

DONA PLAYTON
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LEGAL AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Wyoming College of Law

Professor of Law, August 2022-Present

Associate Professor of Law, August 2019-August 2022

Family and Child Legal Advocacy Clinic Faculty Director, May 2002-Dec. 2016, 2018-Present

Courses: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Family Law, Domestic Violence and the Law, Children and the Law, and Clinic Skills Seminar

Law School Committees: Clinic and Skills (Co-Chair), Academic Policies and Procedures, Faculty Development/Enrichment, Honor Council

University Committee: Faculty Dispute Resolution

Visiting Professor, May 2018-August 2019

Family and Child Legal Advocacy Clinic Faculty Director

Courses: Domestic Violence and the Law, Clinic Skills Seminar, and Civil Pretrial Litigation

Adjunct Professor of Law, January 2018-May 2018

Family and Immigrant Justice Clinic Supervising Attorney

Senior Lecturer at Law, July 2009-December 2016

Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Clinic, Faculty Director

Courses: Domestic Violence and the Law, Clinic Skills Seminar, Children and the Law, Family Law

Law School Committees: Clinic and Skills, Scholarship, Admissions

Interim Faculty Director, June 2013-June 2014

Legal Services Program

Courses: Domestic Violence and the Law, Clinic Skills Seminar, Children and the Law, Family Law

Adjunct Professor of Law, January 1999-July 2009

Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Clinic, Faculty Director

Courses: Domestic Violence and the Law, Clinic Skills Seminar, Children and the Law, Family Law

Summer Interim Director, June 1999-June 2008

Legal Services Program (summers of 1999-2000 and 2002- 2008)

Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), University of Denver

Director, Honoring Families Initiative, December 2016-December 2017- Engaged in research, advocacy, and national collaboration efforts to promote improved access to the legal system for families experiencing divorce, separation, and child custody issues

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (WCADVSA)

Legal Project Mentor and Attorney Compliance Supervisor, June 2008-December 2016
Staff Attorney and Rural Training Specialist, December 1998-2002

Attorney at Law, Laramie, Wyoming

*Private Practice 1995-1998-*Civil litigation, probate, criminal, child advocacy, respondent parent representation in child welfare cases, and family law dispute resolution and litigation

Wyoming Attorney General's Office

*Assistant Attorney General, 1994-1995-*administrative law attorney for professional licensing boards and commissions

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE**Municipal Court, Laramie, Wyoming**

Municipal Court Judge, November 2017-September 2023

Albany County Circuit Court, Laramie, Wyoming

Magistrate, November 2017-Present

Second Judicial District Court, Laramie, Wyoming

Commissioner, January 2023-Present

Albany County Supervised Treatment Adult Drug Court, Laramie, Wyoming

Magistrate, November 2017-2020

EDUCATION

University of Wyoming College of Law, Juris Doctor (1993)

National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Graduate

University of San Diego, Certificate in Paralegal Studies (1989)

University of Wyoming, Bachelor of Science (1989)

SELECT SCHOLARSHIP AND WRITINGS

Dona Playton, *The Hybrid Guardian Ad Litem: Adopting Standards of Practice to Improve the Quality of Representation for Children in Custody Cases*, 22 WYO. L. REV. 103 (2022)

Dona Playton, *The High Cost of Incarceration: A Call for Gender-Responsive Criminal Justice Reforms for Women and their Children*, 21 CONN. PUB. INT. L.J. 45 (2021)

Dona Playton, *Improving Legal Access and Outcomes in Family Law Cases*, 42 WYO. LAW. 20 (October 2021)

Dona Playton, *Turning a Vision into Reality: John Burman and the Clinical Programs at the UW College of Law*, 42 WYO. LAW. 30 (March 2019)

Dona Playton, *Wyoming Domestic Violence Benchbook, A practical and comprehensive source of information and law*, Wyoming Supreme Court, Wyoming Attorney General's Office, Division of Victim Services, 2d ed. (2016)

Parent Representation Committee of the Wyoming Children's Justice Project, Wyoming Supreme Court, *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 Committee, 2012)

Dona Playton, *The Legal Rights of Women in Wyoming*, A publication of the Wyoming Council for Women's Issues, 2d ed., (2010) (updates 2010-2016)

Dona Playton & Stacey Obrecht, *High Times in Wyoming: Reflecting the State's Values by Eliminating Barriers and Creating Opportunities for Women in the Equality State*, 7 WYO. L. REV. 295 (2007).

SELECT BLOG POSTS

Law School Clinics Serving the Public and Training Law Students During COVID-19 (April 27, 2020) <https://iaals.du.edu/blog/law-school-clinics-still-serving-public-and-training-students-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Rural Courts and COVID-19: Laramie Pivots to Remote Proceedings, IAALS (March 31, 2020) <https://iaals.du.edu/blog/rural-courts-and-covid-19-laramie-pivots-remote-proceedings>

Lawyers and Technology: A Combination to Improve Access to Justice, IAALS (October 11, 2017), <http://iaals.du.edu/blog/lawyers-and-technology-combination-improve-access-justice>

Divorce Out of Court: Exchanging Ideas for the Future, IAALS (July 20, 2017) <http://iaals.du.edu/blog/divorce-out-court-exchanging-ideas-future>

The Legal Marketplace is Changing and Innovating, IAALS (May 4, 2017) <http://iaals.du.edu/blog/legal-marketplace-changing-and-innovating>

Oregon's Innovative Trial Model Offers User-Friendly Option for Family Law Cases, IAALS (January 19, 2017) <http://iaals.du.edu/blog/oregon-s-innovative-trial-model-offers-user-friendly-option-family-law-cases>

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Child Support and Confidential Financial Affidavits, Wyoming State Bar Annual Convention, Laramie, Wyoming, (September 6, 2023)

Ethical Advocacy in Family Law, Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, Current Issues in Family Law, Webinar, (April 20, 2023)

Guidance on Addressing Domestic Violence Concerns in a Custody Action, Wyoming State Bar, Guardian Ad Litem Training Course, (October 29, 2021)

Family Justice Initiative: Family Law Case Considerations for Legal Reforms and Innovations, A collaboration between the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association Annual Convention, Webinar, (June 24, 2021)

Understanding Jurisdictional Statutes to Assist Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, Cheyenne, Wyoming, (February 21, 2020)

A Practical Approach to Recognizing, Evaluating, and Responding to Domestic Violence in Child Custody Disputes, Children and Family Law Section of the Wyoming State Bar, Laramie, Wyoming, (July 11, 2019)

Unleashing the Power of Court/Community Partnerships: Complex Problems, Practical Solutions, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, *Beneath the Surface of High Conflict and Troubled Families*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, (November 4, 2017)

Better Access Through Unbundling: Ideation to Implementation, Co-Chair of Standing Committee to plan and organize a conference on behalf of IAALS and the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services, National Conference, Denver, Colorado, (October 26-27, 2017)

Better Divorce: Designing Family-Centered Justice, *Court Technology Conference (CTC)*, Salt Lake City, Utah, (September 12, 2017)

Understanding the 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, Wyoming, (September 11, 2013)

Hoops and Fences, Advocating for Victims with Disabilities, WCADVSA Membership Meeting, Cheyenne, Wyoming, (February 29, 2012)

How Does Energy Development Impact Wyoming's Communities? Community Impacts Panel, Panelists: Lynne Boomgaarden - Wyoming State Lands and Investments; Dona Playton - University of Wyoming College of Law; Judge John R. Perry - Sixth Judicial District, (February 23, 2007)

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Wyoming Indian Child Welfare Act Task Force, (May 2023-Present)

American Bar Association, Wyoming State Bar Delegate, (September 2022-Present)

Wyoming Bar Association, Bar Commissioner, Second Judicial District (September 2022-Present)

American Bar Association, Sections: Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, Family Law, Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law, Civil Rights and Social Justice, and Litigation (2002 - Present)

Wyoming Bar Association, Pro Bono Award Selection Committee (2019-Present)

University of Wyoming Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel, Member (June 2022-Present)

Wyoming Access to Justice Commission, Member (2009 – 2016, 2021, reappointed 2022-Present)

Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, Board Member (2013-Present), Member (1990 – 2001, 2004 - Present) and **Women’s Law Caucus** (Chair 2007 to 2022, Member 2007-Present)

Wyoming Child Support Guidelines Committee (2012 – Present)

Children’s Justice Project, Advisory Board Member (2010 to 2016)

National Association of Counsel for Children, Child Welfare Law Specialist and Member (2005 - Present)

Wyoming Council on Women’s Issues (2016)

Wyoming Children’s Trust Fund (July 2014-2016)

Stop Violence on Campus Committee (2002-2007) and (2011-2014)

SELECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

International House Madrid, Language School, Madrid, Spain 8-week Spanish language course, (January – March 2016)

The Fundamentals of Representation of Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence from Tribal Communities, American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Minneapolis, Minnesota, (May 15-18, 2014)

Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist, a professional achievement that signifies an attorney’s specialized knowledge, skill, and verified expertise in the field of child welfare law (2012-Present)

Professional Mediation Training, University of Denver, School of Professional and Continuing Studies, University College, 40-hour Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, Denver, Colorado (January 2012)

20-hour Advanced Family Law Mediation Training “Breaking Impasse and Managing Difficult Personalities in Mediation” American Bar Association and Boston Law Collaborative, Boston, Massachusetts (May 2-4, 2012)

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

Establishing Expertise as an Ethical Expert Witness, National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence and the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Austin, Texas, (January 12-14, 2009)

Leadership Wyoming, Statewide leadership program dedicated to providing leaders committed to excellence and progress in Wyoming the opportunity to learn about public policy issues, economic and social diversity, and the challenges facing Wyoming (2008)

HONORS

Dyekman Professor of Law, the inaugural recipient of a professorship created by Gregory C. Dyekman, Long, Reimer, Winegar, LLP, awarded to recruit or retain a law school faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to providing clinical instruction, practicum instruction, experiential learning, teaching, and/or service to the legal community and state of Wyoming (2023-Present)

John M. Burman Extraordinary Service Award, recipients must demonstrate a history of extraordinary service to Wyoming lawyers, the Wyoming State Bar, the University of Wyoming College of Law, the Wyoming judiciary, the citizens of Wyoming, and the international community (second annual recipient, presented by the inaugural recipient, former Wyoming Governor Michael J. Sullivan) (2020)

Pro Bono Leaders, American Bar Association, recognized for providing extraordinary pro bono services through ABAFreeLegalAnswers.org—a virtual legal clinic where people with legal questions can get free legal information (2019)

Gerald R. Mason Professionalism Award, awarded to a Wyoming attorney who serves as an example to others by having the highest of professional standards (2016)

The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, an honorary organization of lawyers, judges, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and the highest principles of the legal profession (2016-Present)

Wyoming Women’s Foundation, featured as a Trailblazer by the Wyoming Women to Watch, Leaders, Experts, and Innovators (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)