

**MISSOURI BAR - ADR COMMITTEE**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON COLLABORATIVE LAW**  
**May 12, 2006**

**1. Key Developments**

(a) Texas statutes recognize collaborative law procedures for divorce and child custody cases defining what constitutes a collaborative law agreement and how to obtain a court's judgment based upon a collaborative law agreement. (See Section 6.603 and Section 153.0072 of the Texas Family Code.)

(b) Efforts exist to apply collaborative law processes to cases other than family law. See articles: *Is Civil Collaborative Law the Next Big Thing?*, Jeanne Fahey, ABA Publication: "Just Resolutions," January 2006, p.8. (Refers to a future website of [www.civilcollaborativelaw.com](http://www.civilcollaborativelaw.com).) Also an older article in Missouri Lawyers Weekly dated November 29, 2004: *Expanding Collaborative Law Beyond Divorce Cases*, Lisa Herder, p. 10.

(c) No known caselaw

**2. Trends and Issues**

Ethical Issues and Rules of Professional Responsibility

No Written Opinions from Missouri Disciplinary Counsel or Ethics Counsel (but Mid-Missouri Collaborative and Cooperative Law Association may seek opinion)

Other states have issued opinions

- Pennsylvania (Informal Opinion 2004-24, May 11, 2004)
- Kentucky (Ethics Opinion KBA E-425, June 2005)
- New Jersey (Opinion 699 from Advisory Commission on Professional Ethics, December 12, 2005)

**3. Resources**

a) Missouri Groups

- i) Collaborative Family Law Association in St. Louis  
130 South Bemiston, Suite 706  
Clayton MO, 63105

Contact: Susan Amato  
Phone 314-727-7122  
[amato@anet-stl.com](mailto:amato@anet-stl.com)

Website: [www.collaborativefamilylaw-mo.org](http://www.collaborativefamilylaw-mo.org)

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- ii) Collaborative Law Institute of Missouri in Kansas City  
1310 Carondelet Dr., Ste 300  
Kansas City MO, 64114

Contact: Karen Plax Phone 816-942-1900  
kaplax@swbell.net

Website: [www.collablawmo.com](http://www.collablawmo.com)

- iii) Mid-Missouri Collaborative and Cooperative Law Association

Beginning stages of formation

Contact: David Gibbons:  
dgibbons@mchsi.com

Website: [www.mmcccla.org](http://www.mmcccla.org)

- b) International Academy of Collaborative Professionals  
<http://www.collaborativepractice.com/>
- c) <http://www.mediate.com/collaborativelaw/index.cfm>
- d) Professor Lande at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law has a webpage with his articles: <http://www.law.missouri.edu/lande/publications.htm>
- e) Pauline Tesler, Collaborative Law: Achieving Effective Resolution in Divorce without Litigation, ABA Publication 2001, ISBN – 1-57073-931-5

#### **4. Upcoming Training**

None known in Missouri

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals lists nationwide training at: <http://www.collaborativepractice.com/>

Its annual conference entitled "Taking Collaborative Practice to the Next Level: The Care and Feeding of a Revolution" is in San Diego, California on October 13 - 15, 2006