

Agenda

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019 | WARDE CONFERENCE CENTER
COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY | 7000 MERCY ROAD, OMAHA, NE**

8:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION

8:40 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Welcome

Hon. Vernon C. R. Daniels

Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. CASA....Your New Favorite Four-Letter Word

Kimberly Thomas

Executive Director, CASA for Douglas County

9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Keeping Families First in

Collaboration with Juvenile Courts

Dannette Smith

CEO, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Raising Reasonable Efforts:

A Panel Presentation

Chris Costantakos, J.D. | Matthew P. Saathoff, J.D.

Mary "Peg" Stevens, J.D.

12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m. LUNCH

12:45 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Ethical Duties &

Role of the Guardian ad Litem

Leslie Christensen, J.D. | Mary Pat Coe, J.D.

Chris Costantakos, J.D. | Monica Kruger, J.D.

Candice Novak, J.D. | Mary "Peg" Stevens, J.D.

Shannon Prosoki, J.D. | Janine Uccchino, J.D.

2:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. "Initial" Impressions: SDM, IDI, Psy.D., etc.

(What Do All These Letters Mean?)

Chris Costantakos, J.D.

2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m. BREAK

2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m. "Keep It Stable" - Equine Therapy

Sue Miller-Harsin, CMSW, MA, LMHP

Brittany Thomas-Pleskac, Certified Equine Therapy Assistant

3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m. I Want Candy:

Bow-wow-wow and a Survey of the Law!

B. Gail Steen, J.D.

Complex Issues in Juvenile Court Practice XII

Now in its 12th year, this seminar addresses more advanced areas of juvenile court practice. We are honored to have Dannette Smith, CEO of NDHHS, present on the new "Family First" initiative. This year's seminar also features a presentation by therapist Sue Miller-Harsin, CMSW, MA, LMHP, on the effectiveness of equine therapy. A panel of experienced juvenile court litigators will discuss issues impacting the State's duty of "reasonable efforts." The seminar will also include a unique presentation illustrating the ethical duties of guardians ad litem.

This seminar is co-sponsored by the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc., a Nebraska non-profit corporation, and CASA for Douglas County.

Upon registering, attendees may also order a copy of *Juvenile Court Law and Practice* (Thomson-Reuters Pub., 14th Ed., 2019-2020) by Christine P. Costantakos, at a specially discounted rate.

A buffet lunch will be provided. The seminar will be at the Warde Conference Center located in Mercy Hall on the south side of campus at the College of Saint Mary in Omaha. Please enter the campus from the 71st and Mercy Road entrance. Ample parking is available on the south side of campus, just east of Mercy Hall.

Nebraska has approved this seminar for 6.75 hours of CLE credit; Iowa has approved this seminar for 6.75 hours of CLE credit; both include 1.25 hours of Professional Responsibility/Ethics credit. Credit may also be requested from the Administrative Office of the Nebraska Supreme Court to meet the 3-hour annual Guardian ad Litem Training Requirement.

Registration

\$85, Advance Registration

Must be received by October 25, 2019

\$95, Registration

After October 25, 2019

Register online at:

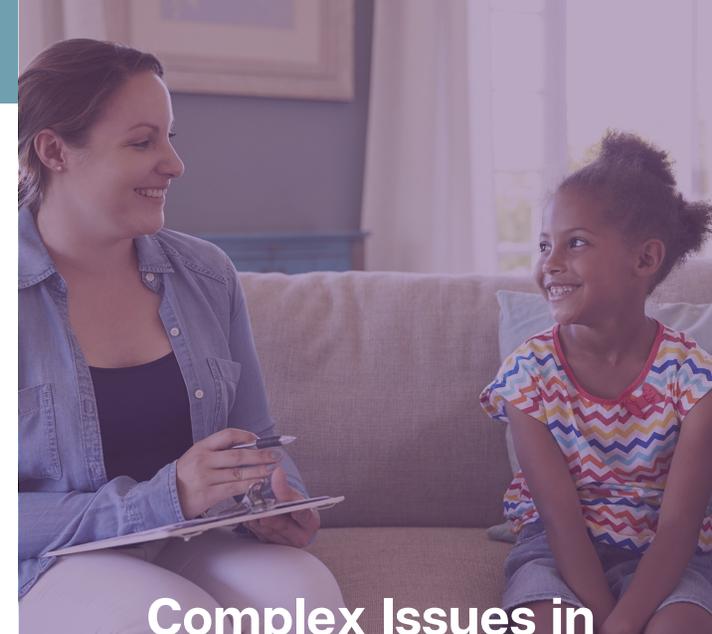
www.casaomaha.org/complex-issues-in-juvenile-court-practice-xii

Questions? Please contact Kimberly Thomas
kthomas@casaomaha.org | 402.932.5683, ext. 101

Activity Codes for Submission of CLE Credit

Nebraska: 180343

Iowa: 333476



Complex Issues in Juvenile Court Practice XII

Friday, November 1, 2019

Warde Conference Center

College of Saint Mary

7000 Mercy Road, Omaha, NE

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SEMINAR

CO-SPONSORED BY

THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROJECT, INC.

AND CASA FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY

Faculty

Leslie A. Christensen, J.D., a member of the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc., graduated from Creighton School of Law in 1999. Shortly after having been admitted to practice, she began accepting appointments in juvenile court, serving as a guardian ad litem for juveniles and also as defense counsel for guardian and parents. Her primary areas of practice are family and juvenile law.

Mary Pat Coe, J.D., a member of the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc., has been practicing in the area of juvenile law for more than 15 years, representing children and parents in dependency matters as well in neglect and abuse proceedings. She has also served as a guardian ad litem for both parents and children in dependency proceedings. She is currently employed at the Administrative Office of the Court's Court Improvement Project.

Chris Costantakos, J.D., a member of the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc., and a Creighton Law graduate, has practiced extensively in the area of juvenile court law for over 30 years. She is the author of *Juvenile Court Law and Practice*, a Nebraska practice manual (Thomson-Reuters) now in its 14th edition. A member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts, she chairs its Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee. She received the "Shining Light Award" from the Nebraska State Bar Foundation in 2013 for her book.

Monica Kruger, J.D., a member of the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc., is a graduate of University of Nebraska College of Law. She has practiced extensively in the area of juvenile and family law for more than 30 years. She has represented children and parents in dependency matters as well in neglect and abuse proceedings. She has also served as a guardian ad litem for both parents and children in dependency proceedings. She is co-chair of Nebraska's Unified Family Court Pilot, a subcommittee within the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts.

Sue Miller-Harsin, CMSW, MA, LMHP, a licensed marriage and family therapist since 1983, Sue specializes in women's issues, post-abortion, addictions and spirituality. She is a popular speaker at retreats and conferences throughout the Midwest. She has volunteered with Project Rachel for the past 25 years. In 2014, Sue began traveling to Beijing to counsel those affected by abortion. She owns "Unbridled Acres," which is used for equine therapy, marriage, individual and family counseling, and for retreats and corporate team building.

Candice Novak, J.D., is an Omaha attorney and a member of the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc. Her legal practice focuses on juvenile law. From 2006-2010, she was an associate attorney in a firm that contracted to handle guardian ad litem representation exclusively in juvenile cases in Douglas County. After that, she entered solo practice where she continued guardian ad litem representation, and also expanded her juvenile court practice to include representation of parents in abuse and neglect cases, adoptive parents, and also juveniles in delinquency cases. She has also provided representation to parents, guardians, and wards in probate matters, as well as parents in criminal proceedings relative to juvenile court filings, and minors involved in misdemeanor matters and district court felony matters.

Ms. Novak currently provides representation in juvenile court matters in both Douglas and Sarpy counties.

Shannon Prosofski, J.D., a member of the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc., is a Creighton University School of Law graduate and member of both the Nebraska and Illinois Bar Associations. She has practiced primarily in juvenile court for 18 years, specializing in the representation of children and parents as an attorney or guardian ad litem in abuse and neglect cases. She is a mother of five, and the secretary of Nebraska Soccer Charities.

Dannette R. Smith, MSW, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Smith is a strong community advocate for vulnerable populations that are in need of support and services. She brings over 25 years of strategic and organizational expertise and seeks to be a catalyst for creating innovative technology solutions in human service organizations. Throughout her professional life, she has directed organizational transformations, led human capital management programs, directed procurement and fiscal management departments and more. Smith has led large and complex state, regional and municipal government organizations that delivered and coordinated human services in urban, suburban and small rural areas. Most recently, Smith served as the Director of Human Services in Virginia Beach, VA and Seattle, WA. She has also held leadership positions in human service departments in Atlanta, GA, Charlotte, NC and Cook County, IL. Smith also serves on the boards of Healing Place of Hampton Roads, Norfolk, VA and ATTACH, Minneapolis, MN.

B. Gail Steen, J.D., graduated from UNL College of Law in 1992, and has been causing problems since. Her reign of annoying began at Legal Aid in the Norfolk office, which granted her seniority status over Jeff Wagner, later transferring to Omaha in 1995. In 2000, she joined the Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services Legal Department, Protection and Safety Division, to begin annoying the whole state. In 2008, Ms. Steen entered private practice. She is on the Board of Community Action of Lancaster and Saunders County; the Governor's Commission for the Protection of Children; and is a member of the Lincoln Bar Association. She likes to garden, drink fine and not-so-fine wine, think deeply about the law, and travel. (Because she brings candy, we let her present at this seminar.)

Matthew P. Saathoff, J.D., graduated in 2009 from Creighton University School of Law. The Saathoff Law Group, PC, LLO, has been in business since 2010. His primary practice focuses on representation of law enforcement officers, complex commercial and business law and litigation, and civil litigation. Matt's practice also provides services for business entity formations, estate planning as well as juvenile court matters.

Mary "Peg" Stevens, J.D., a member of the Guardian ad Litem Project, Inc., has been a partner at Carlson & Burnett, LLP, since 2008. Her primary legal practice is focused upon juvenile law and she serves as the Chair of the Juvenile Law Section of the NSBA, and is also a member of the Appellate Law and Family Law sections. Peg obtained her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice, then her Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1988. She was a Deputy County Attorney in the Sarpy County Attorney's Office for 10 years, during which time she handled a variety of juvenile and criminal cases ranging from misdemeanors to felonies. Since 2017, she has participated in the revision of the Nebraska Evidence Handbook. Peg enjoys trial advocacy, through which she has worked to protect the legal rights of families and children impacted by domestic abuse and child abuse.

Kimberly Thomas, Executive Director of CASA for Douglas County, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and in 2006, moved to Omaha. She brings over 20 years of experience in advocating for and serving our communities most vulnerable populations, most recently as a national juvenile justice reform facilitator for the Douglas County Board of Commissioners. Her work with national organizations such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform have propelled Douglas County's goal of improving life chances for young people. Kimberly began her work with CASA for Douglas County in November of 2012 with a \$280,000 budget, 5.5 FTE staff, 100 CASA Volunteers and 190 children served. Since then, CASA for Douglas County has seen tremendous growth and currently hosts 17 staff, a \$1.3M budget, over 250 volunteers and is expects to advocate for over 500 children this year. Kimberly has sat on various boards and committees dedicated to women and children. In her free time, she enjoys watching volleyball and spending time with her family (6 children and 2 dogs).

Brittany Thompson-Pleskac, Certified Equine Therapy Assistant, has worked at Unbridled Acres as an Equine Assistant since 2015. Her background is in animal science, and she obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in both Animal Science and Psychology. In 2017 Brittany attended the EAP training and became certified in Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. Brittany is currently pursuing her master's degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in Clinical Mental Health.