

Professor Linda Elrod

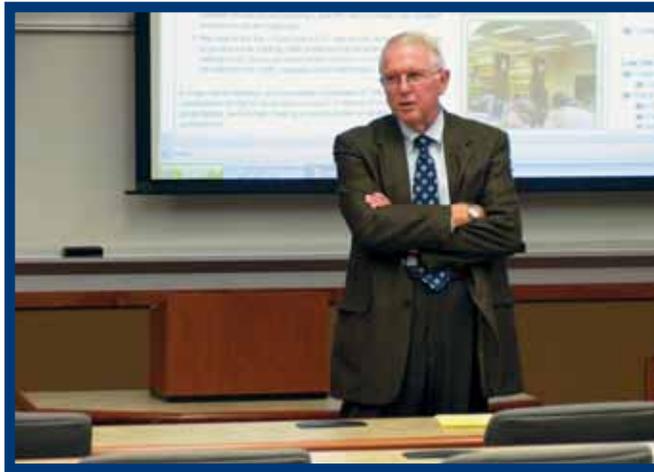


Children & Family Law Center

In November the Center sponsored a program on the Revised Juvenile Offender Code and the Revised Child In Need of Care Code. John Fritz '87, Johnson County assistant district attorney and adjunct professor of Juvenile Law at Washburn Law, presented the 2006 legislative changes in the Juvenile Offender Code. Roberta Sue McKenna '75, of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, discussed the many, and somewhat controversial, 2006 changes in the Child in Need of Care Code.

Washburn Law students had the opportunity to attend.

The Center gave students the opportunity to be involved in a public policy debate by researching, drafting and filing an amicus brief in a case involving a Kansas statute on artificial insemination. The students argued 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 case is one of first



Peter Curran

impression in Kansas and the Kansas Supreme Court transferred it from the Court of Appeals. Students attended the oral arguments in December. There have been very few appellate cases involving known sperm donors across the country. The Associated Press picked up the story and articles appeared in several newspapers nationally and internationally. Students who worked on the brief were Dr. Bud Dale

'09, Andrea Rusche '07, Claudia Weaver '07, and Eryn Wright '08. Faculty members Linda Elrod and Lyn Goering helped with editing and formatting.

The Family Law Student Society, under the leadership of Amy

Coppola '07 and Kerrie Lonard '07, coordinated several "Lunch and Learn Programs." In September Peter Curran, Stevens and Brand LLP, Lawrence, Kan.; and Pat Baker '79 of the Kansas Association of School Boards, discussed education law. In October family law students and others

attended a lunch and learn program on how domestic violence affects immigrant women and their children. The speakers included Joyce Grover '94, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence; Angela Ferguson-Allard, Austin & Ferguson, Kansas City, Mo.; and Pam Burrough '06, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, who discussed stereotypes of immigrants, visa status, mandatory arrests, and other issues. The Student Society also held a Toy and Art Drive to benefit the University Child Development Center, a day care center which provides care for children of Washburn students and faculty. Students remain interested in Court

Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Shawnee County, volunteering in a number of ways. Over 25 law students served as CASAs last semester.

Amy Coppola '07 and Laura Schoenberger '07, student editors for the *Family Law Quarterly*, assembled a staff of 16 to work on the publication of the American Bar Association Family Law Section. The summer issue covered a multitude of issues involving fathers and children, including incarcerated fathers, unwed fathers, and fathers of young children. The fall issue included topics on immigration and family law, discovering executive compensation,



Pam Burrough '06



Joyce Grover '94

dividing copyrights, changes in the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, and assessing the validity of social science research.

The Washburn Law Clinic offered 20 students "hands on" experience with family law cases and live clients. Professors Aliza Organick, Lynette Petty and Sheila Reynolds each supervised several interns working on family law cases.

In September Righter Distinguished Professor of Law Linda Elrod was one of three law professors invited to join 15 lawyers as faculty for a new National Institute of Trial Advocacy training program titled "Modern Divorce Advocacy." The

three day program involved examination and cross examination of a child custody evaluator and a financial business appraiser and representing the client in mediation. With feedback from participants in the trial run, the program will be revised and available for use.

If you wish to learn more about the Center, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact director, Professor Linda Elrod, at (785) 670-1838 or linda.elrod@washburn.edu