



# Kansas Appellate Advocacy:

## An inside view of common-sense strategy

By Patrick Hughes

**W**hen I meet new people at cocktail parties and the like, eventually the question comes up of what it is that I do. If I'm in a particularly ornery mood I say: "A little of this and a little of that." I explain: "Violent crime, mostly. Murder, as much as anything, although I used to do some aggravated robbery or burglary occasionally ... a battery now and again. I've done a couple of convenience store heists." As they look frantically for some other small group on which to intrude, I add, "I was involved in midwifery for awhile, after a few sour real estate deals and experiences with leasing and the oil business that didn't go too well. With one of the best gigs I got I ended up in the middle of a paternity suit. You see, the price has been high, several divorces, a few work-related injuries and of course my fair share of tax problems."

If no security guard can be readily found, the conversation continues. "Sounds like you keep busy."

"Well, filings are way up." After a quizzical look, I add "I'm a research attorney in the Kansas appellate courts. I work on all kinds of cases."<sup>1</sup>

