

J. Kim Wright, J.D.

- *Pioneer, catalyst and leader in a new paradigm of peace-making law*
- *Teacher & trainer*
- *Collaborative divorce lawyer*
- *Family mediator, victim-offender dialog facilitator*
- *Peace-maker, problem-solver, healer*
- *Writer, editor, publisher, media consultant, documentarian*
- *Consultant, coach, program developer*
- *Speaker, conference & retreat planner*
- *Community leader and organizer*
- *Social entrepreneur & constructionist*

Current Activities:

Publisher & Managing Editor CuttingEdgeLaw.com: *Founder and developer of an internet-based community for lawyers focused on legal trends especially in areas of comprehensive law, humanizing legal education, peacemaking, healing, and problem-solving approaches to law, lawyer well-being and transforming practices. Conceived to support the growth of a movement in the law based upon those ideas, CuttingEdgeLaw.com is a forum for sharing popular and scholarly writings. It also supports the well-being of lawyers and the design of law practices that are aligned with the noble values that inspired most lawyers to go to law school in the first place. Legal professionals have the power to effect social change on many fronts and CuttingEdgeLaw.com encourages and promotes the responsible use of such power. Developed on a Drupal framework, the site is multi-media and includes a series of educational and storytelling videos. Currently, the site is operational and under construction while I'm traveling around the world, interviewing lawyers about their work and collecting content for future publication.*

Managing Attorney, [Healers of Conflicts Law & Conflict Resolution Center](#): *Administration, active participation and leadership of a law firm resolving conflict using comprehensive law modalities including collaborative law, mediation, victim-offender dialogue, therapeutic jurisprudence, creative problem-solving, preventive law, legal and conflict coaching and counseling. Case load is primarily family law but also has included victim-offender dialog facilitation in cases of severe violence, wills & estate planning, contracts and business topics. Many clients have complex financial issues with estates up to \$10+ million. Many have challenging emotional issues which are best served by support from mental health professionals and I often work in multi-disciplinary teams and with allied professionals. 2003 to present. Asheville, NC.*

Adjunct College Professor: *Taught two semesters of Restorative Justice and one of Business Law at **Warren Wilson College**, Asheville, NC. Consistently high feedback from student course evaluations - >3.75/4.0 scale. Student projects have been acclaimed and integrated into campus policies. I have been personally involved in various campus task forces addressing substance use, retention, etc. I trained student life staff in leading peacemaking circles and honoring conflict. A course proposal for a special topic in Peace & Justice Studies Department ("Lawyers as Peacemakers") is pending for Spring, 2009. Fall 2007 to present.*

*Taught two semesters of Mediation and ADR at **South College** in Paralegal Studies, Bachelors Program. Asheville, NC. 2007-2008.*

*In 1995, taught Business Law at **Alamance Community College**, Graham, NC.*

Speaker, Trainer, Workshop Leader, Conference Planner, Community Organizer: *As an active advocate for ADR and expanding choices in law since the mid-1990's, have had the opportunity to develop curriculum and lead, teach, train, and present to many adult audiences. Most presentations have been to lawyers ranging from a small retreat on finding right livelihood in the law to leading the annual meeting for the Elder Law section of the Florida Bar Association, but I have also spoken to an audience of*

over 1,000 coaches about legal issues for coaches. I've also led community conferences on social justice and community organizing. A representative list is below.

Media & Editorial Consultant to writers, editors, producers, magazines, television, and radio programs about the comprehensive law movement: Consulted on holistic law to Christian Science Monitor, People Magazine, and many other periodicals, leading to articles in most cases. Have educated about restorative justice to media ranging from Oprah to an extended consulting relationship with a documentary series on the A&E cable network. I consulted on treatments for television shows for Court TV (which ended up not being produced). I speak frequently with producers of reality television in an attempt to educate them about the healing opportunities of restorative justice and raise sensitivity to divert their dramatizations of situations. Have commented, reviewed, and offered editorial comment to over a dozen books in the field of law, dispute resolution, and divorce. Currently in production of a documentary series on law.

Consultant and Coach: I am currently working with groups in Knoxville and Memphis, Tennessee to bring collaborative law to their communities. Have previously worked with special project to bring court-sponsored Collaborative Divorce Clinic to low-income citizens of New York and to establish collaborative law group in Ithaca, New York. As a Coach since 2000, I have worked with many lawyers to create a niche in the legal system that matches their values and personality. I help lawyer-clients to identify important values and the contribution each wishes to make, and to explore where their values and contribution would be most satisfying for self and society. Often, I have worked with lawyers with established practices and developed plans for transforming their practices or changing their careers to focus on peacemaking approaches. I have mentored many law students through this process and have also trained other coaches to work with lawyers on career and professionalism issues. I've presented continuing legal education seminars and have written, and spoken about life balance, "right livelihood" and integrity in law practice.

Past Experience:

Associate Director, [Victim Offender Reconciliation Program Information & Resource Center](#), Asheville, NC: Case management and preparation of victims and offenders for dialogue in murder cases. Restorative justice consulting, victim-offender mediation, training and program development at the national and international level. Trainees included prison officials, victim advocates, prosecutors, community leaders. Lobbied Department of Corrections for creation of program allowing families of murder victims to face the killers of their loved ones, a project which is ongoing. Collaborated on successful US State Department sponsored speaking tour to introduce transformational law topics to Chile and Argentina. Numerous public presentations and trainings on restorative justice, especially victim-offender mediation in crimes of severe violence. Attended National Conference on Restorative Justice in Texas in 2007. 2004 to 2008.

Mediation, Coaching and Conflict Resolution: Peace-Making, Family Law Without War, Portland, Oregon. Mediator and paralegal working with divorcing couples in family law boutique firm. Mediated, marketed the law practice, and networked with lawyers and the community. 2003.

Volunteer, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Hillsboro Regional Office: Screen Spanish and English speaking clients for limited representation on custody and restraining order cases where client is victim of domestic violence.

Founder, Renaissance Lawyer Society: Beginning in 1999, I wrote a 400 page web site about innovative, humanistic and healing choices in legal practice which led to creation of a non-profit organization. As leader of the organization, I networked with lawyers, the media, emerging leaders and allied professionals around the world. From 2000 to 2003, I was a full-time volunteer, writing, speaking, leading teleclasses, attending and speaking at conferences, producing events, talking with and emailing with thousands of lawyers around the world about the new options.

Managing Attorney: Divorce and Family Law Center, Graham, NC. Starting as a sole practitioner, designed, created, and administered an innovative multi-disciplinary holistic law practice, offering mediation and an early form of collaborative law. Represented clients in district (family) and juvenile court, in negotiations, mediations, and family law matters. Advised clients of alternatives to litigation and worked with local lawyers in innovating new approaches. Supervised staff and independent contractors including counselor and social workers, and interns in law and social work. Member of community task forces on domestic violence. Operated free Saturday clinic to give everyone access to legal services and

served on legal aid pro bono panel. Maintained close relationship with internship program at UNC-Chapel Hill Law School, accepting several legal interns and was also the site placement for two social work interns, one from UNC-CH and the other from UNC-G. Co-coached moot court team at Western Alamance High School which placed in regional finals. 1994-2000.

Executive Director & Director of Development and Community Relations: *Sexual and Physical Abuse Resource Center in Gainesville, FL: In a Domestic Violence Agency serving 11 north Florida counties, I provided direct client services and advocacy for domestic violence victims; raised funds through grant-writing, public speaking, United Way and other resources; represented the agency on community task forces; organized community programs; educated and trained community, law enforcement, court personnel and others on sexual violence issues; hosted conferences with national speakers; supervised a construction project; provided oversight for a staff of twelve; and administered the agency. 1989-1990.*

Education:

Bachelor of Arts: Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC, 1981.

Majors: Economics & Business Management and International Studies, with primary focus on Latin American Studies.

Activities: Internship as the assistant foreign student advisor. In the campus work program, I worked in admissions, development, public relations, and international student programs.

Honors: I was recognized with 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service

Juris Doctor: University of Florida, College of Law, Gainesville, FL, January 1987 to May, 1989.

“Book Award” (highest grade in class) in **Legal Drafting**.

Graduated top half of class, two and a half years after I started.

Began law school as parent of seven children at home and, after divorcing in second year, ended as single parent of three residential children-and a grandson born during my last semester.

Passed Georgia bar exam in last semester of law school.

Volunteered as a Guardian Ad Litem and received recognition as one of top GALs in program.

Founder of Parents At Law School and the UF student ACLU chapter.

Continuing Education:

Graduate: “The New Lawyer”; Harvard Negotiation Insight Initiative, Cambridge, MA. 2007.

Bar membership requires twelve credits per year of Continuing Legal Education and I’ve been a member of the NC Bar since 1994 so I’ve had extensive continuing education in law, alternative dispute resolution, mediation, collaborative law, etc. I’ve also attended the conferences where I have been a presenter.

In addition, I have pursued extra-legal continuing education in info-preneuring, personal development, appreciative inquiry, transformational technology, healing and energetic dynamics, conflict resolution, non-violent communication, and coaching skills through many continuing legal education providers, Landmark Education, Life On Purpose Institute, the Carolina Center for Leadership and Conflict Resolution, the Center for Nonviolent Communication, Asheville Center for Compassionate Communication, Shared Sun Studio, and many others.

Presentations, trainings, & speaking engagements:

- Collaborative Law Training, University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville, December, 2008.
- “Kindling Group Magic” proposal accepted for International Academy of Collaborative Professionals annual forum in New Orleans, October, 2008.
- Co-Leader, Introduction to Collaborative Practice for Multi-Disciplinary Professionals, sponsored by Memphis Area Legal Services and Community Legal Center of Memphis, Tennessee, July, 2008.
- Guest Lecturer, A New Approach to Contracts, Contract Law class of Susan Daicoff, Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, FL, June, 2008.
- “History of Holistic Law”, International Alliance of Holistic Lawyers annual meeting, May, 2008.
- “G.D Davidson Roundtable — Helping Students Find Their Calling” Guest Lecturer, Warren Wilson College, May, 2008.

- Guest Lecturer: Restorative Justice, Elon University in March & April, 2008.
- "Lawyers as Peacemakers" special presentation at Vanderbilt Law School, November, 2007.
- "Opportunities for Restorative Justice in Legal Education", Humanizing Legal Education Conference, Washburn Law, October, 2007. (Also served on conference planning committee)
- "Collaborative Law: Lawyers as Peacemakers" in Memphis, TN (conference sponsored by Memphis Bar, Legal Services, and UT Law), October, 2007. (I was a consultant on planning this conference.)
- "Honoring Conflict as an Opportunity for Transformation" to Americorps of Kinston, NC in September, 2007 and in Asheville, NC in 2006.
- Panelist, Lawyers as Peacemakers CLE, 28th Judicial District Bar, Fall, 2007. (Co-coordinated this speaker series.)
- Round-table discussion on Diversity in Collaborative Law, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, annual conference, Toronto, ONT, October, 2007.
- Co-founder, co-organizer and leader of Imagine-Nation Conference, intergenerational conference for social change activists in Dallas, TX in September, 2007.
- Co-organizer and co-leader of conference on Sacred Activism of Asheville (primary local facilitator) in Spring, 2007.
- Arriving as a participant at Harvard Law School's Harvard Negotiation Insight Initiative week-long program in June, 2007, I ended up co-teaching sections on Restorative Justice and Collaborative Law with the paid faculty (David Hall, David Hoffman, Susan Daicoff)
- Presenter, "Expanding The Goals of Legal Education," Institute of Law School Teaching, Suffolk University Law School, June, 2007.
- Co-organizer and facilitator of "Power, Leadership, and Values", annual conference of International Alliance of Holistic Lawyers in Asheville, NC in May, 2007.
- Presenter, Co-Organizer, Basic and Advanced Collaborative Law Training, Asheville, NC, May, 2007.
- Renaissance Lawyering, Festival of Legal Learning, Co-presenter, February, 2007.
- Leader and Organizer of International Symposium "No Borders, No Barriers: Collaborative Practice for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual/Transgender Clients & Their Families" in Niagara, ONT, June, 2006. <http://collablaw.org/symposium.htm>
- Co-Leader, "Restorative Justice Community Conference" & "Working Effectively with Victims & Offenders", Community Justice Program, County Attorneys Office, Yuma, Arizona, July, 2006
- "From Vision to Reality", Landmark Education Conference for Global Transformation, San Francisco about my work in the legal profession, May 2006.
- Co-leader of "Family Lawyers as Peacemakers? Basic Collaborative Law Training for Lawyers, May, 2006 in Asheville, NC
- Leader, "A Potpourri of Skills for Being a More Effective Collaborative Lawyer" Advanced Collaborative Law Training, Finger Lakes Collaborative Lawyers, Ithaca, NY, June 1, 2006
- "Honoring Conflict as an Opportunity for Transformation", North Carolina Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Southwest Chapter Lunch & Learn on April 27, 2006.
- New Bottom Line Lawyers Teleconference: "Lawyers as peacemakers, problem solvers and healers of conflict - including issues in collaborative law, transformative mediation, and therapeutic jurisprudence" on April 26, 2006. Update: March, 2008. Sponsored by Network of Spiritual Progressives.
- Panelist at the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals in Atlanta in October, 2005 with the topic of access to justice/multi-cultural practices (which led to appointment to IACP Task Force on Inclusivity, Diversity and Accessibility)
- Planned, presented, and facilitated conference on "The Role of Peacemakers in Healing Polarization" in Black Mountain, NC in July, 2005.
- "Conscious Lawyering?" Presidio Dialogues, Conversation Starter, San Francisco, CA, 2004
- "Collaborative Divorce Mediation, Opportunities for Partnership", Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference, "Dispute Resolution from the Insight Out", Seattle, WA. 2003
- "Living Life and Practicing Law", Co-Presenter, Mecklenburg County Bar Association CLE, Charlotte, NC 2003.
- Facilitator and presenter at Renaissance Lawyer Society annual conferences, 2001, 2002, 2003.
- "Legal & Ethical Issues for Coaches", Coachville Expert Series, First Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, 2002. (Audience of over 1000 coaches)
- Organizer and speaker of multi-disciplinary "Latinos in Legal System" conference in Alamance County, NC. 2000

- Organizer and panelist of ethics panel on domestic violence as debrief of a case which ended in the death of my client at the hands of her husband who was killed by police. 1999
- Organizer and panelist of statewide conference on domestic violence, Gainesville, FL 1990.
- Trained law enforcement, parole officers, victim advocates, and community members on dynamics of domestic violence. 1989-90
- Many presentations to church groups, bar associations, radio programs, teleclass guest speaking engagements. Have hosted several series of teleclasses.

Publications:

For the legal community:

[CuttingEdgeLaw.com](http://www.CuttingEdgeLaw.com)

Should Law Enforcement Agencies Apologize for Mistakes? Chief of Police Magazine, with Randy Means (Police Legal Advisor) February, 2006.

http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&issue_id=22006&category_ID=3

Several articles in The Collaborative Review, the publication of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, including *Honoring Conflict as an Opportunity for Transformation*, Spring, 2006, with Marty Price; and *Seven Steps to Transforming Your Life and Coaching Skills for Lawyers*, (two articles) Collaborative Review, Fall, 2003.

Should You Advise Clients to Apologize? Printed in North Carolina Bar Journal, Summer, 2005 and Spring, 2005 *Bar Briefs*, 28th Judicial District Newsletter. Revised and reprinted for a newsletter for nursing home professionals.

Contributing author, Sixth Edition, pending 2008 and Fifth Edition 2003, *What Can You Do With a Law Degree*, by Deborah Arron. Decision Books.

Transformational Law: New Approaches Expand Choices in Law Practice by J. Kim Wright, J.D.; Dolly M. Garlo, R.N., J.D., P.C.C.; and Marty Price, J.D. February, 2004 Washington Bar News [cover article] <http://www.wsba.org/media/publications/barnews/2004/feb-04-wright-garlo-price.htm>.

Law as a Healing Profession, New trends are expanding choices in law practice; Oregon Bar Bulletin, April, 2003 [cover article] <http://www.osbar.org/publications/bulletin/03apr/healing.html>

Visionary Law: New Approaches Expand Choices in Law Practice, By: J. Kim Wright, J.D. and Dolly M. Garlo, R.N., J.D., Journal of Nursing Law, Fall, 2002

Visionary Lawyering, New Approaches to Expanding Choices in Law Practice, August, 2001: ABA Law Practice Management Quarterly, Vol. 2, No. 3.

Transformational Lawyering: New Approaches to Expanding our Choices in Law Practice, North Carolina Bar Journal, Winter, 2003 http://www.ncbar.com/Journal/Journal_7,4.asp#6.

Author/Editor Web sites: Renaissance Lawyer Society web site, www.renaissancelawyer.com; co-author and co-editor of 2002 web site for the International Alliance of Holistic Lawyers, www.iah.org, some of which is still in use.

Ethical and Legal Issues for the coaching community:

The Conscious Coach: Legal and Ethical Issues for the Professional Coach, Legal Toolkit, the Conscious Coach, 2001. [First edition co-authored with Allison Tiffany. Second edition written solo].

Regular columns in the following coaching journals [many of which were co-authored with Allison Tiffany]: *Coachville Coaching Scoop*; *International Coach Federation Organizational Coaching Journal*; *Coaching World*; *Coaching Zone*.

About me and my work:

The Spiritual Revitalization of the Legal Profession: A Search for Sacred Rivers by David Hall references my work in several places. 2006

The Lawyer Who Heals, at the center of a movement to redesign the practice of law, World Pulse Magazine, Spring, 2005. http://www.worldpulsemagazine.com/wpm/pdfs/WPM_SPRING05.pdf p.23

Revisoning Law with Heart, by Gail Bernice Holland, IONS Magazine, Institute of Noetic Sciences, Winter, 2002. <http://www.noetic.org/publications/review/issue62/main.cfm>

Transforming the Practice of Law by Barbara Stahura, <http://www.clariticom.com/law.html> published in *Science of Mind*, February, 2003.

Finding Your Field Of Dreams ...Considering a Coach to Help Your Practice by Marilyn P. Westerfield, Esq., Cincinnati Bar Association, June 2001

For the public & other disciplines:

Pending publication: *Conflict Resolution: The Partnership Way* by Barry & Janae Weinhold. Chapter 16 on application of principles in the legal profession.

Contributor to: *Defusing the High-Conflict Divorce: A Treatment Guide for Working with Angry Couples* by Bernard Gaulier, Ph.D., Judith Margerum, Ph.D., Jerome A. Price, M.A., James Windell, M.A. (Impact Publishers, 2006)

Books in production: *Honoring Conflict as an Opportunity for Transformation* with Judith Aftergut; *Use of Appreciative Inquiry in Law Profession* with Kathy Clark and Susan Belgard;

Honoring Conflict as an Opportunity for Transformation, Western NC Woman, April 2006.
<http://wnc-woman.com/0306conflict.html>

A New Paradigm in Family, Creations Magazine, January, 2005.
<http://www.creationsmagazine.com/articles/C99/Wright.html>

Conscious Law & Conscious Divorce, Alternatives Magazine, March, 2004.
<http://www.alternativesmagazine.com/29/wright-price.html>

An Exploration of Discourse, co-authored with Will Nash and Lani Soules, The Journal for the Conference on Global Transformation, Landmark Education, 2003.

Arranging Life for an Impossible Promise; the Journal for The Conference for Global Transformation: Transformation, A New Realm of Possibility; Landmark Education, 2001.

1995-1996 Co-author, weekly column in the Burlington, NC *Times-News* on legal issues for consumers.

Organizational Affiliations:

- Member in good standing, North Carolina State Bar (#20623) since 1994
- Past member of Georgia Bar
- Current Member of 28th Judicial District Bar; former member of Alamance County Bar
- Co-founder, Asheville Holistic Lawyers
- Collablaw.org [Western North Carolina Collaborative Law Association], co-founder and Board of Directors
- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, IACP
 - Founding and current member Task Force on Diversity, Inclusivity, Accessibility

- Restorative Justice Resource Center, co-founder, member of Leadership Council, former treasurer
- Asheville-Buncombe Coalition for Prevention of Family Violence task force member and web mistress
- Carolina Institute for Conflict Resolution and Creative Leadership (CICRCL), Board of Trustees
- Renaissance Lawyer Society, Founder, Board of Advisors, past President, past Chairman,
- International Alliance of Holistic Lawyers, Board of Counselors, past member of Board of Directors
- Humanizing Legal Education member since 2001
- Organizer, Common Society Movement
- All Souls Community Counseling Center, Board of Advisers

Personal:

From 1977 (when my first child was born) to 2003 (when my youngest child left home), I raised children. I was a parent, step-parent, host parent, foster parent, surrogate parent, and parental figure for dozens of children, most of them homeless teenagers. I was a Guardian Ad Litem in dependency and divorce cases. In the community, I was a member of a task force in Chapel Hill, addressing the issue of homeless teens but primarily, I loved and cared for children in my home through no specific program or agency. A total of sixteen children lived with my family during those years. My current work rests upon the rich learning and inspiration gained from those years and those individuals and this document would not be complete without acknowledging them.

References:

Available upon request.