TIP FOR CLINICAL PARTNERS: DON'T FORGET...

October is National Bullying Prevention Month
... and Massachusetts law provides specific protections for students with disabilities.

If a student's disability affects her social skills or makes the child vulnerable to bullying, harassment, or teasing, the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) "shall address the skills and proficiencies needed to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment or teasing." M.G.L. ch.71B s. 3. If a child has an IEP and s/he has been bullied (or there are concerns that s/he may be bullied in the future), parents may ask for a team meeting to modify the IEP to address bullying issues. [Read more about the law and bullying prevention and intervention here.](#)

RECENT PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

We were delighted to present on MLP at a 9/20 Learning Day hosted by the [Kraft Center for Community Health](#) and attended by the current crop of energetic and passionate Kraft Center Fellows and Practitioners. We look forward to working more closely with these terrific leaders to enrich care for health center patients.

In late August, Samantha Morton, contributed to *A Special Series on Kids' Health* on [LearnNow.org](#) guest edited by BMC pediatrician Jack Maypole. The article, "[Child Advocacy: Good Medicine for Special Needs Kids](#)" can be found [here](#).



Guest editor for LearnNow.org, Jack Maypole, MD

NEW STAFF



In July, MLP | Boston welcomed Elizabeth Brusie as a Staff Attorney who will be leading our work at Boston Children's Hospital. Prior to joining our team, she directed the legal program at a Boston-area domestic violence agency, The Second Step. There, she specialized in restraining order, housing, and family law cases. Elizabeth also serves on the Board of Directors of Transition House in Cambridge, MA and co-chairs the Framingham Project for Incarcerated Women at the Women's Bar Foundation in Boston. She is a graduate of Smith College and the City University of New York School of Law.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In September, the [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(P-CORI\)](#) awarded a major research grant to [Boston Medical Center's Women's Health Unit](#) and MLP | Boston to conduct a study entitled ***Eliminating Patient-Identified Socio-Legal Barriers to Cancer Care.*** [Read the P-CORI press release here.](#)

We are honored to be partnered with our founding institution, [Boston Medical Center](#), and with Principal Investigator [Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH](#) and the [Women's Health Unit](#) on this project.

4th ANNUAL MA MLP CONFERENCE

The annual state-wide MLP conference will be held on Monday, **October 28, 2013**. CEU accreditation is available, and seats are limited. [Register or view the agenda here.](#)

Medical Legal Partnership | Boston
RAISING THE BAR FOR HEALTH

You're Invited

4th Annual Massachusetts Medical-Legal Partnership Conference
**Medical-Legal Partnership:
A Key Component of Accountable Care**

Monday, October 28, 2013
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Featuring keynote speaker:


John Auerbach, MBA
Distinguished Professor of Practice
Bouvé College of Health Sciences
Director, The Institute on Urban Health Research and Practice
Northeastern University

Register or view the agenda at
www.mlpboston.org

Seats are limited!

Workshop tracks:

- The Front Lines: Best Practices in Advancing Health Through Justice
- Making the Case: Current MLP Research and Evaluation in the Commonwealth
- *Hot Topics in Caring for Medically Complex Patients with Legal Risk Factors: An MLP 201 Training Series (for clinical & public health teams serving medically vulnerable people)

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CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE FOR
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MLP | Boston's mission is to anticipate, prevent, and address social determinants of health affecting vulnerable people through legal strategies. Informed by public health knowledge and interdisciplinary approaches, we tackle patients' health-harming legal risks and problems. Our services measurably improve the health and well-being of patients and reduce the incidence of health disparities.

Information contained in this newsletter is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship.

