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### **Qualifications Summary**

Licensed to practice law in Texas 2007; licensed to practice law in Iowa 1994	Experienced in family and probate law
Domestic Relations and Dispute Resolution Professional	Balanced background of formal education and practical application
Over 14 years experience in mediation and dispute resolution	Over thirty years experience in management and leadership
Extensive experience providing adult professional development and training in organizational teamwork and productivity	Over 20 years working with community agencies to forge partnerships designed to improve services to adults and youth in need of legal and financial assistance
Community leader and volunteer in Iowa and Texas	Up-to-date skills in many and varied computer technologies

### **Education**

#### Degrees, certifications, and licenses

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

- ADR Certificate with Family Law Certificate, 2007

Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa 1993

- Juris Doctorate

Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. 1991

- Bachelor of Arts in English
- Minor: Management

### **Employment**

8/03 to present

Attorney, private practices in Iowa and Texas

Represent civil, probate, family and juvenile clients on a variety of cases, with an emphasis on probate and family law matters. In Iowa, appointed by the Courts to represent children in highly contentious dissolution and custody cases. Iowa practice closed in December 2007.

1/03 – 8/03

Executive Director, Youth Law Center, Des Moines, Iowa

The Youth Law Center is a non-profit agency consisting of attorneys and caseworkers who represent children in court (juvenile, domestic and probate). Responsible for the

finances, personnel and legislative matters of the agency. When hired, top directive was to build and expand the board of directors (achieved in April 2003). A second directive was to expand the Center's sphere of influence, in Central Iowa and across the State. In January 2003, enabled a staff attorney to act as lobbyist for the Center, explored additional court appointments in other counties and represented the Center at United Way of Central Iowa and at government and court events.

1/99 – 12/02

Assistant Polk County Attorney, Des Moines, Iowa

In the Juvenile Division handled a variety of prosecutorial duties arising from the preparation and filing of actions, trial work, victim interaction and witness preparation, and other related duties as assigned. Handled both delinquency and child in need of assistance (welfare) cases as well as termination of parental rights cases.

From August 2001 until September 2002, was the Intake Attorney for Polk County Child in Need of Assistance (welfare cases), Mental Health and Substance Abuse cases. This was a new unit in the bureau; created the Intake Unit by developing the policies and procedures for this work as well as established the lines of communications, working relationships with and procedures to be followed with the Polk County Department of Human Services, local hospitals and providers, and school districts in Polk County.

1/94 – 12/98

Attorney, Private Practice, Des Moines, Iowa

Criminal, civil, probate and juvenile clients with an emphasis on the representation of children in abuse and neglect cases. As a court-appointed attorney, represented women and men involved in criminal cases as well as in juvenile court as the parents of the children in interest (child welfare cases). Employed two part-time employees (paralegal and social worker).

### **Current Professional Memberships and Activities:**

#### **Professional**

Member, State Bar of Texas

Member ADR, Estates and Family Law Sections

Member Dallas Bar Association

Member ADR, Estates and Family Law Sections

President, Conflict Resolution Network, Plano, Texas (2008 to 2011)

President-elect, Dallas Chapter of Association for Conflict Resolution (2010)

Director at Large, Conflict Resolution Network, 2012- present

Previously a Court Appointed Special Advocate, Dallas CASA Office

#### **Presentations**

September 2010, Austin, Texas – “Conflict Resolution Skills for Patient Advocates” presented at the 2010 State Conference of Texas Association for Patient Services (TAPS); co-wrote and co-presented a two-hour program of mediation-related skills specifically designed for hospital patient advocates.

April 2010, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – “What Does Mediation Have to do with Me?” presented at the 2010 National Conference of Society for Consumer Healthcare Advocacy (SCHA); co-wrote and co-presented a 90 minute program on mediation (what it is and how it works) and how it relates to healthcare providers, specifically patient advocates.

September, 2009, Plano, Texas – “Current Ethical Issues for ADR Professionals” presented at Conflict for Resolution Network membership meeting; researched, wrote and presented a paper on Ethical Issues Involved in Elder Mediation and Ethical Issues Arising out of the Mediator’s Exercise of Power.

April, 2004 and 2005, Des Moines, Iowa – Iowa Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Seminar on Juvenile Law; developed and organized two seminars on Juvenile Law issues for attorneys specializing in that area (part of my duties as a member of the Juvenile Law Committee of the Iowa Bar Association’s Family Law Section).

1999 to 2005, Des Moines, Iowa - wrote and presented and/or participated in orientation and training programs for foster parents, state child protective service workers, day care providers, domestic violence program participants and other diverse groups of adults in Iowa.

#### Community Involvement

Co-Chair of 2020 Vision Team – Midway Christian Church, Dallas Texas

Chair of Congregation – 2010 - 2012

Vice Chair Congregation- 2009

Various leadership roles – 2006-present

Volunteer Mediator, SMU Mediation Center at Legacy (1997- present)

Volunteer Mediator, Dallas County Resolution Program (2010 – present)

Volunteer for Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (2009 – present; family law and probate cases)