



Lisa Key and Prof. Linda Elrod '72

17th Annual Family Law Institute “Show Me the Money” (and How to Find It)

The 17th Annual Family Law Institute was held October 15, 2004 and had over fifty participants. The session presented experienced practitioners with expertise in an assortment of topics, mainly dealing with the financial aspects of divorce.

Participants learned how to maximize tax savings for divorce clients; how employers can alter the benefits package in ways that might harm a dependent spouse; gained insights on how to draft documents, including Qualified Domestic Relations Orders, and learned of potential traps in dividing employee benefits.

Participants learned about the structure of Subchapter S corporations, how to value them, and how to determine what is income for child support. As more Kansans get called to military duty, Kansas lawyers need to be familiar with special issues that involve those on active military duty, including jurisdictional issues, financial issues about what is “income” for support purposes, the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act, and the 2003 Servicemembers Protection Act. There was also a program on malpractice issues relating to lack of competence in the financial aspects and failure to obtain complete discovery.

Presenters for the seminar included Lisa E. Key, who devotes her Kansas City-area practice exclusively to the area of family law; Lori S. B. Justice, who is in private practice exclusively in the area of family law; James P. Rankin '76, partner in charge of the Topeka Foulston Siefkin LLP office who concentrates his practice in ERISA and taxation matters with particular emphasis on employee benefits; Prof. Sheila Reynolds, Professor of Law at Washburn University School of Law; and J. Bradley Short, a senior member in Short & Borth, a firm devoted to the practice of family law.

Washburn Web

[WashLaw Web](#) was recognized by the June 2004 issue of *Internet Law Researcher* in its “Internet Guide to the Top 100 Legal Reference Sites.” The sites in this article “have proven ... that they’re reliable ... provide solid, relevant information that will help researchers find answers or solve problems.” The article refers to the service maintained by staff of Washburn University School of Law Library as “An enormous index, WashLaw was one of the first to offer and maintain a legal index, and they still do a great job. The home page is a model of almost Zen-like simplicity.”



Enron Three Years Later: A White Collar Crime Scoreland



The Sarbanes-Oxley Act was enacted in 2002. Since then, there has been a series of high profile white collar crime prosecutions arising from alleged corporate frauds. The conference addressed the issues of changes wrought by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in the area of white collar crime, the impact of the law on the prospective conduct of America's business leaders, the changing courtroom dynamics in the wake of the public collapse of Enron and other major corporations, recent developments in sentencing in white collar cases, and an academic view of the efficacy and propriety of all of this change. The seminar was held October 21 and 22, 2004 with the first half day in Kansas City and the last full day in Topeka. Over 160 participants attended in the seminar.

The keynote speaker was Mary Jo White, Chair of the 222 lawyer litigation group of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. Moderators included Prof. Ellen Byers, Washburn University School of Law; Prof. Michael Kaye, Director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy at Washburn University School of Law; and Prof. Mary Ramirez, Visiting Associate Professor of Law at Washburn University School of Law. Panel members included William K. Black, interim executive director of the Institute of Fraud Studies at the University of Texas Austin; Frank Bowman, the M. Dale Palmer Professor of Law at Indiana University School of Law; Kathleen F. Brickey, the James Carr Professor of Criminal Jurisprudence at Washington University; Keith Drill '87, a shareholder in the law firm of Wyrsh, Hobbs & Mirakian, P.C.; Stuart Green, the Louis B. Porterie Professor of Law and Director of the Pugh Institute for Justice at Louisiana State University; Jeffrey D. Morris, partner with Berkowitz Stanton Brandt Williams & Shaw LLP; and Ellen S. Podgor, Professor of Law at Georgia State University College of Law.

Admissions Fall '04

Competition was intense for the seats available in Washburn Law's entering class of fall 2004. The law school received one of the highest numbers of applications on record. A total of 1,031 applications were received for the Fall of 2004, a twelve percent increase over the previous year. That increase followed a 61 percent increase from the 2002 to 2003 fall classes.



Class credentials also continued to increase over the previous year. The median LSAT score for the new fall class increased another point to 153, with the 75th percentile line also increasing one point to 156. The GPA credentials also

increased. The median undergraduate GPA for this class increased to a 3.23, with the 25th percentile line at 3.0, and the 75th percentile at a 3.6.

The Law School continued its commitment to a planned, smaller class size. Of the 130 students who enrolled in the fall, 46.2 percent were female. The average age of the class was 25.7 years, with the youngest being 20 years old and the oldest who was 41.

The class was represented by more than 22 percent students of color. Students from outside the state of Kansas represented 48 percent of the class – with students from 24 different states. Two international students also enrolled.

Alumni Fellow



Alumni Receptions Kansas City

Over 110 Kansas City area alumni joined Washburn Law for a reception on December 1, 2004 at the top of the Fairmont Hotel. Dean Honabach updated alumni on new and upcoming programs at the law school. Attendees enjoyed the view of the Plaza lights along with hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Join the law school alumni office when we hold receptions and events in your area. Check the alumni page on the law school website for upcoming events.



Sue Jean White '80 received the 2004 Alumni Fellow Award from Washburn University. The award is presented to alumni of Washburn University who have achieved notable success in their chosen career fields. This program brings successful alumni back to campus to share their expertise formally and informally in the classroom and other campus settings. During her time at Washburn, White attended and participated in Professor Steve Ramirez's Corp. Federal Law class and met with Professor Pierce's Oil and Gas class. White also held a question and answer session with students on Friday morning, October 29, 2004 over breakfast.

White is General Counsel of Shell Chemical and recently assumed the duties of the Shell Oil Company Corporate Secretary's office. She also manages the financial accounting activities for Shell Legal-U.S. After graduation White clerked for Judge Dale Saffels for two years. White then joined Shell Oil Company in 1982, where she started in the Exploration & Production legal department as an oil and gas attorney where she bought and sold oil and gas properties (300 transactions in three years). After five years, White moved to the Corporate Legal Department to the mergers and acquisition section, where she specialized in transactional work, including buying and selling a number of chemical properties. She did a short stint in Chemical Legal before returning to Corporate for another four years.



Dean Honabach, Sue Jean White '80, Sheryl Clifford and Arlene White

White now oversees the legal work for the \$5 billion base chemical company. She is also responsible for the management of Shell Oil's corporate secretary office, which maintains the corporate books and records of Shell Oil Company and all of its U.S. subsidiaries. Ms. White has a staff of twelve attorneys, nine legal assistants/analysts, one financial manager and five administrative assistants reporting directly to her, and an additional twenty other attorneys within Shell Legal Services-US who handle chemical legal work for which she is responsible to the client. White is a member of the Shell Oil Company Legal Leadership Team, and sponsors cost management initiatives for Shell Legal Services-US, which has 239 attorneys, legal assistants and administrative personnel.

KC Reception

