



The Children and Family Law Center at Washburn University School of Law prepares law students to provide high-quality legal representation for children and to advocate to improve the quality of justice for children and their families.

Inaugural JD-MSW Dual Degrees Awarded



Lindsee Acton, '15, and Danielle Packer, '15

Two 2015 Washburn Law graduates were the first to complete the JD/MSW dual degree program. The program between the School of Law and the Department of Social Work prepares JD/MSW students with combined skills in both social work and law for professional practice with complex social and legal issues in areas where social work and law converge.

Lindsee Acton chose to pursue the JD/MSW dual degree after working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at both the local and state level. Acton was specifically interested in helping victims secure the legal remedies they needed to ensure safety for themselves and their children. Acton began Law School in 2011, fulfilling a lifelong dream of attending Washburn Law.

(Dual Degrees - cont. on page 3)

CFLC Hosts Cynthia Mabry-King as Scholar in Residence

On March 4-6, 2015, the Children and Family Law Center hosted Professor Cynthia Mabry-King from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. Mabry-King is a leader in the field of Adoption Law and has written a primary law book on the topic. She founded Howard Law's Family Law Certificate program in 2010.

Mabry-King spoke to students at a Lunch & Learn about the adoption of American children by individuals living in other countries. She also met with several students individually to discuss adoption issues in general. She met with faculty and students at a reception at Professor Elrod's house and during small group dinners.



Professor Cynthia Mabry-King



Michelle Foster; Morgan Johnson; Danielle Packer; Professor Cynthia Mabry-King; Professor Linda Elrod, '72; Victoria Eck; Professor Lynette Petty, '87; and Anastasia Willy.

Director's Message



Linda
Henry Elrod, '72



Nancy Maxwell

I start with a “shout out” to my colleague Nancy Maxwell, who retired this year from Washburn Law. After five years of me being the only woman teaching courses, Nancy Maxwell and Sheila Reynolds joined the faculty. Nancy jumped right in to teach the basic family law course. She added family law seminar, comparative family law, and feminist jurisprudence while Sheila, who retired a couple years ago, supervised family law students in the Clinic. I could not have put together the Children and Family Law Center or the Certificate Program without the help and support of Nancy, Sheila, and Lynette Petty, who is

still in the Clinic. Nancy taught the family law seminar every year to ensure that students could get the writing requirement. She offered ideas for Lunch & Learns, speakers, articles, and continuing education programs. Our students and I will miss Nancy and thank her for all her years of service to Washburn Law and the Children and Family Law Center.

As this newsletter shows, students participating in the Children and Family Law Center continue to make a difference in the lives of children and families in the Topeka community. They are active as CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for children; as volunteers for the Horizons program for high-conflict parents; and as volunteers for the Topeka Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

The Center collaborates with other entities to put on quality continuing legal education programs. Last August, the Center teamed with the Law Offices of Bud Dale to provide Case Management and Parent Coordination Training. The Center also sponsored two programs for training Guardians *ad Litem* for children —

one in September 2014 and one in January 2015. I thank **Dr. Bud Dale, '09**, for his help in coordinating those programs.

The *Family Law Quarterly* gives students opportunities to hone their research, writing, and editorial skills. While on the staff this year, a Washburn Law student won third place in a national essay contest and was published.

I love running into former students at law-related events. It happens all the time in Kansas, sometimes in Missouri, and occasionally at national programs. Last February, I spoke on hearing the voices of young children to the Northwest Arizona Symposium on Infant and Toddler Mental Health in Lake Havasu, Arizona, and ran into **The Honorable Julie Roth, '87**, a family court judge in Mohave County!

Our alumni help the Family Law Center in countless ways. **Joe Booth, '95; Ed Kainen, '88; Larry Rute, '73; Lynn Ward, '90; and T. Michael Wilson, '72**, have made generous financial contributions to scholarships to help students who want to practice family law. Alumni also serve as adjuncts for the numerous family law courses we offer — **Joe Booth, '95**, in Financial Aspects of Divorce and Collaborative Law; **Mickie Brassel, '99**, in Juvenile Law; **Joyce Grover, '94**, in Domestic Violence; **Marie Landry, '94**, in Elder Law; and **Larry Rute, '73**, in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Many others volunteer to talk at the Center's Lunch & Learn programs on specialty topics.

Two Washburn Law staff members, **Shawn Leisinger, '99**, Executive Director - Centers for Excellence, and Donna Vilander, Administrative Assistant, are both deserving of many thanks for their support of CFLC activities.

This has been an exciting and dynamic year for the Children and Family Law Center. The students, faculty, and I welcome your participation!

LINDA D. ELROD, '72

Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law and
Director, Children and Family Law Center
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9 Students Earn Family Law Certificates



December 2014 graduates Heather Nevarez and Ashley Green with Professor Elrod. They both earned Family Law Certificates and have been admitted to the Texas bar. Ashley is practicing family law in Brazoria, Texas.

For the 2014-15 year, the following students earned the Family Law Certificate:



Lindsee Acton, '15



Kaitlin Alegria, '15



Ashley Green, '15



Jason McIlrath, '15



Megan Metzinger, '15



Heather Naverez, '15



Danielle Packer, '15
(with distinction)



Ashley Rohleder, '15



Rodney Wilson, '15

That brings the total to 92 students who earned a B average in 12 hours of dedicated family law courses in addition to the basic class. Many took Family Law Clinic with Lynette Petty; most wrote a family law paper with Nancy Maxwell.

Students Get Praised at Client Counseling Competition

This past year, two of our graduating students, Danielle Packer and Ashley Rohleder, competed in the 2014-15 ABA Law Student Division Client Counseling Regional Competition held at the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Ark. This year's topic area was family law. The Washburn Law team performed very well and received many complements on their style, technique, and family law knowledge.



Danielle Packer, '15, and
Ashley Rohleder, '15

Dual Degrees (cont. from page 1)

In adding the MSW degree, Acton felt the social work values of service and social justice would be a fitting supplement to her legal career. She hopes to work advocating for families and children and feels that having a background in social work will make her a better advocate for her clients.

Danielle Packer was prompted to pursue a Master of Social Work in Fall 2011 after being introduced to the duty of social justice in her undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas. She believes social work and the law complement each other and felt the best way to serve her community was to obtain the dual degree.

Packer, a Topeka native, knew of Washburn's impeccable reputation and the dual degree program is what distinguished Washburn from other schools. Packer believes the dual degree offers students a unique skill set when advocating for clients because it combines clinical, policy and legal skills when analyzing every situation. She finished her MSW in May 2014 and graduated with her JD in May 2015. She plans to dedicate her career to the empowerment of children and families through advocacy and social justice.

• LUNCH & LEARNS •

Careers in the Law

THE HONORABLE GINA C. HIGGINS



Gina Higgins and daughter
Morgan Johnson, JD candidate '16

The Honorable Gina C. Higgins, Circuit Court Judge for the Thirtieth Circuit Court Division 4 in Tennessee, spoke to students about careers in the law.

Judge Higgins offered practical suggestions for life after law school. She dispensed advice on what an attorney

can do to stay on the judge's good side and gave tips on behaviors expected of lawyers that easily translated into behaviors that should be practiced in everyday life. Higgins also provided students with some dos and don'ts for beginning lawyers and discussed alternative career options, such as being a JAG in the Navy.

Judge Higgins is the mother of Morgan Johnson, JD Candidate '16, a 2015-16 student director of the Children and Family Law Center.

Same Sex Marriage: Legal Parent-Child Relationship

VALERIE MOORE, '00



Valerie Moore, '00, a solo Family Law practitioner in Lenexa, Kan., presented on the *Frazier v. Goudschaal* case in which she represented Marci Frazier, a successful nonbiological partner who wanted parental rights to the children born during her

relationship with their biological mother. Moore discussed the many issues that stem from the rights, or lack thereof, of same-sex partners and their children. She explored the impact the Kansas Supreme Court case not only had on the legal rights of same-sex couples, but also on family law overall. Valerie is a past president of the KBA Family Law Section.

washburnlaw.edu/children

CASA and Horizons

Many Washburn law students from the Children and Family Law Center have been involved with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) over the years. A few students have helped with the children's program at Horizons, a program that provides parents with the tools to reduce conflict, from its inception in 2008. Both of these organizations provide great services to families and their children in crisis. In September 2014, the CFLC hosted Lunch & Learns for the two organizations about how students could make a difference.

JOANNA PENN - CASA



Joanna Penn, Volunteer Recruiter for CASA of Shawnee County, propped up her paper doll child as she explained the role of CASA volunteers in advocating for the best interest of children and youth involved in the court system. The "One CASA, One Child" philosophy

ensures that the child's best interests are presented to the court. Several Washburn Law students serve as CASAs.

SHERI KELLER - HORIZONS



Sheri Keller, Project Coordinator for Horizons, discussed the harm caused to children by high-conflict parents. Horizons is a skills workshop designed for high-conflict divorced or never-married parents that provides parents with the tools to reduce conflict.

Horizons also provides a program for children, ages 5 to 17. Children are encouraged to express themselves through artwork that is then displayed in the Shawnee County Courthouse.

• LUNCH & LEARNS •

Practice Tips for Family Law

ED KAINEN, '88



Ed Kainen, '88, is Senior Partner of Kainen Law Group, Las Vegas. Kainen provided students with tips for practicing family law, gave students insight into the practice of family law in Las Vegas, Nevada, and spoke about his experiences representing high-profile clients. His

law firm includes two other Washburn Law graduates **Andrew Kynaston, '02**, and **Racheal Mastel, '09**.

Guardian ad Litem

JENNIFER MARTIN-SMITH



Jennifer Martin-Smith spoke with students about her training, experience, and advocacy as a *Guardian ad Litem* (GAL). After a short time practicing in employment litigation, Martin-Smith became a GAL in 2008. She is now one of the senior GALs on the Shawnee

County panel. Martin-Smith spoke candidly about her experiences working with children as well as her role working with parents and their attorneys.

Domestic Mediation

DEBORAH MEDLOCK



Attorney Deborah Medlock, who practices mediation in Johnson County, Kansas, discussed the advantages of mediation in family matters. She offered insights into the different types of common and unusual issues that can arise in a mediation practice. She works as a

full-time domestic mediator at Johnson County Court Services and teaches Domestic Mediation at Johnson County Community College.

Same-sex Parenting Issues

THE HONORABLE KEVIN P. MORIARTY, '78



The Honorable Kevin P. Moriarty, '78, Chief District Court Judge for the Johnson County Kansas District Court, decided one of the most controversial cases in the State of Kansas regarding custody and visitation rights for parting same-sex couples. His decision to allow

the nonbiological same-sex partner to have visitation after a 13-year relationship that produced two children was affirmed by the Kansas Supreme Court. **Laura Boatright, JD Candidate '16**, who is working toward a Family Law Certificate and was a paralegal in her “past life” invited him to speak on behalf of the Children and Family Law Center. He accepted, saying “he would be thrilled to speak at his alma mater.” Boatright was also thrilled to be given the honor of introducing Judge Moriarty, who gave an excellent presentation to a packed room.

Human Trafficking

SHARON SULLIVAN



Last year, an independent group, Stop Trafficking and Resist Slavery (STARS) was formed to address the problem of human trafficking. Under the leadership of Washburn University Professor Sharon Sullivan, the task force includes educators, clergy, concerned citizens,

and local law enforcement officials. STARS regards their current mission as primarily educational to increase awareness of the extent of modern slavery and human trafficking to the citizens of Topeka. On Nov. 11, 2014, the CFLC partnered with the American Association for Justice, International Law Society, and Women's Legal Forum to co-sponsor a presentation on Human Trafficking. Sullivan shared statistics and the current law regarding human trafficking in the United States.

Family Law Quarterly

Student editors are the heart and soul of the *Family Law Quarterly*, a scholarly publication of the American Bar Association Family Law Section. It is because of their hard work that the *Quarterly* has remained at Washburn Law since 1992 and is one of the most-cited specialty journals in the United States.

Because **Professor Linda Elrod, '72**, continues to edit the *Family Law Quarterly*, Washburn students form the student staff. Liz Billinger was the student editor-in-chief for 2014-15; Jason McIlrath and Ashley Rohleder were the student research executive editors. The *Quarterly* provides a valuable resource for judges, lawyers, court services personnel, and the media. It includes an annual survey of cases and a review of the literature, as well as three issues with articles covering all aspects of family law. In a recent survey of articles from 2007-2012, the *Quarterly* had the most law journal and court citations of any family law publication.

Lindsee Acton, a member of this year's staff, won third place in the 2013-14 Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Her article entitled *Overturing In re Gardiner: Ending Transgender Discrimination in Kansas* was published in 48 *Family Law Quarterly* 563 (2014).

The 2015-16 staff is helmed by Student Editor-in-Chief Rachel Fisher and Executive Research Editor Michelle Foster.



2014-15 STUDENT EDITORIAL BOARD

Front row: Elizabeth Billinger, student editor-in-chief; Nana Brammer, junior editor; Lindsee Acton, senior editor; Ashley Green, junior editor; Michelle Foster, junior editor; and Victoria Eck, junior editor. Back row: Rachel Fisher, junior editor; Jason McIlrath, executive research editor; Joel Driskell, junior editor; Ashley Rohleder, executive research editor; Warren Scherich, junior editor; and Matthew Moore, junior editor. Richard Parks is not pictured.



2015-16 STUDENT EDITORIAL BOARD

Front row: Monica Morrey, junior editor; Michelle Foster, executive research editor; Victoria Eck, senior editor; Rachel Fisher, student editor-in-chief; and Alex Portenier, junior editor. Back row: Laura Boatright, junior editor; Kayla Phillips, junior editor; and Jacob Bielenberg, junior editor. Morgan Johnson, junior editor, and Richard Parks, senior editor, are not pictured.

Fall 2014 CFLC Directors



Ashley Green, Michelle Foster, Victoria Eck, and Danielle Packer

Incoming 2015-16 CFLC Directors



Morgan Johnson, JD Candidate '16, majored in Music at Spelman College in Atlanta. She is interested in family law because of her great concern for the protection of youth and their legal rights. She joined the CFLC in order to work more closely with

children in the community and the advocates who work tirelessly to make sure they are taken care of properly.

Spring 2015 CFLC Directors



Anastasia Willy, Morgan Johnson, Michelle Foster, Danielle Packer, and Victoria Eck



Anastasia Willy, JD Candidate '16, graduated from Benedictine College and then worked in a group home setting, playing “mom” and caring for kids who never had positive role models to care for them. Caring for children who come from terrible home-life

situations was hard for her. Many of them encountered traumatic experiences and lacked fundamental life skills that would enable them to handle everyday situations. Willy says, “As time went on, I knew that I wouldn’t be able to do more unless I had a law degree. I wouldn’t be able to help them get out of the terrible life situations they would most likely fall back into. It was really difficult to find caring lawyers to tackle cases like these.

Professor Elrod Wins Award



Professor Linda Henry Elrod, BA '69 and JD '72, received Washburn University’s A. Roy Myers Excellence in Research Award. This award recognizes the efforts of full-time faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to higher education by their teaching and, primarily, their research efforts.



Victoria Gordon, JD Candidate '17, majored in history at Kansas State University. After witnessing loved ones be a part of messy divorces, custody battles, and domestic violence, Gordon became passionate about becoming an advocate for

women and children. She joined the CFLC to become more involved and proactive in the family law community in order to learn how better help women and children in need.

Students Help Family Build a Home

TOPEKA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Fall 2014 Habitat team

Each semester, the Children and Family Law Center takes part in a community service project in Topeka. More than 20 law students helped build a Habitat for Humanity house in the community for a family. For a day in the fall and another this spring, students painted, did yard work, and helped the contractors.

Rodney Wilson, '15, said this of his experience, "In my life, family always comes first. So, when I had the opportunity to help families come together and have a place to call home, I was excited to help. My work included a variety of tasks, from landscaping to hanging kitchen cabinets. The most enjoyable part of my experience with Habitat was getting to see how my work helped the families." Wilson earned the Family Law Certificate.



Spring 2015 Habitat team



Jeff Akin, '15, and Stephen Tyler, '15



Ryan Hamilton, JD Candidate '17



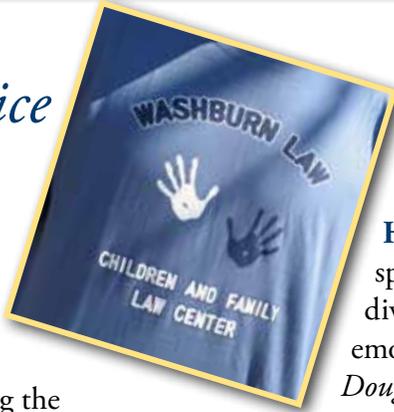
Michaela Marine, '15, Jessica Gallagher, '15, and Jessica Conrow, '15

Community Service

TUBS OF LOVE

The Children and Family Law Center, Christian Legal Society, Washburn Law Democrats, Women's Legal Forum, and Washburn Law Republicans sponsored a donation drive during the month of November for the Tubs of Love program benefiting the Topeka Rescue Mission.

With the help of generous contributions by Washburn Law students, faculty, and staff, the organizations donated two 21-gallon tubs filled with hygiene and laundry products. Topeka Rescue Mission distributed the donated products locally to men, women, and children in need during the holiday season.



Volunteer Opportunities for Students

Horizons, Solutions for Change, is a court sponsored co-parenting program that provides divorcing parents skills to reduce conflict and emotional impact on their children. *Contact Lauren Douglass at lauren.douglass@klrd.ks.gov.*

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence works to prevent and eliminate sexual and domestic violence through a statewide network of programs that provide support and safety for all victims of sexual and domestic violence. Students are able to assist the development director in various tasks, join the Public Policy Team, and volunteer at annual events. *Contact Becky Price at 785.232.9784 or bprice@kcsdv.org.*

LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center is a community based, not-for-profit agency designed to meet the unique needs of child victims in the Topeka community by helping children tell their stories just once in a comfortable and safe environment. LifeHouse is in need of law students to assist with grant writing as well as their annual fundraising events. *Contact Kelly Stephens at 785.232.5433 or kstephens@lifehousecac.com.*

Shawnee County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) investigate child in need of care cases by visiting with a child, family members, social workers, caregivers, teachers, and others. Students can also monitor the orders of the court and submit reports to the court, thereby assisting the judge in making decisions regarding a child's future. *Contact Teresa Sowell at 785.215.8279 or teresa.sowell@shawneecocasa.org.*

YWCA'S PATH OF HOPE

The YWCA's goal is to empower women, eliminate racism, and promote peace and justice. In order to achieve this goal, the YWCA hosts a Path of Hope for Domestic Violence Awareness in October.

The walk not only raises awareness, but also shows survivors and current victims that they are not alone and have support. Children and Family Law students volunteered to set up the walk, attended to meet and empower survivors and their families, and helped raise community awareness.



Professor Nancy Maxwell Retires

Professor Emeritus Nancy Maxwell has been one of the faculty advisors for the Family Law Certificate from its inception. Students in the Children and Family Law Center interviewed Professor Maxwell.

WHEN DID YOU BEGIN TEACHING FAMILY LAW AT WASHBURN LAW?

I first taught Family Law in the fall of 1979 to a class of 106 students. The course at that time was entitled “Domestic Relations.”

WHY DID FAMILY LAW BECOME YOUR FOCUS?

When I started practicing law in Grand Forks, N.D., the attorneys were, for the most part, general practitioners. Even the town’s eminent tax attorney, who taught Federal Income Tax as an adjunct law professor at the University of North Dakota (UND), handled divorce cases. At the time I entered the practice of law in 1975, there were no women actively practicing law in Grand Forks. The fact that I was a woman practicing law attracted both male and female clients in family law cases who told me they were “looking for something different than how the other attorneys in town were handling family law cases.” By the time I left the active practice of law to teach as a visiting professor at UND School of Law, two-thirds of my cases were family law cases. I liked practicing family law so it naturally became one of the subjects I wanted to teach.

CAN YOU TELL US HOW DURING YOUR CAREER YOU’VE SEEN FAMILY LAW DEVELOP?

The status of women has improved significantly since I graduated from law school 40 years ago. For example, 40 years ago women were lobbying to obtain equal credit because many of them were denied individual credit in their own name if they were married. Also, when I was practicing law, the maternal preference/tender years doctrine was statutory law in North Dakota. Currently, with family law guidelines in a number of the judicial districts, there is more predictability in the outcome of family law cases. This allows attorneys to provide their clients with more assurances about how cases might come out if the parties were to litigate (which then results in more settlements). Of course another major change in family



Professor Emeritus Nancy Maxwell shared many laughs and hugs at her Farewell Reception.

law has been the public awareness of non-traditional families and the authorization of same-gender marriage.

CAN YOU SHARE A FOND MEMORY OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CFLC?

I think the fondest memories I have of my involvement with the CFLC has been hosting a number of visiting foreign scholars. They became good friends and I still have contact with a number of them from the Netherlands. One of the foreign scholars met my research assistant when he was visiting Washburn Law and the two of them fell in love. They now live in the Netherlands and have a 5-year-old daughter.

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST DURING YOUR TENURE AT WASHBURN LAW?

What I have enjoyed the most while I have been at Washburn Law are my colleagues and the students. Washburn is unique in that, for the most part, the faculty members not only get along with each other, but we actually enjoy each other’s company and socialize with each other outside the Law School. I also have made good friends with many of my former students and it has been a delight to see them mature as lawyers, as spouses, and as parents (and the past couple of years, teach their children!)

I have loved my tenure at Washburn Law. I have always enjoyed teaching and I feel extraordinarily lucky to have been able to teach here these past 35 ½ years.

2014-15 Faculty Scholarship and Activities



LINDA HENRY ELROD, '72
Center Director

Beyond continental speaking engagements, Children and Family Law Center Director Linda Elrod had multiple noteworthy activities and events both nationally and internationally this year that supported the goals and ideals of the Center.

ARTICLES IN LAW REVIEWS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

“Review of the Year in Family Law 2013-2014: Same-Sex Couples Attain Rights to Marry and Parent,” 48 *Family Law Quarterly* 609 (2015).

“Japan Joins Hague Abduction Convention: England Returns Child,” 48 *Family Law Quarterly* 353 (2014).

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS
Child Custody Practice and Procedure. 2015 ed. (Thomson Reuters, 2015).

Kansas Family Law: Kansas Law and Practice, Volumes 1 and 2. 2014-2015 ed. (Thomson Reuters, 2014).

OTHER PUBLICATION

“Relocation: Trying to Move on but is it in the Best Interests of the Child?,” 4 *Sensible Separation Newsletter* 5 (Greg Kincaid, ed. Sept. 2014).

PRESENTATIONS

“Hearing Children’s Voices: Interviewing Young Children,”

4th Annual Northwest Arizona Symposium on Infant and Toddler Mental Health, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., Feb. 10, 2015.

“Kansas Child Support Guidelines, the Affordable Care Act and Shared Parenting,” Topeka Bar Association Family Law CLE, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Jan. 23, 2015.

“Representing Children in Kansas: Reconciling the Ethical Rules,” Guardian ad Litem Training, Washburn University School of Law, Children and Family Law Center, Jan. 9, 2015.

“Best Interests of Children: The Law and the Reality,” Horizons, High Conflict Parenting Class, Shawnee County Courthouse, Topeka, Jan. 8, 2015.

“Poverty, the Marriage Gap and Why Marriage Matters for Children,” Topeka Zonta Club, Topeka, Nov. 18, 2014.

“Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way: Family Law Arbitration is Coming Around the Mountain,” American Bar Association Family Law Section Fall CLE Conference, Stowe, Vt., Oct. 18, 2014.

“Family Law Arbitration - An Idea Whose Time Has Come?,” Successfully Managing Dispute Resolution Annual CLE/CME Training Event, Associates in Dispute Resolution, LLC, Topeka, Oct. 10, 2014.

Plenary Session Panelist, “Same-Sex Issues: Navigating the Conflicting Legal Landscape of Marriage and the Broader Implications of Other Areas of Law,” The Missouri Bar / Missouri Judicial Conference, 2014 Annual Meeting, Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 11, 2014.

“Hot Topics in Family Law - Federalization Comes to Family Law,” 25th Anniversary of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association Annual Conference, Lindsborg, Kan., July 25, 2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Attended as a committee member, the Secretary of State’s Legal Adviser’s Advisory Committee on Private International Law, Washington D.C., Nov. 3, 2014.

Chaired the Family Law Quarterly Editorial Board Meeting, Oct. 18, 2014 and attended the Family Law Council meeting, Oct. 16, 2014 at the American Bar Association Family Law Section Fall CLE Conference, Stowe, Vt.

Signer on Family Law Amicus Briefs filed in the following cases challenging same-sex marriage bans: *Obergefell v. Hodges* (U.S. 2015); *Bostic v. Schaefer* (4th Cir.); *DeLeon v. Perry & Robicheaux v. Caldwell* (5th Cir.); *DeBoer v. Snyder, Bourke v. Beshear, Tanco v. Haslam & Henry v. Himes* (6th Cir.); *Baskin v. Zoeller & Wolf v. Walker* (7th Cir.); *Latta v. Otter* (9th Cir.); *Bishop v. Smith & Kitchen v. Herbert* (10th Cir.).

Joined with law professors, sociologists, psychologists, and lawyers with expertise in social welfare in writing a letter to Sen. Harry Reid and Rep. John Boehner

(Faculty - cont. on page 12)

Faculty Scholarship and Activities *(cont. from page 11)*

urging them to take into account the youth and vulnerability of the unaccompanied immigrant children in developing policy. The letter urges child-focused screening and interview practices, July 21, 2014.

Reappointed to serve on the United States Department of State's Legal Adviser's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, 2014-.

As a reporter for the Family Law Arbitration Act, participated in the first reading of the current draft of the FLAA at the Uniform Law Commission Annual Meeting, Seattle, July 12, 2014. She then participated in drafting committee meetings November 13-16, 2014, and March 20-23, 2015, in Chicago.

Appointed for another term on the Kansas Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Child Support Guidelines which met monthly in 2014 and 2015 to prepare recommendations for changes in the Kansas Guidelines.



LYNETTE F. PETTY, '87

*Assistant Dean for Accommodation
Associate Professor of Law*

PRESENTATION

"Immigration Remedies for the Undocumented Child and Family Members," Guardian ad Litem Training, Washburn University School of Law, Children and Family Law Center, Jan. 9, 2015.



SUSANNAH W. POLLVOGT

*Associate Professor of Law and Director
of Academic Skills and Bar Passage*

ARTICLE IN LAW REVIEW

"Children as Proto-Citizens: Equal Protection, Citizenship, and Lessons from the Child-Centered Cases," 48 *U.C. Davis Law Review* 655 (2014) (with Catherine E. Smith).

AMICUS BRIEFS

Cited by Supreme Court of the United States, *Obergefell v. Hodges* (June 26, 2015); Amicus Brief of Scholars of the Constitutional Rights of Children, filed in *United States v. Windsor*, No. 12-307 (2013) (U.S. Supreme Court) with Professors Catherine Smith and Tanya Washington.

Amicus Brief of Scholars of the Constitutional Rights of Children, filed in *Robicheaux v. Caldwell*, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, No. 14-31037, (Oct. 24, 2014) (with Professors Catherine Smith and Tanya Washington).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Op-Ed: Straw-Man Argument on Marriage Equality Shouldn't Fool High Court," *The National Law Journal*, June 15, 2015.

"The Smartest Constitutional Argument for Marriage Equality That No One Is Making," *Slate*,

Sept. 29, 2014 (with Catherine E. Smith).

"Judge in Same Sex Case Rebuffs High Court: Ban on Gay Marriage Based on Benefits to Children is Discriminatory, Precedent Strongly Suggests," *The National Law Journal*, Sept. 29, 2014 (with Catherine E. Smith).

"Of Course Gay Marriage Bans Are Based in 'Animus,'" *Slate*, Sept. 8, 2014.

PRESENTATIONS

"Larger Consequences of the Supreme Court's Same Sex Marriage Decisions," 2015 Selected Topics and Miscellany CLE, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, June 25, 2015.

Presenter, "The Denigration of Jurisprudence," Information Society Project, Yale Law School, New Haven, Conn., Feb. 4, 2015.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Quoted, "Federal Judge Mangles Precedent, Upholds Louisiana's Gay Marriage Ban," *Slate*, Sept. 3, 2014.

"In Colorado, an Effort to Ease Confusion over Same-Sex Marriage," National Public Radio, July 28, 2014.

"Opinion May Pose Obstacle for Same-Sex Unions," *The New York Times*, July 28, 2014.

Family Law Certificate

CERTIFICATE OF CONCENTRATION

The Family Law Certificate is available for students who have a serious interest in the area of family law. The Certificate is an acknowledgment by the Faculty that the student has successfully completed a focused course of study addressing family law issues.

Writing Requirement

Complete a pre-approved upper level writing requirement (or equivalent writing project) on a Family Law topic. The upper level writing requirement may be satisfied by the Family Law Seminar, Directed Research, or an alternative writing opportunity approved in advance by the student's certificate advisor. The student must receive a grade of "B" or better on any graded paper.

Service Requirements

1. Complete 12 hours of pro bono activities for children and family, either as a CASA, Horizon's Program, guardian ad litem, volunteer at Legal Services or the Battered Women's Task Force, or in some other capacity serving children and families.
2. Participate regularly in activities of the Children and Family Law Student Society.

Lawyering Experience Requirement

Students earning a Family Law Certificate must complete a lawyering experience consisting of either the Clinic Internship (Family Law or Juvenile Law)

or an externship that involves a lawyering experience in a family law or juvenile law placement. Family Law Certificate administrators, working together with the externship coordinator, will determine whether an externship meets the necessary criteria.

General Requirements

Any student interested in pursuing a Certificate in Family Law must first meet with a faculty member administering the program (**Professor Linda Elrod, '72**, or **Professor Susannah Pollvogt**) to declare their interest and plan their course of study prior to completing 40 hours. The faculty member and student will complete the "Meeting Summary." This faculty member will also serve as the student's Certificate advisor and will approve any waivers or alternative courses allowed or required by the program.

The student must complete 90 hours of total law school credit and achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses used to satisfy the Certificate requirements. Students who obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for courses used to satisfy the Certificate requirements will be awarded the Certificate in Family Law (with distinction).

Externship Partners

Most State Agencies, Entities, and Boards
 Banking Entities and Corporations
 Chevron U.S.A.
 Children and Family Guidance Center
 Disability Rights Center
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 Internal Revenue Service
 Kansas Association of Counties
 Kansas Association of School Boards
 Kansas Attorney General's Office
 Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
 Kansas Corporation Commission
 Oil and Gas Conservation Division
 Kansas Court of Tax Appeals
 Kansas Department for Children and Families
 Kansas Department of Agriculture
 Kansas Department of Commerce
 Kansas Department of Health and Environment
 Kansas Department of Revenue
 Kansas Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control
 Kansas Insurance Department
 Kansas League of Municipalities
 Kansas Legal Services
 Kansas Soybean Association
 Kansas State Bankers Association
 Local Corporations
 Midwest Innocence Project
 Non-profit Organizations
 Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner
 Payless ShoeSource
 Prairie Band Potawatomi Court System
 Regional Federal Agencies
 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office
 State and Federal Courts
 Statewide and Nationwide Courts and Prosecutors/Defenders Offices
 Statewide Board of Indigents' Defense Services
 Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority
 YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment

And many other placement opportunities vary annually.

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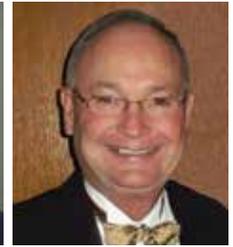
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About Us

Washburn University School of Law's Children and Family Law Center prepares law students to provide high-quality legal representation for children and to advocate to improve the quality of justice for children and their families.

Students partner with faculty members, practicing lawyers, judges, social workers, and mental health professionals in an educational program designed to provide them with the knowledge and tools they will need to represent both child and adult clients successfully. In addition to the traditional classes, the Center offers students training in crucial skills such as counseling, negotiation, mediation, interdisciplinary research, and advocacy.

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