

## PROGRAM FACULTY



**JUDGE THOMAS TRENT LEWIS** (Program Director) is a CFLS since 1986 and a member of AAML. He was assigned to the Los Angeles Superior Court Family Law Department in 2006. He currently serves on the CJER Family Law Education Committee. He is a frequent CFLR/Rutter Group panelist and teaches at the FLRC update program, Family Law 101 and AFLC. He was the 2010 AAML Southern California Judicial Officer of the Year. Judge Lewis is also a contributing author of *The Rutter Group's California Practice Guide: Family Law*.



**MICHAEL ASIMOW** is a visiting professor at Stanford Law School and Professor of Law Emeritus at UCLA Law School. He teaches income tax, contracts and administrative law. Asimow is the author of the tax chapters in *The Rutter Group's California Practice Guide: Family Law*. He is also the lead author of *The Rutter Group's forthcoming California Practice Guide: Administrative Law and Procedure*.



**JUDGE KENNETH A. BLACK** served three years as Supervising Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court Family Law Department. He has received many honors, including the State Bar Family Law Section's Judicial Officer of the Year Award and the Spencer Brandeis Family Service Award. He lectures statewide on family law topics and is a contributing author of *The Rutter Group's California Practice Guide: Family Law*.



**JUSTICE DENNIS A. CORNELL** was a trial lawyer for 20 years and a Superior Court judge for nine years, and has been an appellate justice since 2000. He has been a certified family law specialist since 1980, and a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers since 1982. He tried approximately 50 jury trials to verdict as a lawyer, and over 120 jury trials and several hundred court trials as a trial court judge. He was the lead appellate attorney on over 20 family law appeals resulting in 12 published decisions. He has argued family law cases in the California Supreme Court, California Courts of Appeal, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.



**JUDGE MAUREEN HALLAHAN** is Supervising Judge of Family Law in San Diego County. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was a civil business litigator for 26 years. She is committed to quality education for family law practitioners and enjoys sharing her experiences.



**JILL HERSH** founded Hersh Family Law Practice, a trial and appellate practice providing legal services in complex and high asset matters, high-conflict custody disputes, and same-gender parentage and domestic partner cases. Ms. Hersh serves as a private mediator, a settlement panelist for the Marin and San Francisco County Superior Courts, teaches continuing legal education to lawyers, and has argued before the California Appellate and Supreme Courts. Ms. Hersh is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a Certified Family Law Specialist, and recipient of California Lawyer's 2006 Attorney of the Year Award for work in Family Law.



**MARC PETER KAPLAN** is a Certified Family law Specialist with over 30 years' CPA and forensic experience. He has a unique practice serving exclusively as a dedicated neutral as well as Special Master/Referee, Mediator, Arbitrator or Privately Compensated Temporary Judge. His mission statement is to resolve cases, educate the bench and bar on family law financial issues and promote civility among attorneys.



**STEPHEN A. KOLODNY** is a Certified Family Law Specialist and principal partner in the Beverly Hills firm of Kolodny & Anteau. He is a member of both the IAML and AAML (past President of both the Southern California and International chapters), founding Member of American College of Family Trial Lawyers and its recently retired Executive Vice-President, former Chair of LACBA Family Law Section, and Co-Chair of the Family Law Trial Institute Training Program in Houston.



**MARY J. MARTINELLI** is a Certified Family Law Specialist who leads one of the largest family law practices in California. She represents clients in sophisticated custody matters and high-stakes property matters. Her practice focuses primarily on parties who own businesses. Practicing as part of Downey Brand LLP, Sacramento's largest law firm, Mary is one of the few family law attorneys in the state working daily with corporate, estate planning, tax and ERISA attorneys who provide in depth support to her family law clients. Mary taught Family Law/Community Property for 10 years at UC Davis (King Hall) School of Law, and is a frequent speaker and writer on family law topics.



**FORREST S. MOSTEN** is a CFLS and has been mediating in private practice since 1979. He limits his practice to mediation, collaborative law, unbundled representation, and premarital agreements in high conflict and complex legal matters. He has been named again as 2013 Super Lawyer in Family Law and in Mediation. He has written 4 books and numerous articles and teaches mediation at the UCLA School of Law. He trains family lawyers and mediators and keynotes professional conferences worldwide. He can be reached at [www.mostenmediation.com](http://www.mostenmediation.com).



**LORIE S. NACHLIS** is a partner in the Law Firm of Nachlis & Fink. She is certified by the State Bar Board of Legal Specialization as a Family Law Specialist and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Lorie was a member of the Elkins Family Law Task Force and currently serves on the Elkins Implementation Task Force.



**JUDGE CHARLES NOVACK** was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California in 2010. Before then, Judge Novack practiced bankruptcy law in Oakland for 16 years. Judge Novack also served as an associate professor at California State University, East Bay. He frequently lectures on the interplay between bankruptcy and family law.



**ELLEN PECK** is a sole practitioner from Escondido, California. Her practice is limited to legal and expert services concerning the Professional Responsibilities of lawyers. She is a co-author of The Rutter Group's *California Practice Guide: Professional Responsibility*. She has served as ethics counsel to the State Bar and the ABA. She is past Chair of the State Bar's Committee on Professional Conduct.



**JUDGE AMY M. PELLMAN** served as Legal Director at The Alliance for Children Rights before taking the bench. She practiced appellate and trial work in the Children's Court and has taught and published extensively in the area of juvenile rights. She is known as a national advocate for children's rights and received the ABA Child Advocacy award. She sat in a Family Law trial assignment from 2005 to 2010. Currently, Judge Pellman is assigned to the Dependency Court in a Trial Department.



**JUSTICE MARK B. SIMONS** received his J.D. from the University of Chicago, where he served on the Law Review. In 2001, he was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco. Justice Simons was an adjunct professor of law and taught evidence at Hastings College of the Law from 2002 through 2004. He has lectured on evidence topics to numerous lawyer and judicial groups, including the B. E. Witkin Judicial College, and served as Dean of the Judicial College in 1995 and 1996. Justice Simons is the author of *California Evidence Manual*, published by West. He has twice received the Bernard Jefferson Award for Distinguished Service in Judicial Education.



**STEVEN SPARTA**, Ph.D., is in independent practice and is frequently court appointed to serve in family law cases. He is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UCSD School of Medicine, an Adjunct Professor of Law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at SDSU. He was Chair of the Ethics Committee of the American Psychological Association and formerly was Chief Psychologist at Children's Hospital San Diego. Dr. Sparta and co-editor Gerald Koocher, Ph.D. wrote, *Forensic Mental Health Assessment of Children & Adolescents*, published by Oxford University Press.



**MICHAEL TOBRINER** has practiced family law in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 30 years. He devotes his practice to Alternative Dispute Resolution in family law. Michael is a CFLS and a member of AAML. He has served as a mediator and as collaborative counsel in numerous family law cases and is a participating member of Collaborative Practice San Francisco and the International Association of Collaborative Professionals.



**MARK L. TUFT** is a co-author of The Rutter Group's *California Practice Guide: Professional Responsibility*. He is certified as a legal malpractice specialist by the State Bar of California and has served as a Vice-Chair of the California State Bar Commission on the Revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Mr. Tuft is currently President of the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers. He is a past Chair of the California State Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct and the Bar Association of San Francisco Legal Ethics Committee.



**STEPHEN JAMES WAGNER** is a CFLS and partner in the Sacramento law firm of Dick & Wagner, specializing in complex family law matters, including issues relating to fiduciary duties, characterization, tracings, business valuations and support. He is a member of the ACFLS and California and International AAML. He is co-author, along with Dawn Gray, of the LexisNexis/Matthew Bender publication, *Complex Issues in California Law*. He is a speaker at the Family Law Trial Institute in Houston, and FLRC.



**PETER M. WALZER** is founding partner of the Southern California law firm Walzer & Melcher LLP, Los Angeles, California, focused exclusively on family law. He is a past president of the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is a former Chair of the Executive Committee of the State Bar Family Law Section. Mr. Walzer has been a Certified Family Law Specialist for 23 years and is a former president of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists.



**LAURA A. WASSER** is a partner at Wasser, Cooperman and Carter. Ms. Wasser's practice is focused on providing counsel in a broad range of matrimonial and family law matters including divorce, child custody and access, spousal and child support, paternity, and prenuptial, postnuptial and separation agreements, including same-sex partner and cohabitation agreements. She has extensive trial and appellate experience in addition to settlement resolutions and mediation. Ms. Wasser has been a featured speaker at various continuing education courses for the Beverly Hills Bar Association and the AICPA/AAML National Conference on Divorce, in addition to Rutter Group seminars and panels.



**COMMISSIONER DAVID S. WEINBERG** (Ret.) has been a Private Judge in Orange County for over 10 years. Previously, he was a Superior Court Commissioner in Orange County, spending 10 years on the bench. He also was in private practice at Weinberg & Weinberg ALC and served as an O.C. Deputy District Attorney. He is the recipient of the Orange County Bar Association J.E.T. Rutter Award for outstanding service to the Family Law Section and is a member of the Western State University College of Law Hall of Fame.