

Parsons & Nichols

Attorneys at Law

101 West Main Street

Manchester, Tennessee 37355

H. Thomas Parsons

Walter F. Nichols

Cynthia A. Cheatham

Telephone (931) 728-1316

Fax (931) 728-1318

October 31, 2006

Dr. Paul Fink
The Leadership Council
191 Presidential Blvd., C-132
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Dear Dr. Fink,

I wanted to express my deepest appreciation for the amicus brief prepared by members of your organization in our recent case before the Tennessee Court of Appeals. In re: C.A.R., a case involving custody of a young child who was allegedly molested by his father. I know that Stephanie Dallam and Alan Schefflin worked especially hard to get the brief filed on very short notice.

In this case, the father was awarded full custody of the child during the course of an investigation involving serious allegations that he was sexually abusing the child. The brief filed by the Leadership Counsel focused the Court, like sun through a magnifying glass, on the judge's interview of the child in her chambers. The brief pointed out the serious flaws in the Court's reasoning that a fifteen-minute interview could determine whether or not sexual abuse had occurred.

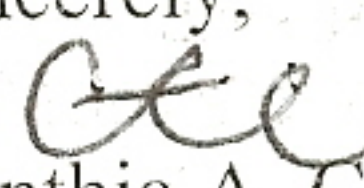
Ultimately, the Court of Appeals held that the judge based her decision to take the child away from his mother, and give him to the father, on her interview of the child. The Court reversed the judge's decision and returned custody to the mother.

While we may never know if we would have gotten such a favorable opinion without the brief, I do not believe it is coincidental that when we went to oral argument, the judge, who would later write the opinion of the Court, totally focused on that interview.

Finally, I believe that because of the Leadership Councils' involvement in this case, we have a more well informed Court on the issue of child sexual abuse and how distorted these cases can become. The process in our case, and others like it, became so perverted that we knew the reviewing court would have difficulty grasping the facts. We needed the assistance of the Leadership Council in this regard and certainly appreciate the devotion demonstrated by the members who worked on the brief.

Please keep up the good work and know that amicus briefs are very important in the legal process, as our case so effectively demonstrates. Thanks, again!

Sincerely,


Cynthia A. Cheatham