

DC KinCare Alliance
Board Biographies FY 2021
(All Board Members have one-year terms)

President: Victoria Taplin

Vicky Taplin worked as a volunteer attorney with the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (“DCVLP”) from 2010 to 2014, representing at-risk children as a court-appointed guardian *ad litem* in DC Superior Court. She was then selected to serve as DCVLP’s Roxana Cannon Arsht Law Fellow, and continued to represent children in that capacity until 2017. Over the course of her legal career, Ms. Taplin has run her own solo practice advising non-profit organizations and creative professionals, managed a facilities acquisition program for the California Lawyers for the Arts, and worked as a litigator at Severson & Werson in San Francisco. For over 15 years, Ms. Taplin has taken on various leadership positions in her community, including serving as Councilmember for her town. Ms. Taplin earned her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College.

Vice President: Donnequa Grantham

Donnequa E. Grantham is employed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as an Attorney in the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication. She is also a certified mediator. Ms. Grantham has volunteered as a guardian *ad litem* for 8 years with the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project. She has first-hand experience with kin raising children, as her parents raised several of her cousins, in addition to serving as foster parents. Ms. Grantham also helped raise her two nephews. She has a B.A. from St Lawrence University and a J.D. from Seattle University Law School.

Secretary: Beth A. Stekler

Beth A. Stekler has been a volunteer attorney with the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (“DCVLP”) since 2015. Through DCVLP, Ms. Stekler has represented at-risk children in Washington, DC by acting as a court-appointed guardian *ad litem* in custody cases. She also has engaged in advocacy work with DC KinCare Alliance focusing on DC child welfare policy, including issues related to kinship care. Previously, Ms. Stekler was a partner in the Securities Department at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr. She earned a J.D. from Yale Law School and a B.A. in Government from Cornell University.

Treasurer: Jonathan Peskoff

Jonathan Peskoff has more than 20 years of experience maximizing value and guiding organizational growth for companies as a senior investment banker, venture capitalist, and an individual investor. Most recently, Mr. Peskoff co-founded Breakout Capital Finance LLC, a specialty finance company focused on small businesses. Prior to that, Mr. Peskoff was a Managing Director and group head of the financial services mergers and acquisitions group at FBR Capital Markets for more than 11 years. During his career, Mr. Peskoff has worked with technology and telecommunications companies, banks, thrifts and non-bank financial institutions, including mortgage lenders, consumer finance companies, home builders, commercial finance

companies, and specialty lenders such as business development companies and REITs. Mr. Peskoff is a Board Member of Paws4People Foundation, whose mission is educating and empowering people to utilize Assistance Dogs to transform their lives. Mr. Peskoff holds a B.S. in Finance from the University of Southern California.

Immediate Past President: Jenny Brody

Jenny Brody is the co-founder of BrodyKling, PLLC, a DC family law firm. She has practiced family law in Washington, DC for more than ten years. As the Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, from 2008 to 2016, Ms. Brody provided legal assistance to hundreds of domestic violence survivors in Civil Protection Order cases, as well as in divorce, custody and child support matters. As a member of the DC Superior Court Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect Panel, Ms. Brody represented children as a court-appointed guardian *ad litem* and also represented adoptive parents in adoption petitions. Ms. Brody has devoted substantial time to improving the court system, as a participant in the DC Superior Court Domestic Relations and Domestic Violence Implementation Committees. She played a role in promulgating DC Superior Court Guardian *Ad litem* Practice Standards. Ms. Brody is a recognized expert in domestic violence and family law issues, presenting training programs in these areas for lawyers, judges, social workers, medical professionals and domestic violence advocates. Prior to practicing family law, Ms. Brody worked in private practice. She served as an attorney at the United States Department of Justice, Civil Appellate Staff. She clerked for the Hon. Irving L. Goldberg, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Ms. Brody has a B.A. *summa cum laude* from University of Pennsylvania, and J.D. *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. Ms. Brody was recognized by the Women’s Bar Association of DC as a Star of the Bar in 2009 and 2014, and was honored as Washingtonian of the Year in 2015.

Board Member: LaShon Dean

LaShon Dean is a Clinical Authorization Nurse with Medstar Family Choice. Previously, she worked with Health Services for Children with Special Needs as a Developmental Disability Service Manager. She is a Licensed Practical Nurse, and has worked in the health care field in Washington, DC for over 15 years. Ms. Dean received a Bachelors in Business Administration/Healthcare Administration and a Masters of Science in Health Service from Strayer University. Ms. Dean is a kinship foster parent of her 10-year-old goddaughter, and she adopted her now 17-year-old daughter from foster care.

Board Member: Karen Lovitch

Karen Lovitch is the Chair of Mintz’s Health Law Practice. Her practice focuses on representing health care companies in government investigations and serving as health care regulatory counsel in transactions. Among other honors, she has been recognized as a Washington DC Super Lawyer for Health Care in 2017 and 2019. Ms. Lovitch has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including DC SCORES and Suited for Change. She seeks to lend her nonprofit and legal expertise to fight racial and economic inequality in DC, especially as it affects children. Ms. Lovitch earned a J.D., magna cum laude, from American University, and a B.A., summa cum laude, from West Virginia University.