

Robert E. Keith

Robert Keith is the Chief Counsel for Children, Families and Aging programs in the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He has held that position since 1995. Mr. Keith joined OGC as a staff attorney in 1982, and was assigned as in-house counsel to the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), HHS. During that period he briefed and argued five cases before the 8th, 9th, and 11th United States Circuit Courts of Appeals, and participated in the preparation of several cases before the United States Supreme Court. Most recently, Mr. Keith helped draft the government's *amicus curiae* brief in *Turner v. Rogers*, 564 U.S. __ (2011)(civil contempt proceedings must assure "fundamentally fair determination" of ability to pay child support). Prior to his career with HHS, Mr. Keith was an Assistant Iowa Attorney General and Lead Attorney for the State's Child Support Recovery Unit. Between 1975 and 1980 Mr. Keith prosecuted over 1000 paternity suits. In addition to his extensive trial practice, Robert handled all appeals to the Iowa Supreme Court in paternity cases. He successfully argued precedent-setting cases involving the State's two-year statute of limitations and the use of long-arm jurisdiction in paternity actions. He also pioneered the use at trial of blood test evidence (pre-DNA) in contested paternity proceedings to show a likelihood of parentage, and wrote several articles advocating the broader use of genetic testing in such disputed cases. From 1980 to 1982 Mr. Keith traveled extensively throughout the United States on behalf of OCSE training paternity prosecutors in state-of-the-art procedures for establishment of parentage. Robert Keith continues to take a keen interest in the evolving child support enforcement program on an international level. He was a member of the United States' delegation to The Hague for the 2007 Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance and also served on the Drafting Committee. Mr. Keith is a 1974 graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law, and a 1971 graduate of the University of Iowa where he majored in Philosophy and Psychology. He is married to Donna Bonar, the Deputy Commissioner of OCSE, HHS, and they have three children.