

San Mateo County Bar Association > Family Law Section

November 8, 2020



FAMILY LAW SECTION

The New Frontier: Contested Hearings and Trials via Zoom

Friday, December 11, 2020, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Please join the Family Law Section on **Friday, December 11, 2020**, for a panel with six esteemed private judges regarding remotely-held contested hearings and trials. With COVID-19 severely limiting litigant access to the public court system, this panel of private judges actually doing that work should not be missed! These private Judges will cover common issues that arise in remotely-held contested hearings, both for Judges and attorneys, and will provide invaluable insights and strategies for handling the challenges of these proceedings.

- Hon. Charlotte Walter Woolard
- Commissioner Marjorie A. Slabach
- Hon. Irwin C. Joseph
- David A. Fink, Esq.
- Roger K. Lewis, Esq.
- Richard C. Berra, Esq.

The Hon. Charlotte Walter Woolard has 22 years of judicial experience in multiple civil and family law departments. She held several positions in court leadership as Supervising Judge of the Unified Family Court and Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division. Prior to her appointment on the bench, Judge Woolard was a civil litigator at a major national law firm. Serving for nearly a decade as a Family Law judge, including two terms leading the eight family related departments in San Francisco's Unified Family Court, Judge Woolard has handled almost every issue presented before family courts, and has been honored with numerous professional awards and recognition.

Commissioner Marjorie A. Slabach presided over a Family Court in the San Francisco Superior Court for 14 years from 1997 to 2011. Prior to serving on the bench she was a named and founding partner in a private family law firm in Santa Rosa, California. She has been a Certified Family Law Specialist since 1992. Commissioner Slabach is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including Outstanding Service to Family Law from the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists and Judicial Officer of the Year from the Family Law Section of the California State Bar. Commissioner Slabach works with attorneys and clients in numerous roles, including consultation, Mediation/Settlement Conferencing, as a Judge Pro Tem or a CCP 638 Referee.

The Hon. Irwin H. Joseph has 15 years of judicial experience as a Superior Court Commissioner sitting as an All Purpose Judge in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties. Prior to his appointment, Judge Joseph was

in private practice for 20 years when he began hearing mediation cases. While on the bench, Judge Joseph created and expanded a Judicial Mediation program in the Family Department in both Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties. He assisted parties in settling over 90% of the cases assigned to him for Mediation at a Judicially Supervised Settlement Conference. In addition, Judge Joseph served on Faculty for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) at the AOC, Faculty for National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Domestic Violence Training, and The *Elkins* Family Law Task Force. He teaches Family Law Mediation at the annual Straus Institute/Pepperdine Law Professional Skills Program.

David A. Fink, Esq. is an attorney with over 30 years of family law practice. As a believer that most families can, with the right kind of help, settle their disagreements out of court, he works toward consensual dispute resolution. Mr. Fink often serves families as a neutral referee, arbitrator and temporary judge as families go through this difficult time. In the role of a neutral, Mr. Fink taps into a depth of wisdom that only comes from decades of practice and long experience working constructively with attorneys and experts. He promotes parties to stay in control of their situations by resolving and negotiating issues outside of court. While Mr. Fink no longer represents clients in litigation, he does serve clients as a consultant and as an advising attorney in collaborative law and other consensual dispute resolution processes.

Roger J. Lewis, Esq. is an attorney with 40 years of traditional family law practice. He now limits his practice to family law mediation and private dispute resolution. He has conducted numerous mediations and privately adjudicated many family law matters. Mr. Lewis has been certified as a specialist in family law by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization since 1995. Mr. Lewis has extensive practice experience in all facets of family law, including business valuation and apportionment, tracing, complicated real estate and property division issues, transmutation, premarital and marital agreements, child and spousal support disputes, post-trial matters, modification of support, and parenting issues.

Richard C. Berra, Esq. is an attorney with over 40 years of family law practice. Mr. Berra has concentrated his practice on the resolution of the complex business, property and support issues involved in marital dissolution cases. For the last 20 years, Mr. Berra has been emphasizing the use of mediation as a means of settling marital disputes which often result in less cost to his clients, reduce friction and less acrimony. A substantial portion (approximately 80%) of Mr. Berra's practice now is concentrated in private judging of family law matters, the remainder is mediation.

Due to continued Shelter-in-Place restrictions, this event will be hosted via Zoom. Consistent with our prior virtual presentations that have qualified for MCLE credit, all attendees must register online prior to the event. A link for event registration is forthcoming.

The Zoom invitation and any materials for the event will be provided by the SMCBA prior to the event.

Cost: \$30 for section members and \$40 for non-section members. Cancellations must be received at least 48 hours prior to the event for a full refund of the registration fee. If you do not cancel within 48 hours or do not show up to the event, you will be charged the full amount.

If you wish to pay by check, please send your check payable to SMCBA, to: [333 Bradford St., Ste. 200, Redwood City, CA 94063](#). Attn: Events. **Please note which event you are paying for and the name of the attendee.*

One hour of MCLE Credit will be provided for attendance. Please login on the SMCBA website to print out your MCLE certificate after the event.

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