

10.12.2021
Attorneys and Advocates:
Working Together to Improve Domestic and Sexual Survivor Outcomes
Biographies

Karen Ebmeier

Karen Ebmeier works as a LAV attorney with KCSDV to fill a critical need in the justice system. Karen has worked as a public defender, a domestic violence prosecutor, and a family law attorney since her admission to the Kansas bar in 2007. She was able to be part of a Family Safety Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma as part of her work as a protection order attorney at Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS). As part of that team, she witnessed the impact of wholistic care for domestic violence survivors and it made a strong impression on her about how important it is to provide family services for survivors. Karen strives to do that in her legal practice, and believes it is important to work with LAV to ensure that all survivors have access to quality resources and services. Karen is grateful to her law firm, Thompson-Hall, PA, and her husband, Carl Folsom, for recognizing this important work and fully supporting her work with LAV.

Sarah Balderas

Sarah was born and raised in Wichita. She attended Bishop Carroll High School and received The Greater Wichita Sports Commission's Lynette Woodard Female Athlete of the Year Award in 2011. Sarah received her bachelor's degree from Newman University and her Juris Doctorate from the Washburn University School of Law. While studying at Washburn Law, Sarah had the opportunity to work for Kansas Legal Services in Wichita, the Department of Homeland Security in Kansas City, the Washburn Law Clinic in Topeka, and with the Honorable Judge Birzer at the United States District Court for the District of Kansas in Wichita. Sarah has been practicing law since September of 2018. She specializes in removal defense and humanitarian-based immigration. After working for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Sarah gained special knowledge regarding the removal process and the immigration court system. Sarah is also humbled to represent victims who have suffered from violence either here in the United States or abroad. She is most known by clients and the community as understanding and willing to fight for her client's best interests. Along with her cousin, Angela Balderas, Sarah recently opened an immigration practice, Balderas Legal Group, LLC. In her free time, Sarah enjoys playing golf with her family.

Kerrie Lonard

Kerrie Lonard is a managing attorney for Kansas Legal Services. Kerrie has a MSW and JD. She provides legal representation in many areas including child of need of care, juvenile offender, protection from abuse, domestic, landlord tenant, probate, estate planning and more. Kerrie also provides training on juvenile and domestic law issues to many groups and agencies and is a member of the statewide Citizen Review Panel-Intake to Petition in addition to being involved in several professional state and local bar memberships.

Noah Cantin

Noah has worked as an advocate since 2019 and is currently the court advocate at the Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas (DVACK). Noah has degrees in criminal justice and psychology.

Emily Voss

Emily Voss has been with the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) in Kansas City as an Advocacy and Outreach Specialist for over three years. For the last 2 ½ years she has been working almost exclusively with survivors in Wyandotte County, Kansas. Before coming to MOCSA, Emily received her Master's degree at the London School of Economics in Anthropology and International Development with a focus in Gender Studies. Additionally she has conducted research in family dynamics, gender based violence and barriers to women's empowerment in a variety of locations, including Bangladesh and India.

Shannon Reid

Shannon is the Court Advocacy Coordinator at The Willow Domestic Violence Center in Lawrence. Prior to joining The Willow, Shannon worked as the Leadership Education and Development Program Director at Fiver Children's Foundation Summer Camp in upstate New York, was an AmeriCorps VISTA Member at Groundwork, Inc. in Brooklyn, NY, and the Volunteer Coordinator at United Way Roger Hill Volunteer Center in Lawrence.