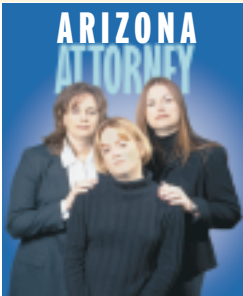


CUSTODY BATTLE DRAWS TO CLOSE



PHOENIX—In late July, a yearlong custody battle ended when teenage AIDS activist Stephanie Ray returned to Phoenix to live with her aunt and uncle. Ray had made

national news last summer when she defied a Wisconsin court order to return to that state's foster care. Since last December, she has lived with her father, a recovering alcoholic, with the Wisconsin social service stipulation that he not violate any conditions, including drinking alcohol.

The January 2001 *Arizona Attorney* covered the story of Ray's Arizona lawyers.

MDP OK IN NY

NEW YORK—Business relationships between lawyers and nonlawyers are the focus of the nation's first statewide rules addressing multidisciplinary practice. The provisions were created by the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) and adopted by the state's Appellate Divisions.

The new rules take effect November 1 and allow for limited and regulated business alliances between attorneys and nonattorneys. According to Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye of the New York State Court of Appeals, "The new regulatory framework protects the interests of clients and preserves the core values of the legal profession—professional independence of judgment, undivided loyalty to clients and protection of confidential client information." The Court of Appeals is New York's highest court.

Last July, the ABA's House of Delegates recommended that every state revise its rules governing MDP. New York's approach leaves lawyers solely responsible for legal work and prohibits any interference by nonlawyers in the attorney-client relationship (the proposed rules are available at www.nysba.com).

The NYSBA said it will contact the ABA's Ethics Committee to request that it delay until February the adoption of amendments to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct so that the national organization can benefit from New York's work.

This fall, the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Arizona is slated to take up a proposal permitting the existence of MDPs. The October issue of *Arizona Attorney* will feature pro-con articles on the subject.



Judge Kaye