

Meet **Molly Wood** from Lawrence KABC Board President and board member since 1995



*Molly and her wonderful
friend, Dudley.*

"I got involved with KABC when Petey Cerf was still alive . . . 1995 . . . about the same time I became a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA). My law practice was becoming more and more focused on folks needing nursing home care. I helped them figure out how to pay for it, more or less, but when I visited my clients the nursing homes still smelled like urine. Nursing home resident rights – treating people as individuals who have not surrendered their dignity – is what KABC is all about. I am inspired by and share those values.

KABC and the folks who support us have an uphill climb. As an “industry,” nursing homes and assisted living facilities are run by remote conglomerates whose goal is to maximize profit at the expense of staff, residents, and families. **High quality is not the industry’s bottom line**, and it has an outsize voice in politics. Of course, we have some excellent providers in Kansas; sadly, they are the exceptions that prove the rule, however. They are locally owned; they are operated by your community; they are fully staffed by your friends and neighbors. KABC exists to insist that those exceptions become the norm and that your private dollars and the tax-payer dollars that fund the lion’s share of long-term care pay for quality – not the warehousing of frail, disabled, or demented Kansans. It’s a big job, but mercifully someone . . . many someones at KABC, actually . . . are on it."

*Molly M. Wood practices elder law in Lawrence, Kansas as a partner with [Stevens & Brand LLP](#). She writes for and speaks to a wide variety of audiences about elder law issues, particularly those involving access to long-term care, Medicaid, Medicare, and guardianship of adults. She has been a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys since 1995 and is chair of its Litigation Committee and as a member of NAELA’s Kansas Chapter, has been a long-time member of the Kansas Bar Association. She serves on the Kansas Legal Services board, is “AV” rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and has been listed in Best Lawyers in America (Woodward/White 2023) in Elder Law since 2005. Ms. Wood is the co-author of *Advising the Elderly Client* (Thompson Reuters 2023) a 3-volume treatise, co-authored a law school textbook, *Elder Law: Readings, Cases, and Materials*, 4th (Carolina Academic Press 2012) (with A. Kimberley Dayton) and co-edited the *Kansas Long-Term Care Handbook*, 3d (Kansas Bar Association 2009, with Emily A. Donaldson).*