

# Children and Family LAW CENTER

## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Howard Davidson

March 11-13, 2009



Howard Davidson, director of the ABA Center for Children and the Law, spent three days with Washburn Law students and faculty. He spoke to classes, met with small groups of students, and conducted a faculty professional development presentation,

“Thirty Years of Advancing the Cause for Children.”

His lunch and learn presentation to students was titled, “A Career in Child Advocacy: The ABA Center for Children and the Law.”

Davidson was also the keynote speaker at the Children at Risk CLE, where he presented, “How Legal Advocacy Can Help Reduce Trauma Experienced by Abused and Neglected Children: Using the New Federal ‘Fostering Connections’ Law and Other Federal Statutes to Help.”

Davidson has been actively involved with the legal aspects of child protection for more than 33 years. He has directed the ABA Center on Children and the Law since its 1978 establishment. It provides extensive training, technical assistance, consulting, and publications for lawyers, child welfare agencies, juvenile (dependency) courts, and programs that provide legal representation in these cases.

## PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE

Edward L. Kainen, '88

April 6-7, 2009



Ed Kainen is a shareholder in the Las Vegas law firm of Ecker & Kainen, Chartered. During his two-day visit, Kainen spoke to students about “Negotiating a Property Settlement in Divorce” and “Nuts and Bolts of Family Practice — What They

Don't Tell You in Law School.” Kainen is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and focuses on family law. He has taught Continuing Legal Education programs on various aspects of Family Law, Motion Practice, Evidence, Professionalism and Ethics. His stepdaughter, Racheal Mastel, is a third-year student at Washburn Law.

## CHILDREN AT RISK CLE

Children at Risk: Establishing Best Practices for Working with Children and Families in Trauma

March 13, 2009

Nearly 100 social workers, attorneys, and students attended this CLE. Recent studies have documented not only the types of harm, but also how appropriate responses from those in the system can help reduce the negative impact for children and their families. Increasingly, the solutions involve an interdisciplinary framework. In addition to Howard Davidson's keynote, experts, judges, and other panel members explored the effects of violence and other trauma on children and families. The Kansas Association of Counsel for Children co-sponsored the event.

## FAMILY LAW QUARTERLY

Washburn Law students have the opportunity to serve on the student staff of the *Family Law Quarterly*, a scholarly publication of the American Bar Association Family Law Section. Distinguished Professor **Linda Henry Elrod, '72**, has been the editor since 1992. Last fall, the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association celebrated its 50th anniversary. To commemorate the special occasion, the *Family Law Quarterly* published a golden anniversary issue. Sanford Katz, Boston College law professor and former editor of the *Quarterly*, served as the issue editor and invited leading scholars and experts to review the last 50 years in family law. Some of the articles are encyclopedic in scope. Others provide a more concise summary. One of the articles, “Paradigm Shifts and Pendulum Swings in Child Custody: The Interests of Children in the Balance,” was coauthored by Professor Elrod and Milfred “Bud” Dale, a licensed psychologist and third-year law student.



Family Law Quarterly  
Certificate Recipients:  
*Adam Anderson (left),  
Best Article Edit,  
and  
William Schmidt,  
Best State Report.*



A list of other articles in the anniversary issue is at  
[www.abanet.org/family/flq/](http://www.abanet.org/family/flq/)

## LUNCH AND LEARNS



**Trina Nudson**  
*September 10, 2008*  
 “Child Advocacy”

Nudson, a legal assistant at the Lampasas County Attorney’s office in the Killeen/Temple, Texas, area, is a trained mediator and case manager, and regularly serves as a guardian *ad litem* in both the child in need of care and domestic court. She is also trained in collaborative law.



**Joyce Grover, ’94, and Sarah Rust-Martin, ’06**  
*October 8, 2008*  
 “Screening for Domestic Violence”

Grover and Rust-Martin of the Kansas Coalition



**Emily Donaldson**  
*November 12, 2008*  
 “Difficulties Representing an Elder Client”

In recognition of National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month, the Children and Family Law Center and the Tax and Estate Planning Association hosted Donaldson, an elder law attorney at the firm of Stevens & Brand, L.L.P. in Lawrence, Kan., to discuss some of the difficulties that a lawyer may face representing an elderly client.

## HORIZONS, SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE

**D**r. Milfred “Bud” Dale, Ph.D., and Lauren S. Douglass, third-year students who are part of the Children and Family Law Center, have been actively involved in the Horizons, Solutions for Change program in the Shawnee County District Court. This court sponsored 12-week educational program, designed for high conflict divorced/never married parents, provides them with the tools to reduce their conflict.

Bud Dale, a child psychologist, has co-facilitated the adult program since 2007. Parents meet twice a month in group sessions utilizing a variety of educational materials and activities. Sheri Keller, the court service officer who started the program in 2006, said of Bud, “His knowledge and expertise in the area of emotional behavior and the impact of conflict on children is astounding. His ‘tough-minded’ approach, therapeutic skills and experience demand that parents think outside the box.”

There is a Horizons For Kids Program for children between 5 and 17 years of age. The children are encouraged to express themselves through artwork, which is displayed on the third floor of the Shawnee County Courthouse. Lauren Douglass began volunteering at the program’s inception in January 2007 and has been a “stable pillar” of the program. Keller states, “Lauren’s interactions with the children have been truly amazing. The children enjoy working with a younger adult who understands and relates to them.” In addition to giving her time and talents, Douglass has recruited other law students to help with the program.

Keller also noted that Distinguished Professor **Linda Henry Elrod, ’72**, has contributed to the success of the Horizons program by speaking at practically every “first” group session. She not only shares the history of domestic law in Kansas but also her own personal philosophy and expertise. Professor Elrod is passionate in her belief that high conflict is the number one factor negatively affecting the long-term well-being of children.



*Dr. Bud Dale, third-year law student; Mindy Wicks, first-year law student; Sheri Keller, project coordinator; Lauren Douglass, third-year law student; and Joyce Marcum, licensed specialist clinical social worker with Stonestreet and Assoc., have been actively involved in the Horizons, Solutions for Change program in the Shawnee County District Court.*