

The American Family Justice Project

The American Family Justice Project (“AFJP”) is a catalyst for improving the family law system in America.

AFJP mission statement

The ultimate purpose of this organization shall be to bring about improvement in the laws of the several states relating to marriage and divorce and allied phases of family life, to the end that the law, in both philosophy and procedure, may tend to conserve, not disserve, family life; that it may be constructive, not destructive, as to marriage; that it may be helpful, not harmful, to the individual partners and their children; that it may be preventive, rather than punitive, as to marriage and family failure. ¹

AFJP strategic plan

The AFJP strategic plan by which to accomplish the AFJP mission is simple: to return respect for the U.S. Constitution and the Rule of Law to America’s family courts through education, legislation, and litigation.

AFJP tactical plan

The focus of the AFJP is to protect family relationships between a fit parent and their child from unwarranted interference by government through the family law system. The AFJP exerts influence on public policy and the law on family relationships through initiatives in education, legislation, and litigation.

Each AFJP family law reform initiative is based upon world-class research about the relationship between parent and child. To be specific, the AFJP formulates and advocates best practices and procedures for use by family court judges and lawyers. AFJP best practices and procedures are based upon analysis of the historical, sociological, psychological, economic, legal, and ethical aspects of relationships between a parent and their child.

¹ These words were the core of the original mission statement of the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association. Judge Paul W. Alexander of Toledo, Ohio, author of “Public Service by Lawyers in the Field of Divorce,” *Ohio State Law Journal*, Vol. 13, 1952, page 21.

**Founder and
Chief Counsel of the AFJP,
Stanley Charles Thorne**

Stanley Charles Thorne (“Thorne”) is founder and Chief Counsel of the AFJP.

Thorne’s most valuable asset is his unique perspective on family law in America, a perspective shaped by over 35 years of rich life experience as a student of the political process, historian, policy analyst, attorney, counselor, mediator, speaker, author, teacher, legal system insider, and father of two sons and a daughter (ages 25, 21 and 16).

Thorne was graduated from Baylor University in Texas, one of the leading private universities in the South. (Bachelor of Arts, History, 1977; Juris Doctor, 1981). Over the past 25 years, Thorne has served a diverse clientele, including large law firms and the corporate legal department of a major independent energy company. During the last six years, Thorne has directed his efforts into trial and appellate work in state and federal courts, coupled with the development of in-house media support to communicate the AFJP message to the public.

Thorne has served as lead counsel, co-counsel, consulting counsel, friend of the court, or expert witness in a handful of carefully selected Constitutional test cases around the nation. In addition, Thorne has made numerous radio and television appearances as a family law reform advocate. As a result, Thorne is nationally recognized as an advocate for family law reform and as an expert on Constitutional rights of citizens in family courts.

AFJP Education Initiatives

AFJP education about family law issues is through an official website - afjp.org - and television, radio, public speaking, and other media projects.

afjp.org

The AFJP is working to develop afjp.org into a state-of-the-art website that will allow the public to obtain news and information about family law issues, current events, and the AFJP agenda.

Through one part of the website (still under construction), the public will be able to have an inside look at a Constitutional test case and examine case documents in a “case study” format, including all of the hearing transcripts, court orders, appellate opinions, and other case documents.

Television

Thorne seeks the opportunity to carry the AFJP message through television appearances whenever possible.

CPR TV

Since June 2006 Thorne has appeared on CPR TV - a weekly, one-hour television program in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area - to inform and educate the public about family law reform issues. Thorne co-hosts the show with Molly Olson, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Parental Responsibility, a Minnesota-based education and advocacy group.

In addition to being seen throughout the St. Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area, CPR TV is distributed statewide throughout Minnesota and in several other states in the upper mid-west. The producers of CPR TV intend to continue increasing the geographic coverage of the show.

The CPR TV show format is an interview of an expert on various aspects of family law, with commentary by the show hosts. Guests include:

Dr. Patrick Fagan, psychologist, former Senior Research Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, and now Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Family and Religion at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C.;

Dr. Gordon Finley, psychologist, researcher, and professor at Florida International University; and

Dr. Christina Hoff Sommers, philosopher, former ethics professor at Clark University, author of “Who Stole Feminism? How Women Have Betrayed Women”, and resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research in Washington, D.C.

Thorne and the other principals who produced CPR TV have agreed to work on producing a comparable show suitable for nationwide distribution through the Family Law Reform Television Network. Work on the nationwide show format is ongoing.

The “Families and Children Really Matter” Show

In August 2007, Thorne appeared as a guest on two episodes of “Families and Children Really Matter”, a ½ hour television show by the producer who has

broadcast more than 400 shows about family issues in the New York metropolitan area over the past 8 years.

“Families and Children Really Matter” is regularly presented in the New York metropolitan area on two different cable channels (one for public access and one for government or educational content) that have a potential audience of 7 million people. Thorne has been invited to appear again on “Families and Children Really Matter” whenever his schedule permits.

Radio

Thorne frequently appears on radio to speak on family law reform issues. Some of his radio appearances are highlighted below.

During 2006 Thorne made numerous appearances on “PEP Talk”, the weekly radio show of People for Equal Parenting. “PEP Talk” was on KSEV-AM 700, the second-ranked all-talk station in the Houston, Texas market, and became the largest syndicated parental interest talk show in Texas.

On 25 January 2006 Thorne appeared for three prime time hours on the Dan Conry Show on KTLK-FM 100.3, an all-talk 100,000 watt “blowtorch” station in Minneapolis, Minnesota that reaches the entire upper mid-west.

On 29 September 2006 Thorne appeared on the Jerry Newcombe Show on WAFG-FM 90.3, an all-talk station that originates at the headquarters of Coral Ridge Ministries in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

On 27 August 2007 Thorne again appeared on KTLK-FM 100.3 (the all-talk 100,000 watt station in Minneapolis, Minnesota), this time for one prime time hour on the Jason Lewis Show. Thorne was invited to appear with Molly Olson, founder and Executive Director of the Center for Parental Responsibility, to discuss issues and trends in Minnesota family law. More recently, Jason Lewis has been a frequent guest host on the Rush Limbaugh Show.

In 2009 Thorne appeared on WGOW-FM 102.3 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, an all-talk radio station known as "The Talk Monster". The station's format features a mix of local and syndicated hosts. Thorne talked with local host Jeff Styles about issues and trends in Tennessee family law.

Media projects

Thorne will participate in media projects designed to educate the bench, the bar, and the public about the many problems experienced by parents and children

in the current family law system and, more importantly, solutions to those problems.

In cooperation with Seeber Video and Film of St. Paul, Minnesota, Thorne is working on production of a Continuing Legal Education video program for family court judges and lawyers about the Constitutional rights of parents and children in family court.

Thorne was involved in production of a documentary film entitled “Support: System Down” produced by Aginelo Productions in Los Angeles, California. The film is currently in the post-production phase.

In late 2008, Thorne agreed to be the subject of “Thorne: The Regulator”, a documentary television show that follows his work and allows a nationwide audience to understand how family courts operate and the effect they have on real people. Thorne’s work on a pilot and initial episodes of the program is complete, and the show is in the post-production phase.

Public speaking

Thorne was an invited speaker at the national family law reform conference “Healing Our Families - A Time for Change” hosted by the Family Rights Coalition of Michigan on 17-18 June 2005 at the Metro Detroit Airport Marriott Hotel in Detroit, Michigan.

On 14 September 2006 Thorne attended the (invitation only) annual Symposium of the Institute for American Values in New York City, conducted at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. The focus was Family Law Reform, and speakers included the Honorable Leah Ward Sears, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, and the Honorable Jean Hofer Toal, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

On 15-17 September 2006, Thorne was an invited speaker at the National Family Law Reform Conference hosted by the American Coalition of Fathers and Children at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Thorne was an invited speaker at the 20th Annual Conference of the Children’s Rights Council entitled “Shared Parenting in the 21st Century - Exploring the Best Interests of Children” conducted 3-5 November 2006 at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

On 6 November 2008 Thorne presented a one-hour lecture to graduate students at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. His presentation was entitled: “Beginning to Tell the Untold Story: How Fraud in America’s Family Courts Affects You”. Both the lecture and the following question and answer session were video-taped for later television and Internet broadcast.

Thorne’s lecture covered a short history of divorce law in the United States, adoption in the 1970’s of “no-fault” divorce statutes in most states, how child custody laws have evolved since then, how these legal “megatrends” have undermined respect for the Rule of Law and the U.S. Constitution, the scope of the Constitutional crisis in America’s family courts, and pragmatic solutions to resolve the most onerous of the Constitutional issues faced by parents and children.

AFJP Legislative Initiatives

State legislative actions

The AFJP is active in various legislative initiatives to improve family law at the state level. As opportunities present themselves, Thorne presents testimony on family law reform issues to various state legislatures. Some examples of Thorne’s work in this area are as follows.

In fall 2006, a select committee of Georgia legislators conducted a series of three hearings to consider public input on shared parenting. Over a period of months, Thorne attended each of the hearings, and on 26 October 2006 he testified before the Study Committee on Shared Parenting of the Georgia House.

In winter 2006, the Michigan legislature considered shared parenting. On 6 December 2006 Thorne’s testimony on Michigan’s shared parenting bill, H.B. 5267 (Mortimer), was presented to the Michigan House.

In spring 2008, the West Virginia legislature considered a joint parenting act introduced in the West Virginia House at the request of Men and Women Against Discrimination. On 14 January 2008 Thorne attended a luncheon with legislators and viewed excerpts from the documentary film: “Support: System Down” at the West Virginia Cultural Center State Theater. To support H.B 4042 Thorne appeared on a panel of experts available to answer questions from the legislators.

In winter 2008, Thorne consulted about the Constitutional imperatives for “peer” or shared parenting with a member of a study committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives working on joint custody.

In the spring of 2010, the Tennessee General Assembly considered an equal parenting bill, H.B. 2916 and S.B. 2881. On 23 February 2010 Thorne gave testimony on H.B. 2916 before the Family Justice Subcommittee of the House Children and Family Affairs Committee, and then attended hearings on the bill in March, April, and May 2010.

On 23 March 2010 the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts and Tennessee Bar Association presented their “Special Report” to the Family Justice Subcommittee of the House Children and Family Affairs Committee. In response, on 13 April 2010 Thorne presented the Report of the American Family Justice Project on H.B. 2916 for the Hearing Record of the Family Justice Subcommittee and the Children and Family Affairs Committee. A copy of the AFJP Report is available upon request.

Federal legislative actions

Thorne supports federal legislation to protect and preserve family relationships from unwarranted intrusion by state actors. To this end, he strongly supports the Family Preservation and Reconciliation Act (FPRA) in the United States Congress. On 16 August 2007, Thorne expressed his strong support for the FPRA as an invited speaker at a press conference at The National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

On 19 August 2007 Thorne was an invited speaker at the Family Preservation Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. at the base of the Lincoln Memorial. Thorne called for federal legislation to address the Constitutional crisis in America’s family courts and called on the President, the U.S. Congress, and the state and federal courts to support the Family Preservation and Reconciliation Act. A DVD of Thorne’s speech at the Lincoln Memorial is available upon request.

On 23 July 2010 Thorne was one of several invited speakers at a press conference at The National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Each of the speakers outlined a specific family law issue or aspect of family law policy in need of reform and called on the Congress to address the need for remedial federal legislation.

Also on 23 July 2010, Thorne was co-moderator of a briefing on family law policy issues in the United States Capitol Visitor's Center. As one of two moderators of the briefing, Thorne introduced half of the speakers who addressed many of the same topics covered at The National Press Club press conference earlier in the day.

International child abduction

Since November 2006 Thorne has worked closely with Mr. Patrick Braden, father of Melissa Braden, a U.S. citizen-child abducted to Japan on 16 March 2006 by her mother, Ryoko Uchiyama. As a result, Thorne has become thoroughly familiar with the facts of the Melissa Braden case and the growing problem of international child abduction. During 2009, the issue of international child abduction has drawn sharply increased attention from the U.S. Congress.

In 2009 Patrick Braden served as founder of "Global Future: The Parents' Council on International Children's Policy". The group is comprised of parents across America whose children were criminally kidnapped from U.S. soil and taken to Japan in violation of previously established U.S. court custody orders, travel ban orders, and passport surrender orders.

Although these children remain under the jurisdiction of U.S. courts and in the legal custody of their left-behind parent in the U.S., neither the court nor the left-behind parent in the U.S. has any access to the child(ren) living in Japan with the kidnapper parent. On 2 December 2009 Thorne attended the first-ever hearing on international child abduction before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Patrick Braden was one of four left-behind parents of abducted children who presented testimony and written documentation to the Commission. Thorne's written statement was included in Patrick Braden's submission for the record of the Hearing on International Child Abduction on 2 December 2009. A copy of Thorne's submission for the Hearing record is available upon request.

AFJP Litigation

The AFJP litigates in state and federal courts to protect and defend fit parents and their children from unwarranted interference by government through the family law system. The AFJP uses the United States Constitution as a both a defensive shield and an offensive sword to protect family relationships. The primary goal of AFJP litigation is to prevent the needless destruction of the relationship between a fit parent and their child, for the immediate well-being of the parent and child, and the long-term benefits to our society and nation.

In the more than 25 years Thorne has been an attorney, he has been lead or co-counsel in numerous trials in courts and quasi-judicial administrative tribunals, argued numerous substantive motions for which a brief or memorandum of law was submitted, and prosecuted extraordinary writs and substantive appeals in state and federal appellate courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

In addition to the state and federal appellate court cases in which Thorne has been directly involved, Thorne has observed the argument of more than three dozen appeals in various state and federal appellate courts, including the Texas Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court of Texas, one of the U.S. Courts of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

The vast majority of Thorne's work over the past six years has been *pro bono*. Thorne has served as lead counsel, co-counsel, consulting counsel, expert witness, or *amicus* in cases in Texas, Ohio, New York, Illinois, California, Florida, Wisconsin, Maryland, and Tennessee.

Thorne's interest has shifted toward serving in an *amicus* role, as it has become apparent that alignment with either parent is counter-productive to illumination of the deeper issues in most cases. Consequently, Thorne now strongly prefers to serve as a "friend of the court", an *amicus curiae*, or as a "friend of the child", an *amicus infans* (to give the voiceless minor child a voice). A few examples of the types of cases in which Thorne participates are as follows.

Constitutional litigation in state and federal courts

Federal court

Ohio

the Galluzzo case

On 26 January 2005 the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit appointed Thorne as *pro bono* counsel for an indigent father in the appeal of a facial Constitutional challenge to the State of Ohio's child custody statutory scheme, Case No. 04-3527, styled *Michael A. Galluzzo v. Teresa Cook f/k/a Teresa Galluzzo*.

After the Sixth Circuit decision against Mr. Galluzzo, the Sixth Circuit granted Thorne's motion to withdraw as counsel of record and Mr. Galluzzo continued his appeal without counsel. Mr. Galluzzo's *pro se* Application for Writ of Certiorari was filed on 30 September 2006 in the Supreme Court of the United States, Case No. 06-7267.

On 8 January 2007 the Supreme Court denied Mr. Galluzzo's Application for Writ of Certiorari. Because Mr. Galluzzo's case was dismissed by the federal district court on procedural grounds, the merits of his facial Constitutional challenge to the State of Ohio's statutory child custody scheme were never addressed by the federal trial court, the federal appeals court, or the Supreme Court of the United States.

Federal court New York the Walker case

On 13 September 2005 Thorne presented the oral argument of Stephen J. Walker to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in the appeal of a facial Constitutional challenge to the State of New York's *pendente lite* child support statutory scheme, Case No. 05-0229, styled *Stephen J. Walker, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. State of New York, et al, Defendants-Appellees*.

After the Second Circuit decision against Mr. Walker, Thorne prepared and filed several post-judgment motions, and then assisted in the preparation and filing of Mr. Walker's *pro se* Application for Writ of Certiorari on 5 September 2006 in the Supreme Court of the United States, Case No. 06-894.

On 5 March 2007 the Supreme Court denied Mr. Walker's Application for Writ of Certiorari, bringing an end to a case that spanned 15 years in New York state courts and 5 years in federal courts. Because Mr. Walker's case was dismissed by the federal district court on procedural grounds, the merits of his facial Constitutional challenge to the State of New York's *pendente lite* child support statutory scheme were never addressed by the federal trial court, the federal appeals court, or the Supreme Court of the United States.

State court Illinois the Roney case

In September 2006 Thorne was admitted *pro hac vice* by an Illinois state family court as attorney of record for Mr. Christopher Roney and presented oral argument of a facial Constitutional challenge to the State of Illinois's child custody statutory scheme, in Case No. 00-D-700, styled *In Re: Marriage of Mary Kay Roney, Petitioner, and Christopher J. Roney, Respondent*, in the Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Champaign County, Illinois.

After the trial court decision against Mr. Roney, Thorne served as co-counsel in Mr. Roney's appeal to the Illinois Court of Appeals, along with two distinguished Illinois local counsel from Schiller, Du Canto and Fleck, Mr. Don Schiller, Esq. and Ms. Sarane S. Siewerth, Esq. Schiller, Du Canto and Fleck is the largest law firm in the nation focusing exclusively on matrimonial law. With

principal offices in Chicago, the firm is nationally recognized for its work in the areas of marriage, divorce, and custody, and as a leader in the field of matrimonial law. For more information about the firm, see their web site. <http://www.sdflaw.com/>

After the Illinois Court of Appeals decision against Mr. Roney, Thorne withdrew as co-counsel and Mr. Roney filed a *pro se* appeal in the Supreme Court of Illinois, case number 104684. On 26 September 2007 the Supreme Court of Illinois denied Mr. Roney's Petition for Leave to Appeal. Because Mr. Roney's Constitutional challenge was ignored by the state trial court on procedural grounds, the merits of his facial Constitutional challenge to the State of Illinois' child custody statutory scheme were never addressed by the state trial court, the state appeals court, or the Supreme Court of Illinois.

State court Ohio the Tock case

On 11 April 2007 Thorne was accepted as an expert witness on Constitutional law in an Ohio state family court and presented testimony in support of a facial Constitutional challenge to the State of Ohio's child custody statutory scheme in Case No. 02DR3-1126, styled *Frances Tock v. Christopher Tock, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Division, Columbus, Ohio*. The challenge was based upon the Constitutional imperative for peer parenting found in the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Hon. Elisabeth Gill, trial judge, instructed the parties to file their closing arguments on custody issues in writing. After receiving the written closing arguments of the parties, Judge Gill ordered various transcripts and all of the briefs from the Galluzzo federal court case (described above) in which Thorne served as Mr. Galluzzo's appellate counsel in the Sixth Circuit. Before Judge Gill issued her decision on the constitutionality of the State of Ohio's child custody statutory scheme, the parties settled the custody issues with an agreement for a shared custody arrangement. The case concluded with a decree of divorce on 8 January 2008.

Supreme Court of the United States the Roberts case

On 19 May 2008 Thorne and co-counsel filed in the Supreme Court of the United States a Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in case number 07-1052, styled *David A. Roberts, Petitioner, v. Maine Department of Health and Human Services, et al, Respondents*.

In an effort to put a stop to the repeated, systematic, and wrongful deprivation of Robert's civil rights by Maine DHS, et al, acting under color of law, on 1 July 2004, Mr. Roberts filed his Complaint for damages and injunctive relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in federal District Court in Baltimore, Maryland. Over the next four years, without the Defendants ever filing a written answer to the Complaint, it was dismissed by the trial judge, appealed to the Fourth Circuit, who reversed the dismissal and sent the case back to the trial court, dismissed a second time by the trial judge, appealed a second time to the Fourth Circuit, who allowed the dismissal to stand, and then appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

On 6 October 2008 the Supreme Court of the United States denied Mr. Roberts' pending Petition, and allowed the second dismissal on procedural grounds by the trial judge to stand. Consequently, the merits of Mr. Roberts' § 1983 action will never be addressed by the federal trial court, the federal appeals court, or the Supreme Court of the United States. So ends a case that has spanned 20 years in state courts and over 4 years in federal courts.

State court Tennessee the Kate Hopkins case

In October 2007 Thorne became consulting counsel in a Tennessee state family court case, Docket No. V-07-031, styled *Jeremy P. Hopkins, Plaintiff and Counter-Defendant v. Elisabeth M. Hopkins, Defendant and Counter-Plaintiff*, In the Circuit Court of Bradley County, Tennessee, 10th Judicial District.

The case is known as "The Kate Hopkins Case" because it revolves around a now four-year-old little girl, Kate Hopkins. Kate's child custody case began in January 2007, just after Kate turned one, when her parents decided to divorce.

The Kate Hopkins Case was selected to be a Constitutional "test" case that could change the way all child custody decisions in Tennessee are made. The case presented a Constitutional challenge to the State of Tennessee's child custody statutory scheme in general, and specifically, whether certain child custody procedures routinely used by judges in Bradley County courts violate the U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions.

One of the procedures under attack was a "standard 80 day rule" created by the judges of the 10th Judicial District as a Local Rule. The Local Rule operated automatically without notice or hearing as soon as a divorce case was filed, so that one parent was only allowed 80 days a year with their child, while the other parent was allowed 285 days a year with their child.

The Constitutional challenges were based upon the imperative for “peer parenting” found in the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Additional grounds for challenging the procedures were the Association Clause of the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the Due Process Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and the Privacy, Due Process, and Equal Protection Clauses of the Tennessee Constitution.

Kate’s Daddy argued that the United States and Tennessee Constitutions require the State to give each of Kate’s two fit parents equal protection of the custody laws. Instead of the equal dignity, equal opportunity to parent, and equal respect, to which each of Kate’s parents is entitled, the “standard 80 day rule” discriminates against one parent in violation of the constitutional right to equal protection of the laws.

By automatically discriminating against one parent without any hearing, the “standard 80 day rule” violates the constitutional right to due process. And by taking a fit parent’s fundamental rights without any basis in fact, the “standard 80 day rule” violates the constitutional right to privacy and the constitutional right to freedom of association.

The constitutional issues in the Kate Hopkins Case are of vital importance to all Tennessee parents and children, and of significance to all Americans. The trial judge ruled on the merits that each parent was entitled to equal time with Kate, and so decided there was no need to address the Constitutional issues.

The Kate Hopkins Case was finally resolved in March 2010 and appeal of the trial court judgment was terminated when the case was settled during appellate mediation. So ends a case after more than three years in court with more than 50 hearings before five different judges and a 13 day bench trial beginning in May 2009.

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Summary of qualifications

Twenty-five years combined experience as an attorney, counselor, and mediator, serving a diverse clientele of individual persons, law firms, and corporations, with expertise in energy law, real estate law, and Constitutional law

Higher Education

1973-1981 Baylor University Waco, Texas
1977 Bachelor of Arts, History
1981 Juris Doctorate

Professional experience

1982-1985 Stan C. Thorne Law Firm Bryan, Texas
Solo law practice devoted exclusively to clients engaged in oil and gas exploration and production

1985-1988 Enserch Exploration, Inc. Dallas, Texas
Corporate counsel for large independent oil and gas exploration and production company (\$2 Billion assets); primarily responsible for regulatory and legislative affairs, gas contracts, and legal oversight of field operations

1988-1991 Enserch Exploration, Inc. Dallas, Texas
Manager of revenue optimization; primary responsibility to conceive and execute interdisciplinary special projects to increase revenues of large independent energy company

1991-1996 Stan C. Thorne Law Firm Dallas, Texas
Solo law practice devoted to clients engaged in oil and gas exploration and production, including contract litigation support for major law firms such as Winstead, Secrest & Minick (then 15th largest firm in Texas)

1996-2001 Stan C. Thorne Law Firm Houston, Texas
Moved to Houston and continued solo law practice devoted to oil and gas exploration and production, including contract work for major law firms such as Hoover, Bax & Slovacek (major player in Houston real estate and energy law); in 1999, broadened law practice into real estate law and mediation;

