

Please enjoy the personal history provided by our esteemed member, Stu Webb.



CLI Founding Member Stu Webb, Attorney

Contact Information:

Stuart G. Webb

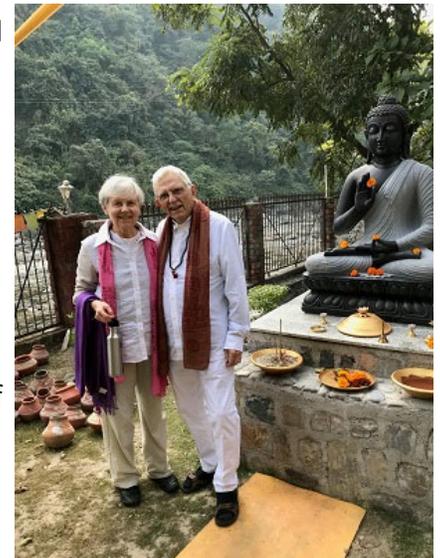
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I grew up in Rolfe, Iowa, a small farming community. Great place to enjoy lots of freedom as a child. One sister. Our family owned a drug store started by my grandfather in 1889, passed on to my father and then to me—all pharmacists. Typical drug store of the era, complete with a great soda fountain ("All the root beer you could drink for a nickel" until sugar shortage in WWII.) After graduating from U of Wisconsin, I served as an officer in the Navy during the Korean War. Was Boat Group Commander on an attack transport designed to carry 1800 Marines in an invasion. Fortunately, the war was in negotiations, so I never had to die! When out, I went back to Rolfe and the drug store. After my father died, I stayed on for several years, then sold the store in 1961 and went to law school at U. of Iowa, together with my then wife, Barb, and 3 small children, Kim, Lisa & Craig.



Started practicing law in Minneapolis, MN in 1964— retired in 2014 after 50 years of practice. Specialized in divorce work. Awful stressful stuff. Ready to quit law practice in 1990, but instead developed a new way to practice law: Collaborative Law (now also called Collaborative Practice). Started with me and we now have maybe 35,000 practitioners in 128 countries. In collaborative work, the practitioners work with the clients out of court and if settlement cannot be reached, all the professionals involved withdraw and the parties go to court or find another way to resolve their issues. We avoid all court wars and we settle about 90% of our cases. Practitioners now include financial folks, mental health practitioners and child specialists, which adds immeasurably to the effectiveness of our work.



In the 60's I became an alcoholic, treatment and AA in the '70 and Barb and I were divorced. Married

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Martha Roberts in 1982. We have 3 kids and 5 grandkids from my first marriage—and NOW a great-grandson, Carter, age 15 months, has appeared on the scene!! The 1970's were grim. I was involuntarily committed to mental health facilities 11 times over the decade for manic stuff: a manic-depressive syndrome with the depressions as bad for me as the manics were for those close to me. Somehow kept my solo practice going through all that. Sober since 1975!



I was a member and associate director of a small Tibetan Buddhist center for 20 years until we lost our Lama in 2011. Meditated for 25 years.



Retirement: We're living at Parkshore, a Senior Apartment campus, with wonderful folks and great feeling. Finding that old folks are kids inside. Love reading, jazz and higher consciousness. Reading about 100 books at a time, have over 7000 jazz tunes on my iPhone. Take lessons and practice my saxophone. Walks with Martha. Wrote a booklet, "The Serenity Space" in the '80's, co-authored the book "Collaborative Way to Divorce" with Ron Ousky, and created the "Collaborative Jazz" power point & video. After searching, searching, and searching for years, my wonderful teacher, Rupert Spira, helped me to achieve non-duality.

The drug, Lithium, which kept me sane for a long time, was making me an old man at 83. After resulting health crises, they took me off Lithium, and all my negative symptoms miraculously disappeared practically all at once. It was like being reborn! I feel and have the energy of a 26-year-old!!

Zoom, George Floyd's murder and the pandemic are ushering in a shift of consciousness, individually and collectively, that has the potential to awaken us from the 1%'s knee on the 99%'s neck to a consciousness moving from vertical hierarchy to horizontal equality, love and creativity,

LOVE and BLESSINGS,

STU (SIM)

P.S. Oh, read and "grok" "The Essential Path" by Neale Donald Walsch. A game-changer!!

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MINNESOTA MILESTONES 1991–2020

Our Partial List of Great Innovations in Family Law that have their roots in Minnesota

1. Birthplace of Collaborative Practice. Collaborative Practice, a method of practicing family law that is now being practiced in more than twenty countries and virtually every state and province in North America, was started by our very own Stu Webb.
2. Divorce Camp: Minnesota's Chapter of the Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys who has supported innovation and ADR long before it came hip to do so. The Academy's Divorce Camp is nationally recognized for its creativity.
3. ADR: Minnesota is believed to be the place where the phrase "Alternate Dispute Resolution" was first used. (See attached excerpt from.)
4. Mediation: Minnesota was one of the pioneers in mediation, with people like Christine Leick, Steve Erickson and Marilyn McKnight developing significant mediation practices long before mediation was recognized in most jurisdictions.
5. Early Neutral Evaluations: Minnesota's ENE program is gaining national attention as a great innovation in helping families find early solutions to difficult problems.
6. Interdisciplinary practice. Minnesota has been a pioneer in developing ways to integrate mental health professionals and financial neutrals into family law practice.
7. Cooperative Practice. Minnesota has started a Cooperative Practice group and is leading the way in helping develop Cooperative Law as an alternative for families.