



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2008

UWTV videos explore innovations within the juvenile court system

Only on UWTV: New programs offer judges and lawyers new ideas, potential solutions

SEATTLE—Several new programs from UWTV examine the unique challenges and emerging innovative strategies of our court system.

Presented by the **University of Washington's School of Law's Court Improvement Training Academy** through the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts and funded by a Federal Court Improvement Program Training Grant, these new videos feature distinguished speakers analyzing current court systems and exploring new approaches.

"Having these trainings available on UWTV is an incredible opportunity," said CITA program director Tim Jaasko-Fisher. "Now we have the means of reaching judges and lawyers who work with kids in the courts across all of Washington state. These videos are also valuable resources for teachers, social workers and other professionals who work with children and families."

CITA is a new addition to the School of Law, designed to create a learning community comprised of judges, lawyers and other professionals involved in the juvenile court dependency process.

The topics raised in these new programs will resonate with viewers as they tackle major social issues with sensible strategies and thought-provoking conversations.

- In the two-part "**Reasonable Efforts and Court Improvement**" retired judge Leonard P. Edwards, a Judge-in-Residence with the California Administrative Office of the Courts, outlines the problems that riddle the current juvenile court system. Powerful first-hand interviews demonstrate how a holistic approach can help these families in crisis heal.
- In "**Substance Abuse Treatment for Child Welfare Families**," Steven J. Ondersma, Ph.D., L.P., assistant professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine, reveals recent research into substance abuse in the context of the child welfare system. He raises some new perspectives about the effectiveness of current strategies and what alternatives might work better.
- "**The Racial Geography of Child Welfare**" features Dorothy Roberts, a Harvard Law School Graduate and the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law at Northwestern University Law School. Roberts argues that the overwhelming number of black children in foster care is a result of racial bias.
- "**Reasonable Efforts Symposium: Best Practices in Dependency – Planned, Purposeful and Progressive Visits**" shows how to conduct safe and successful visits within the child welfare system.

UWTV can be seen on Puget Sound cable channel 27 and at uwtv.org. UWTV is also available statewide via numerous cable channels, and nationwide through DishNetwork; see our **Web site** for details.

Visit uwcita.org to learn about upcoming training opportunities and for PowerPoint presentations, handouts and other information created by experts featured in these new videos as well as other state and national experts.

Continued...

It's about discovery

About UWTV

UWTV is the University of Washington's award-winning television channel, offering original, non-commercial educational video programming – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A unique educational resource, UWTV provides viewers direct access to the world-renowned scholars, scientists and researchers whose insights and discoveries are at the heart of our university and are changing our world. UWTV is available to more than 16 million homes in Washington state and the nation via cable and satellite services. We offer live webstreaming, podcasting and more than 1,000 videos on demand at uwtv.org.

PRESS CONTACT:

Erin Lodi
Communications and Public Relations
UWTV
206-543-8907
erinlodi@u.washington.edu

It's about discovery