MEMORANDUM

To: *Intro to Child and Family Advocacy* Students

From: Theo Liebmann

Date: May 1, 2015

Re: First Assignment

Welcome to this Summer's *Introduction to Child and Family Advocacy* course! This intensive two credit simulation and workshop course will be demanding and immensely enjoyable, judging by feedback from law students who have taken the course in the past.

The course centers on your preparation for and conduct of hearings at a mock delinquency and termination of parental rights trial. You will conduct direct and cross-examinations of fact and expert witnesses, and deliver closing statements. In addition to the simulations, workshops will focus on topics such as case analysis, interviewing child witnesses, and juvenile competency. You will receive a strong foundation in the advocacy skills needed to represent children, families and agencies effectively, as well as an introduction into some of the substantive ethical and procedural rules governing child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Throughout the course, you will be integrated with practicing lawyers coming to the law school to take NITA's *Training the Lawyer to Represent the Whole Child* program. You will work with me, as well as a faculty of highly respected children's lawyers and experienced NITA teachers.

The course runs from Monday June 1st through Friday June 5th, and also requires that you attend an orientation from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29th. The orientation will take place in the conference room of the Clinic building (Joan Axinn Hall, which is directly across California Avenue from the law school). I will hand out additional course materials at the orientation.

There are two things you must do prior to the orientation session:

1. Order the following book, which is available on amazon.com or nita.org –

    TRIAL ADVOCACY FOR THE CHILD WELFARE LAWYER: TELLING THE STORY OF THE FAMILY

2. Thoroughly read through the *In Re Pena* case file, which will be emailed to you later this month.