

DONA PLAYTON

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EXPERIENCE

- **INTERIM FACULTY DIRECTOR:** University of Wyoming College of Law, Legal Services Program. Supervise the clinic operated by third-year law students representing low income people throughout in the state in civil, non-fee generating cases, including divorce, child custody, guardian *ad litem* appointments in juvenile and domestic relations cases, consumer debt, public benefits, return of property and immigration issues. Manage approximately 20-30 open cases. (Summer 2013-Present)
- **ASSOCIATE LECTURER AT LAW:** University of Wyoming College of Law, Domestic Violence and the Law; Children and the Law; Clinical Skills Course. (2009 - Present)
 - **FACULTY DIRECTOR:** University of Wyoming College of Law, DV Legal Assistance Project, a clinic operated by third-year law students to represent low income victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in civil cases; students also practice in juvenile court representing children's interests as Guardians *ad litem*, parents in juvenile court and incarcerated inmates. Supervise third-year law students during each semester and in the summer. Manage approximately 40-50 open cases. (2002-2009 Adjunct; 2009 Visiting Professor; 2009-Present Faculty Director/Lecturer (Assistant Lecturer 2009-2012, Associate Lecturer 2012-Present)
 - **ASSISTANT FACULTY DIRECTOR:** University of Wyoming College of Law, Legal Services Program. (2002-Present) (Interim Acting Director for 2013-2014 academic year)
- **SUPERVISING ATTORNEY:** Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (WCADVSA), Laramie, Wyoming. Continue to mentor, consult with, review documents and pleadings, and generally oversee WCADVSA's Legal Assistance to Victims (LAV) Project attorneys. (2008--Present)
- **ADJUNCT PROFESSOR:** University of Wyoming College of Law, created and taught course on Domestic Violence and the Law, (1999-2009); also created and taught Children and the Law, (2002-2009), taught Family Law, (2002, 2004, 2006).
- **CONSULTANT: Wyoming Council for Women's Issues (WCWI)**, updated and revised the *Legal Rights of Women in Wyoming* handbook in 2006 and updated it again in 2007, 2009 and 2010, 2011-2012. Full publication was made available by the WCWI in 2008 and an electronic version is in progress. (2006-present)
- **CONSULTANT: Wyoming Center for Legal Aid**, assisting with the automation of the state's pro se forms and writing content for newly developed website on Marriage, Divorce, Child Custody and Support, Property Distribution, Paternity, Spousal Support, Protection from Abuse, including domestic violence, elder abuse, stalking, sexual assault and child abuse. (2012-2013)
- **CONSULTANT: Wyoming Supreme Court**, updated and revised the pro se forms packets on Divorce with Children Plaintiff and Defendant packets; Divorce without Children Plaintiff and Defendant packets; Child Custody and Support Modification Packet, Child Support Modification packet, and Order to Show

EXPERIENCE (Continued)

Cause packet. Also participate in a court-established committee to draft and update the Domestic Violence Protection Order and Stalking Protection Order packets. (2004 to 2008)

- **INTERIM/ACTING SUPERVISOR:** University of Wyoming Legal Services Program. Serve as interim supervisor of third-year law students at the University of Wyoming College of Law's legal services program. Supervised up to eight students and approximately 50 open cases. I served in this capacity when the faculty supervisor, Professor John M. Burman, was on leave. (Summer 1999, Summer 2000, Summers 2002 to 2008)
- **PROJECT ATTORNEY/TRAINING SPECIALIST:** Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Laramie, Wyoming. The position as training specialist included developing and presenting multi-disciplinary domestic violence and sexual assault training to child protective services personnel, child support enforcement personnel, medical and mental health care providers, law enforcement and other sexual assault and domestic violence advocates. (Training Specialist 1999 to 2001 with Rural Project; Project Attorney January 1999 to 2002 with Legal Project)
- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL CONSULTANT:** Independent consultant with the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence. (April 2001 to January 2002)
- **ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY** - Kirkwood, Nelson & Vang, PC, Laramie, Wyoming. Involved in the general practice of law with an emphasis in family law, including divorce, child custody, visitation and support actions, both original and modifications, and representing victims of domestic violence in civil cases, including protection order hearings. Practice included representation of clients in Municipal, Circuit, District, Wyoming Supreme Court and Federal District Court, including Multi-District Litigation. (1998 to 1999)
- **INSTRUCTOR/LECTURER** - Laramie County Community College, Albany County Campus, Laramie, Wyoming. Taught paralegal students Criminal Law and Procedure. (Fall Semester 1997)
- **ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY**- Skiles and Rodriguez, PC, Laramie, Wyoming. Involved in the general practice of law. (1997 to 1998)
- **ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY** - Zimmers & Lopez, PC, Laramie, Wyoming. Involved in the general practice of law in a two-attorney firm. Practice included representation in family law cases, domestic violence protection order and stalking protection order cases, probate, personal injury, wills and estates, real estate transactions, administrative law, and criminal defense. (1995 to 1997)
- **ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL** - Wyoming State Attorney General, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Represented 23 Occupational Licensing Boards and the Investment Fund Committee, Division of Economic and Community Development within the Department of Commerce. (1993 to 1995)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND WRITINGS

Proposed Practice Standards for Attorneys Representing Parents in Abuse, Neglect, CHINS, and Termination of Parental Rights Cases, (Drafted standards for approval and modification by the Parent Representation Committee of the Wyoming Children's Justice Project), approval granted Fall 2012.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

Playton, D. (2009). *Incarceration and the Sentences for the Children Left Behind*, Wyoming Lawyer, Vol. 32, No. 1, p. 36.

Playton, D. (2008). *Raising the Bar: Improving the Representation of Children in Family Law Cases Marked by Domestic Violence*, Wyoming Lawyer, December 2008/Vol. 31, No. 6, p. 32.

Playton, D. (2008). *The Legal Rights of Women in Wyoming*, A publication of the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues, 2nd Edition, 2010.

Playton, D. and Obrecht, S. (2007). *High Times in Wyoming: Reflecting the State's Values by Eliminating Barriers and Creating Opportunities for Women in the Equality State*, Wyoming Law Review, Vol. 7, Number 2.

Playton, D. (2004). *Wyoming domestic violence Benchbook: a practical and comprehensive source of information and law*, Dona Playton, Wyoming Supreme Court, Wyoming Attorney General's Office, Division of Victim Services.

Playton, Dona (2002). *Expansion of Pro Bono Legal Services, UW DV Legal Assistance Project*, Wyoming Lawyer, December 2002.

Playton, Dona (2002). *Domestic Abuse of the Elderly*, Wyoming Lawyer, October, 23, 2002.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Children as Witnesses in Domestic Relations Cases, (panelist for the Wyoming Trial Lawyer's Fall CLE, scheduled November 8, 2013).

Understanding Relationship Between Parental Representation and Children's Exits from Out of Home Care, presentation to the Wyoming Judicial Breakfast at the Wyoming State Bar Convention, Gillette, WY, September 11, 2013.

Quality Representation for Parents in Child Welfare Cases, (panelist discussing recent Standards for Attorneys Representing Parents, Wyoming State Bar Convention, Gillette, WY, September 11, 2013.

Hoops and Fences-Working with Clients with Multiple Issues, University of Wyoming Legal Services and UW DV Legal Assistance Project Clinics, September, 2013.

Interstate Child Custody Laws: Understanding the Basics, Wyoming Trial Lawyer's Convention, Laramie, WY, June 24, 2013.

Advanced Interstate Child Custody Issues, Wyoming Trial Lawyer's Convention, Laramie, WY, June 24, 2013.

Quality Representation for Parents in Child Welfare Cases: A Path to Better Outcomes for Families, Children's Justice Project, Telephonic/Webinar, March 28, 2013.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

Mediation: Informed Considerations in Family Law Cases When Domestic Violence is an Issue, Family Law Conference, UW College of Law, March 13, 2013.

The Intersection Between Domestic Violence and Child Protection, Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Membership Meeting, Cheyenne, WY, (January 25, 2013) and to the Wyoming Guardian ad Litem Program's Stakeholder's Meeting, Cheyenne, WY (January 25, 2013).

Enforcement of Civil Protection Orders, Law Enforcement's Responsibilities, co-presented by Judge Robert A. Castor, Circuit Court Judge, Second Judicial District, Albany County SAFE Project and Albany County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), October 31, 2012.

Safety Planning and Screening for Domestic Violence, Wyoming Association of Legal Assistants, Laramie, Wyoming, September 14, 2012.

Civil and Criminal Legal Intersection of Domestic Violence Laws, Teton County Bar Association, Jackson, Wyoming, June 28, 2012.

Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Violence for Law Enforcement, Teton County Police and Sheriff Departments, Jackson, Wyoming, June 28, 2012.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: Issues and Solutions, Sponsored by the UW Student Attorney's Office, University of Wyoming, March 21, 2012.

Hoops and Fences, Advocating for Victims with Multiple Issues, WCADVSA Membership Meeting, Cheyenne, WY, February 29, 2012.

Protection Order Practice, Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, for Wyoming Legal Aid Staff and Attorneys, Webinar, January 5, 2012.

Safety Planning and Screening for Domestic Violence, Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, for Wyoming Legal Aid Staff and Attorneys, Webinar, December 19, 2011.

Dynamics of Domestic Violence, Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, for Wyoming Legal Aid Staff and Attorneys, Webinar, December 12, 2011.

Testifying as an Expert Witness: What Every Advocate Should Know, UW College of Law and Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Laramie, Wyoming, June 29, 2011.

A Framework for Understanding and Addressing Exposure to Domestic Violence, 2011 Children's Justice and Mental Health Conference, Cheyenne, Wyoming, June 16, 2011.

Intersection Between Civil and Criminal Consequences of Domestic Violence, Video Conference Seminar, Sponsored by the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, Cheyenne, Wyoming, March 25, 2011.

Interstate Child Custody Issues, What Every Advocate Should Know, Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault membership meeting, Cheyenne, Wyoming, January 26, 2011.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist, earned and received national certification approved by the National Association of Counsel for Children and the American Bar Association, 2012- Present.

Protection Order Practice for Attorneys and Advocates, National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit, Webinar, December 17, 2012.

20-hour Advanced Family Law Mediation Training “Breaking Impasse and Managing Difficult Personalities in Mediation”. The training provided an in-depth look at the mediation process while examining the various reasons impasse occurs (economic, emotional, cultural, psychological, etc.) to prevent agreement. Boston, Massachusetts, May 2-4, 2012.

Professional Mediation Training, University of Denver’s school of professional and continuing studies, University College, 40-hour mediation training through its Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, Denver, Colorado, January, 2012.

Safety Planning: An Essential Tool, National Family Justice Center Alliance, Webinar, May 26, 2011.

Through Children’s Eyes: Key Issues and Promising Practices When Working With Children/Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence, Jewish Women International’s National Alliance to End Domestic Abuse, a project of the National Training Institute, Webinar, May 12, 2011.

National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, Nevada, March 27-30, 2011.

Women’s Legal Forum, Wyoming State Bar, Jackson, Wyoming, April 14-15, 2011.

High Lethality Domestic Violence and Stalking Offenders, National Family Justice Center Alliance, Webinar, January 6, 2011.

Appellate Training for Parents’ Attorneys in Child Welfare Cases: Tips for Attorneys Filing and Writing Appeals, ABA National Project to Improve Representation of Parents in Child Welfare Cases, web-based appellate training, December 15, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

- **Access to Justice Commission**, Appointed by the Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court to serve on a commission to study and promote the equal access to justice of low income residents of the state. (Appointed member (2009 - Present))
- **Children’s Justice Project, Advisory Board Member**, Appointed by Justice Golden, Wyoming Supreme Court, (November 2010 to Present)
 - **Parent’s Counsel Subcommittee** (Member 2010 - Present) - Drafted ***Proposed Practice Standards for Attorneys Representing Parents in Abuse, Neglect and Termination of Parental Rights Cases***, approved by Advisory Board Fall 2012
- **National Association of Counsel for Children**, Member (2005 - Present)

- **Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association** – Board Member (2013-Present), Member (1990 – 2001, 2004 - Present) and **Women’s Law Caucus**, (Chair and Founding Member 2007 to Present) Caucus dedicated to encourage, recognize and strengthen women’s involvement in the legal profession.
- **American Bar Association**, Member (2002 - Present)
- **National Association of Women Lawyers**, Member (2007 - Present)
- **Stop Violence on Campus Committee**, one of the original organizers, grant reviewers and continuing board member of a committee whose mission is funded by a Federal Violence Against Women Grant received by the University of Wyoming to educate and raise awareness of relationship violence and sexual assaults among members of the campus community (2002 - 2007) (2011 - Present)
- **Albany County Bar Association** - President (1999), Vice President (1998), Secretary-Treasurer (1997), Member (1994 - Present)

EDUCATION

- **University of Wyoming College of Law, Juris Doctor Degree**, (1993)
National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Graduate
- **University of San Diego, ABA Accredited Program, Specialist Program, Certificate in Paralegal Studies** (1989)
- **University of Wyoming, Bachelor of Science** (1989)

HONORS

- **Woman of Distinction Honor**, University of Wyoming, Women’s Leadership Conference. (2012)
- **Wyoming Women’s Foundation**, featured as a Trailblazer on the Wyoming Women to Watch, Leaders, Experts and Innovators website, <http://www.wywf.org/donaplayton.html>. (2011)
- **UW College of Law Extraordinary Merit Award** (2010)
- **Atta Girl Voice Award** presented by the Equipoise Fund to women who energize, enrich and encourage the vision, voice and visibility of the women and girls of Wyoming. (2008)
- **“40 under 40” Award** --the award recognizes 40 people under the age of 40 who live in Wyoming and are enhancing the business and community landscape. (2006)
- **The Wyoming State Bar Association's Pro Bono Award for Legal Services Work for Indigent Clients** (1998)

REFERENCES

Honorable Marilyn S. Kite
Wyoming Supreme Court, Chief Justice
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2301 Capitol Avenue
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