From the Executive Director, Marilyn Harp

The Capstone of the Kansas Supreme Court building reads “Within these Walls the Balance of Justice Weighs Equal.” It is a lofty goal - one that rests in part on staff and supporters of Kansas Legal Services. For thirty years, KLS has worked tirelessly to bring truth to these words.

I have been told it is my job to be the “conscience” of the bar. Reminding, prodding, cajoling fellow members of the bar to join us in meeting the legal needs of our low income clients. Many have joined us this year. One hundred sixty-one attorneys donated over $40,000 to assist us financially. Another103 attorneys joined our “Give An Hour” campaign, volunteering their time to accept cases on a pro bono basis.

Much of 2007 was about looking forward. The legal staff was equipped with new or newer computers. In some cases, we were replacing ten year old machines. The increased efficiency of new machines continues to astound us. We can finally have all staff connected to the internet. We are working toward improving our web-based library, making standard documents available to staff and pro bono attorneys statewide. We have begun making legal information available to our clients on our website – www.kansaslegalservices.org.

During 2007, we expanded our job training programs in western Kansas. Our Job Success program began services in Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal. These motivating sessions help welfare recipients improve their job seeking skills and prepare them to join the work force. We are able to provide these classes in English and Spanish, with staff dedicated to the success of each student.

Our partnership with other agencies working with Domestic Violence victims was strengthened through a new Rural Domestic Violence grant. This grant targets four rural communities with increased legal, family counseling and advocacy resources. We are excited by this new opportunity to reduce the effects of violence on our clients and their children.

We paused in July to look back on the past 30 years of Kansas Legal Service success. A Proclamation from Governor Kathleen Sebelius recognized the vision of past staff and boards in creating a statewide organization dedicated to removing barriers that kept Kansas families from enjoying economic success. A copy of the complete proclamation is included in this annual report.

As we look ahead to the next 30 years, we remain resolute in our efforts to bring equal justice to low income Kansans. We will build and shape our legal, mediation and employment training programs to improve their lives, and as a result, all of Kansas.
PROGRAM HISTORY

During the 1920s, the American Bar Association acknowledged the need for special assistance to the poor by creating a committee on legal aid. Early legal services supporters recognized that the pledge of “equal justice under the law” cannot be realized as long as people with limited resources do not have access to the justice system. Legal aid societies were formed in Topeka, Wichita and Kansas City by lawyers and community members concerned about the poor. From the 1960s until 1974, the three Kansas legal aid societies, with the support of local bar associations, operated under the authority of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Office of Legal Services. The courts became a key battleground in the War on Poverty and Legal Services lawyers were the advocates and defenders of the poor throughout America. Along with Head Start and the Community Action Program, Legal Services is one of the enduring programs from that era.

Authority for the legal services program was transferred from the Community Services Administration (successor to the Office of Economic Opportunity) to the newly formed Legal Services Corporation during 1975. Through all of these changes in administrative authority and funding, the Kansas legal aid societies continued to provide free legal services to the poor in Kansas.

In 1977, the Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita legal aid societies merged to form Kansas Legal Services, Inc. Kansas was the second state in the nation to become a single, statewide entity. Building on this strength, Kansas Legal Services now has thirteen legal services field offices and two mediation offices located across the state, and maintains an extensive retainer contract system with cooperating members of the Kansas Bar Association.

GOALS

Kansas Legal Services has progressively focused its efforts on special needs individuals, such as victims of domestic violence, the homeless, children in foster care, the elderly, farmers, those with disabling conditions, individuals seeking access to health care, those seeking mediation services and persons who need basic life skills and employment training.

One mission of Kansas Legal Services is to provide equal access to justice for persons not able to pay for legal and other essential services. Kansas Legal Services is also a vehicle for keeping many low income people from falling permanently into the category of chronically poor. It serves as a conduit by which many low income people successfully get back on their feet and become self-sustaining.
TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, on July 11, 1977, three directors of independent legal services programs within the state of Kansas—Roger McCollister, Richard Wallace and Brian Moline—took the historic step of merging resources in the interest of serving more low income Kansans; and

WHEREAS, the resulting Kansas Legal Services has flourished under their vision, providing legal advice and representation to hundreds of thousands of low income Kansans in the last three decades; and

WHEREAS, 16 office locations now provide services to citizens in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, this nonprofit organization fulfills its mission with the support of government agencies, private foundations, the private bar, the Kansas Bar Association and the Office of Judicial Administration; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Legal Services assists citizens with comprehensive care, being among the few legal service organizations nationwide offering employment training and mediation along with legal services for the betterment of our communities; and

WHEREAS, 2007 marks 30 years of this essential resource for ensuring equal access to justice for all Kansans:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby recognize the

30th Anniversary of Kansas Legal Services

and urge all citizens to heighten awareness of legal resources available to low-income Kansans.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of the
State this 25th day of
June, A.D. 2007

BY THE GOVERNOR:

[Signature]
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State
Civil Legal Assistance

Civil legal assistance is advice and representation in cases that are not punishable by imprisonment. They involve suits over money, property and other individual rights. Such cases might include consumer, finance, education, employment, family, health, housing, juvenile issues, income assistance, Indian law and individual rights.

HOW DO KANSANS QUALIFY?

- Must have a problem that has a legal remedy
- Must have a legal problem that can be resolved through the Kansas courts
- Must be eligible for free or reduced fee legal assistance (call for details)

WHAT ABOUT VICTIMS OF CRIME?

The Victims’ Rights Program of the Kansas Attorney General’s Office (1-800-828-9745) has many helpful resources.

Victims of sexual or domestic violence can call 1-800-799-7233 or visit the website of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (www.kcsdv.org).

WHAT IF SOMEONE DOESN’T QUALIFY FOR KLS SERVICES?

Those with needs outside KLS services (criminal and traffic) may want to ask the District Court to appoint an attorney.

Individuals who wish to have an attorney may call the Kansas Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral Service (1-800-928-3111). Staff of the Lawyer Referral Service will provide names and contact information of area attorneys who specialize in the area of law at hand.

TYPES OF CASES KLS DOESN’T HANDLE:

- Criminal cases*
- Traffic cases*
- Accident claims
- Personal injury or wrongful death suits
- Representation of prisoners

* Criminal and traffic cases may be handled by court appointment or government contract.
## CASE TOTALS
### 2007 CASE DISTRIBUTION

![Pie chart showing case distribution by category: Family 46%, Disability/Income 14%, Consumer 8%, Miscellaneous 16%, Housing 4%, Health 2%, Juvenile 10%]

### A D V I C E A N D R E P R E S E N T A T I O N

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<td>28</td>
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<td>Advice &amp; Brief Service</td>
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<td>3,336</td>
<td>3,384</td>
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<td>TOTAL CASES</td>
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<td>25,816</td>
<td>29,319</td>
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**CLIENT PROFILES IN 2007**

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<td>162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1,936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1,143</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENDER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7,454</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>21,134</td>
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**AGE**

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<th>Under 18</th>
<th>18-59</th>
<th>60 and over</th>
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<td>Asian</td>
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<td>125</td>
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<td>162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>1,653</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>2,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>1,421</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1,936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>302</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>10,926</td>
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<td>Unknown</td>
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* Total clients for whom demographic information was available.
KLS attorney **Leland Cox** is the recipient of the 2007 Elizabeth Ferguson Award, which honors excellence in service by KLS staff members. Cox’s tireless work with clients has gone beyond the call of duty and improved the lives of those he serves.

Born and raised in Norton, Kansas, Leland Cox earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas Law School in 1981. After working in private practice for ten years, Leland began working at KLS as a staff attorney in 1991. As a lead attorney in the KLS Topeka office dealing with Social Security, bankruptcy, and the Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service, Cox has continually worked to meet the needs of his clients. He is licensed to practice in all courts in Kansas, including the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts and the Federal District Courts; Leland is also licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Leland’s knowledge of legal subject areas is vital to the mission of KLS. His willingness to share his knowledge has distinguished him as a respected attorney in our offices as well as in the broader legal community. Leland is a member of the board of the local bankruptcy bar and has been a mentor to many attorneys entering bankruptcy practice. In 2008, Mr. Cox became the managing attorney for the KLS Kansas City office.

Cox is diligent and committed to helping his clients, and his dedication benefits the client community as well as others who serve and assist KLS clients. Employee Becky Wyre, explains “Leland has always gone above and beyond for his clients. Leland knows the needs of our diverse clientele and he is there each and every time to meet those needs. His heart is and will always be in the right place when it comes to serving those less fortunate.”

When asked to recall an important case, Leland explains “My most memorable case would likely be a social security case which I inherited. I worked on it for approximately 10 years, appealing to the Appeals Council and to Federal Court multiple times, but finally was successful in getting the client benefits for the entire time period.”

Leland’s consistent commitment to the needs of clients continues to be vastly important to KLS and the Kansans he serves.
Employment Training

Who is served by employment training programs?

Individuals enrolled in Kansas Legal Services’ employment training programs are generally classified as “economically disadvantaged.”

More specifically, this group includes:

- Those on TAF (cash assistance) who are required to be enrolled in job-related activities as a prerequisite for cash assistance.
- People considered “Dislocated Workers,” or those who have lost jobs through no fault of their own (such as plant closings or permanent layoffs).
- Farmers and ranchers seeking transition to non-farm employment.
- Individuals with disabling mental or physical conditions.
- Low income individuals seeking to upgrade their skills in order to obtain a higher paying job.
- Other individuals eligible under the federal Workforce Investment Act.
- Persons who are chronically homeless and need assistance in overcoming persistent barriers to obtaining employment and housing.
- People whose employers wish to have them trained in a particular software application.

Since 1995, Kansas Legal Services has provided employment and life-skills training to low income Kansans, helping them acquire and maintain family-supporting employment. KLS offers a variety of training services and works closely with clients in a one-on-one, supportive and nurturing environment to ensure that individual goals are met.

KLS currently has employment training programs in nine locations across the state.

Job readiness is vital to independence from long-term public assistance. In 2007, KLS Employment Training served over 1,300 people. KLS will continue to build its capacity to meet the training needs of its client community.
• **Work Opportunities for Rural Kansans** (WORKs) began at KLS in 1995. WORKs assists displaced farmers and their families with training, education and non-farm job placement. The program is funded by the Kansas Department of Commerce and serves as a valuable complement to KLS work in farm law. In 2007, WORKs put more emphasis on outreach to potentially eligible farmers.

• **Job Success** was created in 1999 by KLS. Job Success provides job readiness and life-skills training to recipients of long-term cash assistance and other persons entering the workforce for the first time. Job Success classes are located in Topeka, Garden City, Dodge City, Liberal and Great Bend.

• **Custom Computer Training** (CCT) was created in 2001 to provide specific job related computer skills. CCT provides wide-ranging services, from specialized one-on-one training in particular software applications to job readiness. This program is used by private employers, SRS, Vocational Rehabilitation and other training agencies.

• **Topeka Moving Ahead Program** (T-MAP) provides comprehensive employment training, housing assistance and other services to homeless persons in Topeka. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Topeka and other community partners. The Topeka Rescue Mission provides housing to most program participants.

• **Case Management Services** for youth and adults have been provided by KLS under the Workforce Investment Act. In 2007, KLS provided one-on-one case management services to youth, disadvantaged adults and dislocated workers in the 62 counties of western Kansas and to disadvantaged in- and out-of-school youth in the Topeka area. These services helped youth and adults overcome barriers to employment, and obtain and retain employment.

For more than 25 years, the Skahan brothers have jointly run the Skahan Farms Partnership as a family farming operation. “I really love farming,” says Traven Skahan, the young fourth generation farmer. “My dad always says that farming is in our blood, and I feel that way too. I just wish there was a way to make a decent living from it.” Recognizing the improbability of the family farm supporting his future, Traven is preparing for a career off the farm. He is attending Construction Technology classes at the Columbus Technical Campus of the Coffeyville Community College. He aspires to get a job with a local construction company, stay close to his community, and continue to offer his assistance on the family farm. “The financial help WORKs has given me has been a big relief. The program helped me with my tuition and gas money/mileage. Continuing my education could easily have been put aside if not for their help.” WORKs and the training that Traven is receiving through community college courses is a much needed boost to this family’s future.

---

“T-MAP was a second chance for me. Through T-MAP, I found employment, housing and a new outlook on life.”

---

**Kansas Legal Services celebrates 12 years of the Employment Training Division!**
Kansas Facts

Two-thirds of western Kansas is comprised of 100% rural communities.

A mother and two children living on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) in Kansas survive on $403 per month to meet rent, utilities, clothes, car insurance, etc.

13% of Kansans live in poverty.

A family of two living on full time, Federal minimum wage live at 90% of the Federal Poverty guideline.

7,922 Protection From Abuse Orders were filed in Kansas in 2007.

Population: 2,764,075

15% of Kansans have income below $15,000/year.

The Governor’s Office estimates that over 106,000 women over 18 were victims of domestic violence in 2007.

On any given night in Kansas, there are at least 18,698 people homeless.
What is Mediation?

Mediation is a voluntary process in which a trained mediator facilitates communication and negotiation between parties in dispute. The goal of mediation is to reach an agreement that settles the dispute in a mutually satisfactory manner.

Mediations are conducted at a neutral location and in an informal and non-threatening environment. During the mediation process, all participants have the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings regarding the matter in dispute. With the mediator, all individuals collectively create an agenda, identify the issue in dispute, define each individual’s interests and create an agreement.

How do people access mediation services?

KLS provides mediation in a wide variety of cases including insurance disputes, special education, employment discrimination, public accommodations and domestic matters such as custody and visitation. In 2007, more than 1,000 Kansans received mediation assistance from KLS, which receives referrals from local district courts, the Kansas Human Rights Commission, the Kansas Insurance Department and others. KLS also offers fee-based mediations on a sliding scale. Contact Randy Hershey, Director of Mediation, at 785-232-5348.

What are the benefits of mediation?

**Mediation is non-judgmental.**
Mediators do not act as advocates, render any opinion or decide how the dispute should be resolved. The mediator does not assess fault or take sides.

**Participants control the outcome.**
Individuals involved in mediation create their own agreement. The mediator’s role is to help develop a realistic, workable solution that takes everyone’s thoughts and feelings into consideration.

**Mediation is confidential.**
Kansas law (with some exceptions) makes mediations confidential. All notes made by mediators are destroyed after an agreement is reached. No participant can subpoena the mediator, and no information specific to the mediation is admissible in court.

**Mediation can resolve issues quickly.**
Mediation can resolve disputes in a matter of days, as opposed to the months or years it may take in traditional legal proceedings.

**Mediation can preserve relationships.**
Mediation can help build a positive framework for future interactions between individuals. Mediation also models problem solving, listening and negotiation skills that can benefit participants long-term.

**Mediation gets results.**
Depending on the type of dispute, between 40 and 80 percent of disputes taken to mediation result in agreement.
The KLS mediation program has twelve approved mediators providing civil rights, employment, domestic, truancy, permanency, juvenile, insurance and other mediation services throughout the state. Mediation services complement the work of KLS by providing a non-adversarial dispute resolution method for appropriate cases.

- **Access to Justice Mediations** (ATJ) are funded by the Office of Judicial of Administration under the direction of the Kansas Supreme Court. ATJ funding enables court personnel to refer clients directly to KLS offices for mediation services at no cost to participants. Most ATJ mediations involve post-divorce custody issues.

- **Human Rights Mediations** offer voluntary mediation to individuals involved in employment, housing, public accommodation, and racial profiling complaints filed with the Kansas Human Rights Commission. The Kansas Bar Foundation with Interest on Lawyer’s Trust Accounts funding, provides some support to this program.

- The **Sedgwick County and Sumner County Juvenile Dependency Mediation Projects** use mediation to resolve child welfare matters in a manner that is less divisive and time consuming than traditional court proceedings. The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services area offices continue to support these programs.

- **The Wichita Truancy Mediation Pilot Project** works with the Sedgwick County District Attorney’s Office to address truancy problems in Sedgwick County through mediation. The project was first piloted under a grant from the Wichita Community Foundation and was funded by a grant from the Office of Judicial Administration in 2007.

- **Kansas Insurance Department Mediations** are provided to consumers and insurance companies who are in dispute over property and casualty claims in matters referred to the Kansas Insurance Department.
A woman who was over 60 years of age and who utilized a large dog as a service animal applied to enroll in a small, privately owned, vocational school. The registrar/owner of the school told her that she should consider her age and apparent infirmity before committing to spend several months and several thousand dollars learning a new trade. The woman filed an age and disability complaint with KHRC.

In mediation it became apparent that the owner/registrar was contrite and just wanted out of the trouble that she perceived herself to be in. It also became apparent that the complainant was more hurt than angry or offended over the substance of her complaint. The parties came to a mutually agreeable resolution whereby the owner/registrar apologized to the complainant, paid $500.00 in non-economic damages, and promised not to speak to anyone else in the manner that the complainant had been spoken to. The owner also explained that her intention was only to try to protect Complainant by pointing out the rigors of the program that the complainant wanted to sign up for. The parties left together seemingly having a pleasant conversation.

Two children, ages 8 and 5, had been living with their maternal grandparents who had been the caretakers of the two children since birth. The grandparents petitioned the court for a private CINC (Child In Need of Care) petition. Permanency was to be determined for two children. The children’s parents had a history of substance abuse, thus the children were living with their grandparents.

Mediation was successful in getting all the parties to agree that the grandparents would obtain Legal Permanent Custodianship of the children with a conditional visitation plan for parents. Both the parents agreed to enter drug/alcohol treatment immediately, complete the program and follow up with the recommendations of the facility before having any unsupervised visits with the children. The grandparents obtained legal Custodianship, the children are thriving and the parents have maintained their visitation with the children.
## Funding and Staff Figures

### Year Ended December 31, 2007

**With Comparative Totals 2004-2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<td>285,958</td>
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<td>Mediation Contracts &amp; Fees</td>
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<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Other Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>423,479</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,131,856</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,387,832</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,072,119</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,853,705</strong></td>
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### Staff Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalent employees</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>154</td>
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</table>
1,229 parents received child support orders benefiting 2,490 children in divorce and paternity cases filed by KLS staff.

1,604 victims of domestic violence obtained a PFA, through the representation of a KLS advocate.

1,057 adults received steady income from Social Security or SSI benefits, successfully concluding the case that KLS assisted with, funded by the Kansas Health Policy Authority.
## 2007 Board of Directors

### Kansas Legal Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role/Position</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Allen</td>
<td>Client Rep – Pittsburg</td>
<td>2007-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie J. Branham</td>
<td>Attorney-KC Metro Service Area</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Briscoe</td>
<td>Attorney-KU School of Law Vice-President</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Calvin</td>
<td>Client Rep—Garden/Dodge City Service Area</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlene Brubaker</td>
<td>Attorney Hays</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon. Jerry Elliott</td>
<td>Attorney - KBA Board of Governors</td>
<td>2004-2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry C. Hoffman</td>
<td>Attorney Olathe Service Area</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>David McLane</td>
<td>Attorney - Pittsburg Service Area</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynnette Petty</td>
<td>Attorney-Washburn Law School</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Ralstin</td>
<td>Client Rep-Wichita Service Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Potter</td>
<td>Staff Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Reeder</td>
<td>Attorney-Topeka Service Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Robinson</td>
<td>Client Rep-Hays Service Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Thompson</td>
<td>Attorney-Salina Service Area</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Slater</td>
<td>Client Rep-Manhattan Service Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Tibbils</td>
<td>Client Rep-Kansas City Service Area</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serena Wecker</td>
<td>Client Rep-Emporia Service Area</td>
<td>2006-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Lynn Ward</td>
<td>Attorney-Wichita Service Area</td>
<td>2007-2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Contact Information

## Administrative Office

712 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, KS  66603  
785-233-2068 telephone  
785-354-8311 fax  
**Executive Director:** Marilyn Harp

## Legal Assistance Offices

### Dodge City

100 Military Plaza, Suite 101  
Dodge City, KS  67801  
620-227-7349 telephone  
620-227-8001 fax  
Managing Attorney: Robert Kennington

### Emporia

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620-343-7520 telephone  
620-343-6898 fax  
Managing Attorney: Ty Wheeler

### Garden City

120 Grant  
Garden City, KS  67846  
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785-838-3404 fax  
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Managing Attorney: Paul Shipp

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EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

Director: Lea Vincent

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Dodge City, KS 67801
620-338-8952 telephone
620-227-6498 fax

Liberal Job Success
615 N Kansas
Liberal, KS 67901
620-626-3700 telephone
620-227-6498 fax

Salina Youth Vision
203 N 10th
Salina, KS 67401
785-827-0385 telephone
785-827-2307 fax

Garden City Job Success
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Garden City, KS 67846
620-271-9295 telephone
620-272-5830 fax

Hays WORKs
2017 N. Vine
Hays, KS 67601
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785-623-4262 fax

Topeka-Job Success
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Topeka, KS 66603
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785-354-8311 fax

Great Bend Job Success
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Great Bend, KS 67530
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620-792-5373 fax

Hays Youth Vision
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Hays, KS 67601
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785-625-0092 fax

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785-270-5698 fax

Great Bend Youth Vision
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Great Bend, KS 67530
620-793-5445 telephone
620-793-3188 fax

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785-235-5629 telephone
785-354-8311 fax

Topeka-WORKs
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Topeka, KS 66603
785-270-5662 telephone
785-354-8311 fax

MEDIATION SERVICES

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785-233-5932 fax