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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota Law School – Minneapolis, Minnesota
J.D., December 1998

Honors: Dean's List, 1997-1998; Mansfield Fellowship, 1997; CALI Excellence for the Future Award, 1996
Activities: Child Advocacy Clinic; Child Advocacy and Family Law Group; National Moot Court; and Judicial Externship

University of Minnesota Graduate School of Social Work – Minneapolis, Minnesota
Child Abuse Prevention Studies Certificate, with high distinction, June 1998

Grinnell College – Grinnell, Iowa

B.A. in Political Science, May 1993

Honors: Jeanne Burkle Senior Woman Award; Merrill and Clerkin Debate Prizes; Rosenfield Public Affairs Award; and Mortar Board Honor Society
Activities: Parliamentary Debate Union; Sexual Abuse Advocacy Program; Student Government; Internships at the Iowa City Civil Rights Commission (Iowa City, Iowa) and the House of Commons (London, U.K.)

Advanced Training

National Institute for Trial Advocacy/ Children's Law Center of Minnesota,
Training the Lawyer to Represent the Whole Child, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2007
National Institute for Trial Advocacy/ Rocky Mountain Child Advocacy Institute,
Presenting Evidence in Children's Cases, Denver, Colorado, 2001
NAPIL Annual Leadership Development Training, Washington, D.C., 1999 and 2000
40-hour Guardian ad Litem Training, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1997
40-hour Family Law Mediation Skills Training, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1996

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Minnesota, May 1999

White Earth Band of Chippewa Tribal Court, May 2001

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community Tribal Court, March 2004

Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Court, March 2006

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court, June 2007

HONORS

Selected as a “Minnesota Rising Star,” Minnesota Law and Politics, 2006 – present

EMPLOYMENT

Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A., Minneapolis, Minnesota

Shareholder, January 2009 – present

Attorney, January 2004 – present

Advise and advocate for clients in a wide variety of family and juvenile proceedings in district, tribal, and appellate courts. Family court expertise includes marital dissolution, paternity, custody, parenting time, child support, spousal maintenance, domestic abuse, and third-party custody. Juvenile court expertise includes delinquency, child abuse and neglect, state ward, long-term foster care, adoption, and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., Minneapolis, Minnesota

Attorney, October 2002 – January 2004

Advised clients in complex marital dissolution proceedings; served as co-counsel for 50+ religious institutions successfully challenging constitutionality of Minnesota’s conceal-carry gun law; helped draft appellate brief to the Minnesota Court of Appeals in *Edina Community Lutheran Church et al., v. State of Minnesota*, 673 N.W.2d 517 (Minn. App. 2004).

Children’s Law Center of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota

Staff Attorney, September 1999 – October 2002

Received National Association of Public Interest Law/Equal Justice Works Fellowship to launch and coordinate CLC’s State Wards Project in Hennepin County; provided direct legal representation to youth who were state wards or “legal orphans;” offered training, consultation, and case coordination for 50 volunteer attorneys representing youth through the State Wards Project; promoted system reform through litigation, policy discussions, and collaborative efforts with other agencies.

Office of the Hennepin County Attorney, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Law Clerk, January 1998 – August 1999

Represented the county at paternity and child support hearings pursuant to the Student Practice Rule; performed legal research, wrote court and office memoranda on a variety of issues related to child support enforcement; researched and drafted a portion of *amicus curiae* brief to the Minnesota Supreme Court for *Holmberg v. Holmberg*, 588 N.W.2d 720 (Minn. 1999), the case concerning the constitutionality of the administrative child support process.

Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mansfield Fellow/Summer Law Clerk, June 1997 – August 1997

Selected as a Mansfield Fellow to work as a summer law clerk; assisted family law attorneys with research, client interviews, discovery, and drafting marital dissolution petitions; helped government benefits attorneys prepare for a class action lawsuit regarding the constitutionality of durational residency requirements for welfare recipients.

Children's Law Center of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota

Summer Law Clerk, May 1996 – August 1996

Researched and drafted legal memorandum on children's right to counsel, which was submitted to the Representation Subcommittee of the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Adoption and Foster Care; helped organize CLC's first training program for volunteer attorneys.

Cornerstone Advocacy Services, Bloomington, Minnesota

Child Advocate, October 1993 – August 1995

Supported and advocated for children of battered women through support groups, individual meetings, and legal advocacy; co-facilitated Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) parenting class.

Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Crisis Care Provider, July 1993 – August 1994

Provided direct care at an emergency shelter for infants and young children who were at-risk of being abused and neglected.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Minnesota State Bar Association, Children & the Law Section; Chair, 2001- 2002; Executive Council Member, 2002-2004; Member, 1998 - present

Hennepin County Bar Association, Family Law Section; Member, 2002 - present

Minnesota American Indian Bar Association, Special Member, 2006 - present

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Member, 2008 - present

Minnesota Supreme Court Juvenile Protection Rules Committee; Member, 2001 – 2004

Pursuant to appointment by Minnesota Supreme Court, helped draft Juvenile Protection Rules, Guardian ad Litem Rules and Adoption Rules for consideration and adoption by the Supreme Court

Children's Justice Initiative – Hennepin County, State Wards Subcommittee; Member, 2002 - 2003

Statewide Advisory Committee on Long-Term Foster Care; Member, 2002

Uniform Parentage Act Task Force; Member, 2001 - 2002

Casey Foundation/VOA, Transitioning from Adolescence Task Force; Member, 2000

National Association of Counsel for Children; Member, 1997 - present

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND WRITINGS

Media/Publications

Guest, *Indian Child Welfare Act*, Minnesota Law Report, KYCR AM-1570, December 2007

Guest, *Paternity*, Minnesota Law Report, KYCR AM-1570, November 2007

Author, *Judicial Profile: Judge Jay Quam*, THE HENNEPIN LAWYER, May 2007

Author, *Out-of-Home Placements for Abused, Neglected, and Dependent Children in Minnesota: A Historical Perspective*, 32 WILLIAM MITCHELL LAW REVIEW 1007-1049, 2006 (special issue related to 100 Year Anniversary of Minnesota Juvenile Court)

Author, *Representing Children in Family Court*, THE MINNESOTA CUSTODY AND CHILD SUPPORT DESKBOOK, Minnesota State Bar Association/Continuing Legal Education, First Edition 2006 (and supplement in 2007)

Guest, *Teens and Domestic Violence* (Phillips Community Television's teen-produced cable TV program), October 2005

Guest, *Adoption, Meet Your Court* (Hennepin County District Court's weekly cable TV program), September 2002

Reviewer, *Health For Teens in Care: A Judge's Guide*, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, 2002

Contributor, Robert J. Sheran and Douglas K. Amdahl, *Minnesota Judicial System: Twenty-Five Years of Radical Change*, 26 HAMLINE LAW REVIEW 219, 329, Spring 2003 (regarding developments in juvenile and family law)

Presentations

Faculty, *There's No Place Like Home: Permanency Options for Foster Children*, Minnesota State Bar Association/Minnesota CLE, 30th Annual Family Law Institute, March 2009 (invited)

Co-Presenter, *Third Party Custody*, Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, February 2009 (invited)

Presenter, *Third Party Custody Options*, Hamline University School of Law, Child Advocacy Clinic, 2008-2009

Faculty, *Representing Children in Family Court*, Minnesota Custody and Child Support, Minnesota State Bar Association/Minnesota CLE, 2006

Faculty, *Juvenile Protection and Juvenile Delinquency Records*, Children's Records Law in Minnesota, Lorman Educational Services, 2006

Faculty, *Issues Relating to Minority Children in Delinquency and Child Protection Proceedings*, Emerging and Innovative Ideas in Juvenile Law: Celebrating 100 Years of Juvenile Courts in Minnesota, Minnesota Juvenile Court Centenary Planning Committee, 2005

Co-Presenter, *Adoption Rules 101*, Minnesota State Bar Association Children and the Law Section, 2004

Seminar Co-Chair and Faculty Member, *Best Interests of the Child and Alternative Caregiving Arrangements*, Minnesota State Bar Association/Minnesota CLE, 2004

Faculty, *When Parents Can't Parent Their Children: Third-Party Custody, CHIPS Proceedings, De Facto Custodians, Guardianships and Adoption*, Minnesota State Bar Association/Minnesota CLE's 25th Annual Family Law Institute, 2004

Faculty, *Representing Youth In Foster Care*, Children's Law Center of Minnesota, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003

Faculty, *Legal Rights of Children: Fact or Fiction*, MILE Juvenile Law Seminar, 2002

Presenter, *Uniform Parentage Act Task Force Report: Adoption, Paternity and Assisted Reproductive Technology*, Minnesota State Bar Association Children and Law Section, 2002

Presenter, *Legal Rights of State Wards and Long-Term Foster Care Youth*, Hennepin County Permanency Provider Meeting, 2002

Panel Member, *Media Orientation: Open Child Protection Proceedings*, Minnesota Supreme Court, 2002

Presenter, *State Wards Project*, Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, LLP, 1999 and 2002

Guest Faculty, *Improving Outcomes for State Wards*, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, Child Abuse Prevention Studies, 2000

Panel Member, *Guardian ad Litem Panel*, Guardian ad Litem Training, Ramsey County, 1998

Speaker, various presentations at schools, churches, and juvenile facilities through Cornerstone Advocacy Services, 1993 - 1995

Speaker, various presentations at alternative and charter schools through Minnesota State Bar Association Speakers Bureau, 2005 - present

SELECTED VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Member, Initial Board of Directors, Children's Legal Services, 2009 - present

Volunteer Attorney, Volunteer Lawyers Network, 2009 – present

Volunteer Attorney, MSBA/Hennepin County Pro Se/Pro Bono Project (Limited Scope Legal Services), 2008 – present

Volunteer Attorney, Children’s Law Center of Minnesota, 2002 - present

Contributor, Storyboard Project, Minnesota Juvenile Court Centenary Committee, 2006

Volunteer, Minnesota State Bar Association Mock Trial Program, 2001, 2004

Steering Committee Member, Park Avenue Seeking International Justice, 2004

Volunteer, White Earth Land Recovery Project (White Earth Indian Reservation), 2002

Guardian ad Litem, Ramsey County Juvenile and Family Court, 1997 – 1999

Children’s Support Group Facilitator, Cornerstone, 1995 - 1996