

Child-Centered Advocacy in the Family Law Arena

Agenda & Registration Information (In-Person or Webinar Attendance Options)

6.5 hours of CLE/CDRE (f/n/a CME) Credit which includes 1.0 Hours of Ethics (pending approval in Kansas and Missouri)

Please join Associates in Dispute Resolution, LLC, for our 5th Annual Spring Family Law CLE/CDRE event scheduled for Friday, April 11, 2025. This training will be available as a Hybrid Zoom Webinar to make sure everyone can get their required CLE/CDRE credits completed. You will enjoy this practical, advanced-level program which will provide an in-depth look at the following topics:

Morning Schedule

8:15 am to 8:50 am **REGISTRATIONS**

8:50 am to 9:00 am **INTRODUCTIONS**

9:00 am to 9:50 am **INTERSECTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW AND FAMILY**
(Matt Rogers and Bethany Roberts)

Parents struggle to navigate the special education process for their children. When the parents do not agree, the issues become even more difficult. This session will examine the intersection between federal and Kansas special education law and Kansas family law, such as the IDEA's statutory language and federal court decisions that define a "parent" for purposes of exercising parental rights under the IDEA and the importance of Kansas family law in determining who is a parent for exercising IDEA's rights. The presenters will offer common, concrete examples and proposed solutions both for moving forward both in the custody courts and in the special education process

Bethany Roberts is the Managing Member with Barber Emerson, L.C. in Lawrence, Kansas, where she acts as a guardian ad litem, conciliator, case manager, and mediator in high-conflict domestic cases. Previously, Ms. Roberts served as the Pro Tem juvenile judge in Douglas County, where she handled a high-volume caseload of juvenile offender and child in need of care cases. Ms. Roberts is proud of her many years at Kansas Legal Services in Topeka, Kansas, where she served as the Managing Attorney and specialized in representing survivors of all ages who had experienced domestic, sexual, stalking, and dating violence. Ms. Roberts is also an adjunct professor at the University of Kansas School of Law. A proud graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law, Ms. Roberts previously worked as an elementary-school teacher. Go Jayhawks!

Matthew J. Rogers, Esq., is a partner with the law offices of Barber Emerson LC in Lawrence, Kansas. Mr. Rogers litigates complex civil matters in federal and state courts, and before administrative tribunals. Mr. Rogers represents children with special needs and their parents in a wide variety of special education matters at IEP team meetings, mediation, manifestation determination hearing, administrative due process hearings, and other manners of dispute resolution. Mr. Rogers also prosecutes disability discrimination claims on behalf of children with special needs, and represents students involved in Title IX sexual harassment investigations.

9:50 am to 10:40 am **DECISION-MAKING OPTIONS WHEN YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES TURN 18**
(Presented by Michelle Ewert)

This presentation will discuss supported decision-making agreements, powers of attorney, and guardianship and conservatorship orders as options to facilitate decision-making when youth with disabilities turn eighteen. The presentation will include an overview of when each tool is appropriate and how parents and caregivers can work with medical providers to assess a youth's capacity.

Michelle Ewert is a professor at Washburn University School of Law and Director of the Washburn Law Clinic. Planning for incapacity and empowering people with disabilities are areas of focus for her clinic section. Prior to starting clinical law teaching, she was a legal services attorney in California, Illinois, and Maryland. Michelle received her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin and her Master of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota.

10:40 am to 10:50 am **BREAK (10 minutes)**

10:50 am to 12:00 pm **CHILD ADVOCATE, OMBUDSPERSON, WATCHDOG:
The Unique Role of the Office of the Child Advocate.**
(Presented by Kerrie Lonard)

This presentation will provide the overall history and structure of the Kansas Office of the Child Advocate, including a high-level overview from a national perspective. Kerrie will share about this unique role and transition as a lawyer advocate providing client directed representation to a neutral, independent role working towards case specific resolution and systems change impacting Kansas child and family well-being

Kerrie Lonard Before joining OCA, Kerrie spent 14 years with Kansas Legal Services as Staff Attorney and Managing Attorney. Prior to earning a law degree, she worked as a school social worker and other foster care and child advocate roles, including as a CASA volunteer. Kerrie earned a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Kansas, a Master of Social Work from Washburn University, and is a graduate of Washburn University School of Law. During her tenure in public service, Kerrie has served on numerous statewide panels and workgroups for child and family well-being system improvement.

12:00 to 12:50 **LUNCH** (go grab a snack or lunch if you are attending via webinar and join us back here at 1:00 for more sessions).

Afternoon Schedule

12:50 to 1:40 pm **“AND THE CHILD SAID ...”: Interviewing Children**
(Presented by Dr. Bud Dale)

Advocates for children to have a “voice” in legal matters have become increasingly successful at finding ways for the child to be heard. This session will review interview strategies for learning the child’s perspective, educating the child on the legal process, and getting information that will help the court make a “best interests” decision.

Milfred “Bud” Dale, Esq./Ph.D., is an attorney and psychologist who specializes in all aspects of family law and child custody. As an attorney in Kansas, his family law practice includes cases involving divorce and parental separation, child support and asset or property division and adoptions and guardianships. In addition, Bud is a licensed psychologist with an office in Topeka, Kansas. He has more than 30 years of experience providing clinical and forensic services.

1:40 pm to 2:20 pm **CHILD-CENTERED PARENTING PLANS: As created in mediation vs. ordered in litigation.**
(presented by Carly Boothe)

This session will focus on the myriads of ways the mediator can assist parents to meet the individual needs of their specific child(ren) with a parenting plan that is regular, consistent, and know-able to their child(ren). The litigator has the opportunity to either: villainize the other parent—or--work their tail off to find a solution that recognizes a child's right to love and enjoy safe and appropriate access to both parents.

Carly Boothe graduated from KU Law, served as a domestic violence prosecutor and then transitioned to the family law arena. After more than a decade of litigating, Carly discovered the opportunity that mediation brings to families going through this transition. Carly's practice is now wholly centered on mediation, but she occasionally is guilted into serving as a Parent Coordinator or Case Manager in cases where the family court requests intervention

2:20 pm to 2:30 pm **BREAK** (10 minutes)

2:30 pm to 3:20 pm **PROFESSIONAL ETHICS: As Depicted in “Suits”**

In this ethics presentation we will cover Kansas and Missouri ethical considerations as well as highlighting some professional responsibility dilemmas faced by the attorneys in the television series *Suits*. *Suits* aired over 9 seasons on USA Network from 2011-2019. Some highlighted ethical rules to be discussed are: 4.1 Truthfulness in Statements to Others, 8.1 Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters, 1.1 Competence, 5.5 Unauthorized Practice of Law, 8.3 Reporting Professional Misconduct, 5.3 Law Firms and Associations: Responsibilities Regarding Nonlawyer Assistance, 8.4 Misconduct.

Adina F. Morse is a partner with Associates in Dispute Resolution, LLC. As an attorney, mediator, conciliator, trained collaborative law professional, family law arbitrator, and now as an advocate, Adina works on behalf of children through connecting professionals and impacted individuals, creative problem solving, making connections between people and organizations to generate positive change, legislative engagement, and if necessary, litigation. Prior to joining Appleseed, Adina worked in the areas of family planning, adolescent psychiatric care, education, and most recently had her own law firm with a focus on domestic litigation and mediation.

Larry R. Rute has mediated more than 4,500 matters involving commercial law, corporate dissolution, consumer protection, domestic relations/division of assets, employment law, FLSA, insurance bad faith, personal injury, toxic torts and other complex high-profile employee discrimination cases, including class and collective actions. Licensed in Missouri and Kansas. He is the immediate past-Chair of the Supreme Court’s Dispute Resolution Council. He serves as an Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, National Arbitration & Mediation, FINRA Dispute Resolution, and Associates in Dispute Resolution LLC. Larry is a Distinguished Fellow with the International Academy of Mediators.

3:20 pm **ADJOURNMENT**

Registration Information for *Child-Centered Advocacy in the Family Law Arena*

Friday, April 11, 2025

Sign up early and get the Early Bird Rate of \$245.00. Regular rate after the early-bird period is \$285.00. Early-bird payments must be postmarked by Friday, March 2, 2025 (**after this date registration is \$285.00.**) **Active GAL's can attend for half rate.**

IN-PERSON ATTENDEE OPTIONS

- _____ SAVE \$40.00!
Early-Bird In-Person Rate, \$245.00 (postmarked on or before Friday, March 29, 2025). Lunch is on us, and you will receive an electronic version of materials ahead of the seminar date. No printed materials.
- _____ Regular Rate In-Person Rate, \$285.00 (after March 29, 2025). Lunch is on us, and you will receive an electronic version of materials before the seminar date. No printed materials.
- _____ **ACTIVE GUARDIAN AD LITEM IN PERSON RATE**
Early-Bird In-Person Rate, \$122.50 (postmarked on or before Friday, March 29, 2025). Lunch is on us, and you will receive an electronic version of materials ahead of the seminar date. No printed materials.

WEBINAR ATTENDEE OPTIONS

- _____ Early-Bird Webinar Rate, \$245.00 (postmarked on or before Friday, March 29, 2025). You will receive an electronic version of materials ahead of the seminar date. No printed materials.
- _____ Regular Webinar Rate, \$285.00 (postmarked on or before Friday, March 29, 2025). You will receive an electronic version of materials ahead of the seminar date. No printed materials.
- _____ **ACTIVE GUARDIAN AD LITEM WEBINAR RATE**
Webinar Rate, \$122.50 (postmarked on or before Friday, March 29, 2025). You will receive an electronic version of materials ahead of the seminar date. No printed materials.

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CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation policy: In the event you register and are unable to attend, we offer a full refund up to and including March 29, 2025. After March 29, 2025, 80% of registration fees will be refunded for cancellations. Thank you.