

Children and Family LAW CENTER

HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL RECOVERY OF CHILD SUPPORT AND OTHER FORMS OF FAMILY MAINTENANCE

Linda Elrod, ba '69, and jd '72, Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law, was the official observer for the International Society of Family Law at the Hague Conference on Private International Law Diplomatic Session, November 5-23, 2007. The Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance established a comprehensive system of cooperation among child support authorities to expedient enforcement of child support across national boundaries. Delegates from 80 countries, including the United States, participated in the drafting and approving of the new Convention.

LAW STUDENTS HELP CHILDREN — HORIZONS AND CASA

Present and former members of the Children and Family Law Student Society helped Shawnee County Court Services with the children's portion of the Horizons program. This program works with couples and children in high-conflict divorces. The parents participate six times over three months to learn to communicate about their children while striving to set aside their own personal issues. For three weeks of the program, the children participate in activities with the law students who encourage them to express their ideas about divorce.

At any given time, about 15 law students are involved with the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. CASA volunteers serve as advocates for children and have a significant impact on the quality of their life. In addition to advocating for children as lay advocates, CASA volunteers improve communication skills, strengthen collaboration skills, gain an in-depth



Professor Elrod (middle row, fourth from left) was the official observer for the International Society of Family Law at the Hague Conference on Private International Law Diplomatic Session, November 5-23, 2007.

understanding of the child welfare system, and increase their awareness of child abuse and neglect in the community.

The Children and Family Law Student Society, under the leadership of **Michelle Illig, '08**, and **Megan Fluharty, '08**, put together several "Lunch and Learn Programs." In September, Professors Linda Elrod and Nancy Maxwell started the year with "Trends in Family Law." They provided an overview of how the first-year courses, as well as many upper-level courses, ultimately relate. In October, Professor Jane E. Cross, Dr. Nancie Palmer, and Professor Charlene Smith presented "Redefining Families."

*by Linda Henry Elrod, Director, Children and Family Law Center,
and Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law*

FAMILY LAW QUARTERLY

Student editor-in-chief **Holly Fisher, '08**, and student executive editors **Megan Fluharty, '08**, **Tracey Johnson, '08**, and **Christine Campbell, '08**, led a staff of 20 to edit four issues of *Family Law Quarterly*, a publication of the American Bar Association Family Law section. The fall issue covered a multitude of issues involving the status of marriage today. The winter issue was the annual survey of law in the 50 states and law review articles. The spring issue covered "Representation of Children."

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

The Washburn Law Clinic offered 20 students hands-on family law experience with face-to-face interaction. Professors Aliza Organick and Lynette Petty supervised several interns working on family law cases.

Throughout the year, the Center provides numerous opportunities for learning and volunteering in family law activities. In addition to several family law specialty courses and Clinic, students are encouraged to watch court cases, attend continuing education programs, and meet with alumni and family law practitioners.

VISITING SCHOLARS

During the 2007-08 academic year, the Children and Family Law Center hosted one visiting scholar each semester. Carol S. Bruch, professor emerita and research professor of law, University of California at Davis, was the Children and Family Law Center Scholar in Residence from October 2-4, 2007. During her visit, Professor Bruch taught family law classes, presented relocation cases to the Children and Family Law Student Society, and discussed with faculty the use and misuse of social science research in family law.



In early April, Dr. Ian Curry-Sumner, senior lecturer at the Mollengraf Institute at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, was the Visiting Scholar. He spoke to the Children and Family Law Student Society about international adoption.

Curry-Sumner also visited with family law classes about legal conflicts surrounding recognition of same-sex marriages.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Children and Family Law Center, Dr. Bud Dale, and the Kansas Association of Family and Conciliation Courts co-sponsored a continuing legal education program. "Child Advocacy and Case Management in Kansas: Intervening to Benefit Children" was presented on October 5-6, 2007. The Center and the Kansas Association of Counsel for Children also sponsored a one-day program, "Advocating for the Child With Mental Disabilities," which included national, state, and local speakers.



*Dr. Bud Dale,
third-year law student*

In the fall of 2006, several students engaged in a public policy debate by filing an amicus brief in a case involving a Kansas statute on artificial insemination. The students took the position that the statute, which provides that a sperm donor has no rights unless there is an agreement in writing, is unconstitutional as applied to a known sperm donor. The Kansas Supreme Court decided in favor of the mother. The father appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. One of the students, Dr. Bud Dale, a clinical psychologist and now a third-year law student, submitted an amicus brief arguing from the children's rights perspective.