



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
JOHN ADAMS COURTHOUSE  
PEMBERTON SQUARE, MEZZANINE  
BOSTON, MA 02108

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CHIEF JUSTICE

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## *Memorandum*

**TO:** Probate and Family Court Bar Liaisons  
**FROM:** Hon. Angela M. Ordoñez, Chief Justice *Ordo*  
**DATE:** November 3, 2016  
**RE:** Update on new process for Category E & F GAL lists

### By Email

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A new list of guardian's ad litem (Categories E and F) was put in place July 1, 2016. This list includes new members who were interviewed, submitted a writing sample, and attended the mandatory two-day training including the six (6) hour Domestic Violence training pursuant to the Act Against Domestic Violence. In addition, the list includes prior members who also submitted new applications and redacted samples of reports that they had prepared. Those reports were subject to a blind review and evaluation process. The Domestic Violence training for the renewed members is being provided by the Trial Court and their inclusion on the list is subject to their completion of this training.

There have been no changes to SJC Rule 1:07 on Fee Generating Appointments which allows judges discretion to appoint off the list provided that findings are made in accordance with the rule. As the Act Against Domestic Violence suggests that GALs should have domestic violence training, Judges will inquire as to whether the potential GAL has had formal domestic violence training. A Judge may make a contingent appointment pending the appointee completing domestic violence training which may be completed through the Administrative Office or at a local courthouse.