

Carol Ruth Bonebrake
Law Office of Carol Ruth Bonebrake, PA
107 SW 6th, Suite 210
Topeka, Kansas 66603
Tel. 785.234.4661
Fax. 785.234.4630
carol@crblawtopeka.com



Small Firm ◆◆ Exceptional Service ◆◆ Outstanding Results

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

GENERAL: Carol graduated from K.U. Law School in 1986 and clerked for Court of Appeals Judge Gary Rulon, now Chief Judge. In December 2006 Carol established her own law firm after seven years with Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer, L.L.P. She was a partner for four years before setting out on her own. Prior to joining the Goodell firm she served as an Assistant City Attorney and in-house corporate counsel for the City of Topeka. She has represented clients in arbitrations, mediations, and has served as a mediator. She provides training on risk management, peer review, advanced directives, EMTALA, and employment law. She has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Washburn teaching pretrial practice and is a regular guest speaker for the Entrepreneurial Law class. Carol is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, the Kansas Hospital Attorney's Association, the Kansas and Topeka Bar Associations, and the Kansas and Topeka Women Attorneys Associations.

She is a Master with the Sam A. Crow American Inn of Court, a professional organization that promotes professionalism and civility in the practice of law. She has served as pupillage team leader, Program Chair, Counselor, and President of the Inn. Carol serves as a commissioner for the Kansas Lawyer Assistance Commission by appointment of the Kansas Supreme Court. She also serves as a member of the Topeka Bar Association's Ethics Committee, and treasurer for the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka. Carol is the recent Past President of the YWCA of Topeka and served on that Board for seven years. She is also a member of the Mt. Hope Cemetery Board.

CITY OF TOPEKA: From 1996 to 2000 Carol worked directly with both Mayor Felker and Mayor Wagnon on various issues facing the City of Topeka. She also worked with the City Council and drafted resolutions and ordinances. Carol was general counsel for the Topeka Human Relations Commission and worked with the Planning and Zoning Commission on signage issues which required consultation with the Kansas Department of Transportation. She represented the Topeka Zoo in a federal regulatory investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and represented the Topeka Housing Authority in all federal Housing and Urban Development issues involving public housing, including the reopening of decade old class action litigation.

Carol worked directly with the City Treasurer regarding financial matters and the City Clerk regarding licensing issues and the Kansas Open Records Act. She worked closely with the Purchasing Department on procurement, contract, bid issues, and with the Information Technology Resources Department, generally on contract matters. She finalized the City-Shawnee County lease for the Law Enforcement Center, drafted contracts for the construction and later sale of Shorey Estates, a mixed income housing development, handled all employment matters, including Americans with Disabilities Act

and Fair Labor Standards Act compliance, and represented the City in arbitrations under the City's seven collective bargaining agreements.

All of Carol's work with the City of Topeka required a thorough knowledge of the Kansas Open Meetings Act and Kansas Open Records Act. During her four years with the City, Carol was responsible for complete revisions of the City's Administrative Code, Sign Code, and Personnel Code.

KOCH CRIME COMMISSION: For one year between her government service with the Attorney General and the City of Topeka, Carol directed the Koch Crime Commission's Juvenile Justice Research Project. This project included research and analysis of juvenile justice codes in all 50 states and culminated in a report which included recommendations for consideration by the Kansas Legislature.

KANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: Carol served for six years as an Assistant Attorney General with Robert T. Stephan. For approximately two of the six years, Carol's practice was devoted to agency representation in licensing matters. During this period, she represented numerous boards including the Kansas Parole Board, the Kansas Boards of Cosmetology, Barbers, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Mortuary Arts, the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, the Kansas Racing Commission, and the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Commission. She also represented the Kansas Animal Health Department and worked with the U.S. Department of Agricultural in the licensing, regulation, and enforcement of "puppy mill" laws. This agency representation included both regulatory work and district court litigation up through the judicial review and appellate proceedings.

For approximately four years, Carol represented the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Corrections, district attorneys, state court judges, and several governors in federal and state court litigation, typically involving the 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and claims under the Kansas Tort Claims Act. She represented the governor in a re-opened federal class action prison conditions case and testified before various legislative committees during the course of her service with the Attorney General.

KANSAS APPELLATE COURTS: Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Carol was a research attorney with the Kansas Appellate Courts and served as the first research attorney for the Honorable Gary Rulon, now Chief Judge of the Kansas Court of Appeals. Carol was responsible for preparing pre-hearing memoranda and opinion drafts for members of the court after review and thorough research involving the pertinent issues raised on appeal. This work involved administrative appeals and a clear understanding of the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act and the Act for Judicial Review of Agency Actions.

GOODELL, STRATTON, EDMONDS & PALMER: Carol joined GSEP in January 2000. Her practice included the representation of creditors in bankruptcy matters, general collection litigation, insurance related litigation, general counsel work with employers involving employment matters including sexual harassment investigations, employee handbook and policies and procedures review and revision, Kansas Human Rights Commission investigations, representation of employers and employees in arbitrations and mediations, American Arbitration Association training, Kansas Hospital Association arbitration training, and Kansas mediation training. Carol provides training and education on corporate governance for boards of directors/trustees as well as employment law training for executive staff, managers, and department directors. The employment training includes the Fair Labor Standards Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, Title VII, the Kansas statutory equivalents as well as negligent hiring/retention, defamation, intentional infliction of emotional harm, breach of contract, breach of restrictive covenants and related state law causes of action. She also assisted individuals with business matters, simple wills and Powers of Attorney.

LAW OFFICE OF CAROL RUTH BONEBRAKE, PA: Carol established her firm in December 2006. In February, 2008 Jennifer Conkling Bazin joined the firm as an associate. Jennifer is originally from Kansas City, Kansas and has been a member of the Kansas bar since 2003. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Kansas State University, she pursued her law degree at Washburn University School of Law in Topeka. She was a member of the Washburn Law Journal and graduated with Dean's Honors. After graduation, Jennifer worked for the Disability Rights Center, a public interest legal advocacy agency empowered by federal law to advocate for the civil and legal rights of Kansans with disabilities. Jennifer then went to work for the Appellate Defender Office where she represented indigent criminal defendants appealing felony convictions. She has argued in district courts, and both the Kansas Court of Appeals and Kansas Supreme Court. While at the Appellate Defender Office, she represented the first bartender in Kansas ever convicted of manslaughter for the alcohol poisoning death of a bar patron. The trial gained wide attention and was featured on Court TV as a precedent-setting case involving club owners' responsibility to patrons. The Kansas Supreme Court reversed the conviction in a unanimous opinion published in December, 2007. Jennifer brings strong appellate advocacy, research and writing skills to the firm.

The Firm's corporate clients include many not-for-profit entities involved in providing health and human services. The representation of health and human services providers requires a thorough knowledge of various federal and state regulatory and licensing schemes. Our practice style is one of collaboration, consultation, and on-going communication to ensure that the client's interests are effectively represented. On any given issue, the client is provided with a spectrum of options and a cost-benefit analysis for the various approaches. Once the client has made an informed decision, the client's interests will be advanced and, while an assertive approach may be required at times, the reputation, good will, and public perception of a public service client must be factored into any legal approach to problem solving. Carol has several business clients for which she performs general counsel work including contract review, collections, and employment matters. She also serves as the City Attorney for the City of McLouth. The highest standards of business and legal ethics are maintained.