~~~ Call for Proposals ~~~

New Deadline: October 10, 2012

Making and Teaching “Real” Family Law: A Celebration of the Scholarship and Service of Professor Margo Melli

6th Annual Midwest Family Law Consortium Workshop

University of Wisconsin-Madison

April 5-7, 2013

The University of Wisconsin Law School and the Institute for Legal Studies are jointly sponsoring the 6th Annual Midwest Family Law Consortium Workshop at the Pyle Center on the UW campus. The Workshop theme – Making and Teaching “Real” Family Law – reflects and celebrates the scholarly and professional contributions of Professor Emerita Marygold Melli. http://law.wisc.edu/profiles/msmelli@wisc.edu

Professor Melli joined the law school in 1959, at a time when women law faculty were few in number and family law education was in its infancy. Professor Melli created a pathbreaking body of scholarly work that spans the development of modern family law, takes on the real world challenges facing ordinary families, and illuminates the transformation of family law. Child support and shared child custody are just two areas where her pioneering work has had enduring influence. Professor Melli participated in a large-scale research project that resulted in the reform of the Wisconsin child support system and that served as a model for the mandate by the federal government that states adopt child support guidelines. In the area of child custody, Professor Melli’s critical study of judicial decision making and her empirical examination of the economics of child custody outcomes laid the groundwork for innovations in the law and practice of shared parenting. She has also been recognized for her role as a mentor to women lawyers and academics, and for her lifelong contributions to the advancement of women in the legal profession.

The Workshop theme is intended to be inclusive. Papers or panels on any family law topic of broad interest are encouraged, including both public and private family law as well as social work and the social sciences. Professors who are engaged in the scholarship of teaching who would like to present their insights on family law education issues are likewise encouraged to submit proposals for papers or for demonstrations of pedagogy.

Possible panel topics include:

- Family Law & Low-Income Families
- Innovations in Teaching
- Race, Culture, Class and Sexual Orientation in Family Law
- The Stories Behind the Cases
- The Future of Spousal Support
- Inequality and Social Mobility
In addition to regular conference presentations, the meeting will include "Works in Progress" sessions and "Thoughts Out Loud" sessions. These workshop sessions are designed to provide an opportunity for discussion of scholarly work at an early stage. Works in Progress workshop participants will be asked to circulate a 3 to 5 page written discussion summary of their project to other participants before the meeting date. Thoughts Out Loud workshop participants will be asked to circulate a one-page written overview or outline of their project to other participants in advance.

Interested persons should submit proposals using the registration and proposal form linked to the workshop website: [http://law.wisc.edu/ils/2013familylaw](http://law.wisc.edu/ils/2013familylaw). Please plan to provide a title and short synopsis of your proposal. The form also allows you to include a short bio statement which will be included in workshop materials.

Proposals submitted before September 21st will be given priority consideration. If you have questions about the Call for Proposals or other program plans, please contact the Workshop Co-Chairs, Professors Tonya Brito ([tlbrito@wisc.edu](mailto:tlbrito@wisc.edu)) and Marsha Mansfield ([mmmansfield@wisc.edu](mailto:mmmansfield@wisc.edu)). If you have questions about logistics or other information on the workshop website, contact Pam Hollenhorst, Associate Director of the Institute for Legal Studies, at [pshollen@wisc.edu](mailto:pshollen@wisc.edu). A draft program, list of abstracts and bio statements eventually will be posted on the workshop website, which also includes hotel information and other details. Please bookmark this page: [http://law.wisc.edu/ils/2013familylaw](http://law.wisc.edu/ils/2013familylaw/)

The Midwest Family Law Consortium is an organization of law schools whose members collaborate to advance family law scholarship and teaching. Founded by the family law faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, William Mitchell College of Law, and Indiana University-Indianapolis, with additional sponsoring members Michigan State, University of Iowa, Washburn, and University of Wisconsin law schools. The consortium is open to any law school, but serves primarily the Midwest region.

**Workshop Planning Committee**

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