

The Training and Coordination Project For Guardians *Ad Litem* and Attorneys for Minor Children In Family Matters

Biographies of Presenters

Hon. Gerard I. Adelman

Barry F. Armata, J.D., is a Partner in the firm of Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP with offices in Hartford, Glastonbury, and Bristol, Connecticut where he concentrates his practice in the area of family law, mediation and collaborative divorce, with an emphasis on advocating the interest of children in conflicted custody cases. Attorney Armata received his B.A. degree, magna cum laude, in economics and sociology from Boston College in 1981. After graduating from Syracuse University College of Law in 1983, he was admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in June, 1984, and was admitted to the Bar of the State of Connecticut in November, 1984. Attorney Armata has frequently spoken on topics in family law for the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation, the Connecticut Bar Association and Family Service Division of the Connecticut Judicial Branch, as well as other groups in Connecticut. He is a past-chair of the Family Law Committee of the Hartford County Bar Association and is also a member of the Connecticut Bar Association (Secretary, Executive Committee of the Family Law Section), American Bar Association (Family Law Section), and the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation (Past President). Attorney Armata is a founding member of the Collaborative Divorce Lawyers' Association and the Central Connecticut Collaborative Family Law Group, a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. He is an informational & referral attorney for Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, a charter member of the Capital Area Foundation for Equal Justice and has participated in the "Law Works for People" program. He has served as a Connecticut delegate for the Tri-State Conference on Family Law and has served with the High Conflict and Lawyering Sub-Committees of the Governor's Commission on Family Law. Attorney Armata has been elected as a Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Fellows Program. He is also a founding member of the Academy of Child Advocacy. In 2009, Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Chase T. Rogers named Attorney Armata to the Parenting Education Program and Advisory Committee, where he continues to serve. Attorney Armata was a co-editor for the *Connecticut Family Lawyer's* edition on Child Advocacy, co-authoring an article with Mark Dubois, Chief Disciplinary Counsel on "Grievances and the Guardian ad Litem". He is also a contributing author on the Use of Experts for the Family Law Education Reform Project, and a contributor to the Amicus Curiae brief in Carrubba vs. Moskowitz on behalf of The Children's Law Center.

Hon. Harry E. Calmar

Hon. Bernadette Conway began her career in 1979 as a Registered Nurse. She worked nights in the intensive care unit while attending law school at the University of Bridgeport. Judge Conway began her legal career as a Special Deputy Assistant State's Attorney, where she wrote and argued state criminal cases on appeal before the State Appellate and Supreme Courts. A former Registered Nurse and Assistant State's Attorney, Judge Conway became a Connecticut Superior Court Judge in March of 1999. Judge Conway was first assigned to criminal court in Hartford, and in September of 1999, was assigned to Juvenile Court in New Haven, where she became presiding judge in 2000. She now serves in New Haven family court. Judge Conway is also an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law, where she teaches a class on "Advanced Child Protection Law."

Steven Dembo, J.D. is a partner with Berman, Bourns, Aaron and Dembo, LLC, in West Hartford, CT. He graduated from Western New England College School of Law, and was admitted to practice in Connecticut in 1990. Attorney Dembo has served as a special master, a GAL, and an AMC in numerous cases. He specializes in trial level and appellate level family law.

Sharon Wicks Dornfeld, J.D. is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Law School.. She has practiced in Danbury since 1983. Her practice consists of representing minor children in high conflict custody and visitation disputes, guardianship, termination of parental rights and adoption matters, neglect and abuse matters, and as criminal victims of abuse. She also serves the City of Danbury as an Assistant Corporation Counsel. Attorney Dornfeld is a member of the American Bar Association, Connecticut Bar Association, (Chair, Family Law Section 2011-12), Danbury Bar Association (President 1995), National Association of Counsel for Children, and Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and is a Life Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. She currently serves as a member of the Attorney Grievance Panel for the Litchfield Judicial District, and previously served on the Waterbury Judicial District Grievance Panel. She also serves as a Special Master, Regional Family Trial Docket, and as an Attorney Trial Referee, Fact-Finder and Arbitrator. With Professor Carolyn Kaas, she co-authored Advocating for Connecticut's Children During Their Parents' Divorces and Custody Disputes After Carrubba v. Moskowitz: The Past, the Present and the Future State of the Law for Attorneys for Minor Children and Guardians *ad Litem*, 81 CONN. B. J. 229 (2007).

Anne Epstein, J.D. graduated from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in 1993. She joined the Adelman Law Firm in New Haven in 1997, and has been a partner since 2002. Anne serves as a special master in Middletown at the Regional Family Trial Docket and other judicial districts, and practices primarily in Family Law, serving as a GAL or AMC in many cases.

Stephen R. Grant, MA, CAGS is the Director of Juvenile and Family Services for the Court Support Services Division of the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch. In that capacity, his responsibilities include statewide administrative oversight of: Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Detention, Juvenile Clinical and Educational Services and Family Criminal and Civil Services. He is a graduate of Ohio State University with dual BA degrees in Psychology and Sociology, and also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Clinical Psychology and an Advance Graduate Degree in Administration from the University of Hartford.

David Griffin, J.D. is a partner at Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin, LLC in Westport. He was admitted to practice in 1983 and served as in-house counsel in a real estate firm. In 1991, he re-entered private practice and began to practice in family law as well as other areas. David frequently serves as GAL or AMC.

Hon. Jane Grossman received both her bachelor's degree in psychology and her law degree from Quinnipiac University. She spent several years at a small private firm specializing in family law and civil and criminal appeals before joining New Haven Legal Assistance as a staff attorney. She remained there for ten years, representing low income clients in housing, family and criminal matters. As a staff attorney Mag. Grossman implemented a tax clinic for low income filers and supervised the law student summer program. She has served as the president of the Family Law Section of the New Haven County Bar, president of the board of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund and is an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law. In 2011 she was appointed to serve as a Family Support Magistrate in the Family Support Division of the Superior Court.

Sheila Hayre, J.D. has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in cultural anthropology from Stanford University. She graduated from Yale Law School in 2002, after which she clerked at the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and then at the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Sheila spent two years as an Equal Justice America fellow at New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLA) and subsequently accepted a permanent position there as a staff attorney. At NHLA, she now practices both family law—including divorce, child custody and visitation, alimony and child support, and restraining orders—and immigration law—including VAWA Self-Petitions, U Visas, and T Visas. Sheila has developed and taught *pro se* divorce classes in English and Spanish, aimed at assisting unrepresented litigants in understanding and navigating the divorce process in order to obtain a divorce without the assistance of an attorney. In addition to litigating in Superior Court, Sheila also practices in Family Support Magistrate Court and Probate Court, where she has worked on behalf of disabled child-support obligors, terminally-ill parents seeking guardianship arrangements, and *de facto* parents seeking custodial rights. Both her academic work and her legal practice have dealt extensively with the culture of immigrant communities, including immigrants from Asia and Latin America. Sheila's work in family law and immigration has focused on the neediest, particularly undocumented women who are victims of domestic

violence. Sheila was among the first legal services attorneys in Connecticut to pursue legal permanent residence for battered spouses, and she has recently filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of victims of trafficking and employer abuse. Sheila has also served as Public Interest Advisor and Mentor In Residence at Yale Law School. She currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors for IRIS, or Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, a New Haven-based non-profit which assists refugees and other immigrants as they establish new lives in communities across Connecticut.

Sidney Horowitz, Ph.D., received a B.A. (Psychology) from Binghamton University, an M.S. (Social Research) from Hunter College, and a Ph.D. (Clinical Psychology) from the Ohio State University. Over the past thirty years, he has been involved in working with children, adolescents and adults in various capacities. He has worked as the Director of Psychological Services for the Waterbury Regional Department of Pediatrics (for St. Mary's Hospital and Waterbury Hospital), chaired a Child Protection Team, consulted to private industry and state agencies, served as a Special Master for high conflict divorce cases at the Regional Family Trial Docket, provided forensic evaluation and testimony in civil and criminal matters, and has been involved in the assessment, treatment and diagnosis of children, adolescents and adults in his independent practice. Dr. Horowitz was a member of the clinical faculty in Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine for 18 years and also served as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Dr. Horowitz is a member of the American Psychological Association, Connecticut Psychological Association, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and is presently serving as co-president for the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation and Collaborative Practice.

Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, J.D., is an Associate Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law in Hamden, Connecticut, teaching since 1989. Professor Kaas is the Director of the Clinical Programs and also serves as the Director of the Law School's Family and Juvenile Law Concentration program, and co-director of the Center on Dispute Resolution and its Project for Children and the Family. She is currently serving as the co-president of the Connecticut Council on Divorce Mediation and Collaborative Practice. Professor Kaas has taught for twenty years in the in-house Civil Clinic, supervising her students who handled a variety of civil matters, but predominantly family law cases at the trial and appellate levels. She now also teaches the field placement courses. She teaches Negotiation and is the lead professor for the clinical pre-requisite course in interviewing, counseling, and negotiation, called "Introduction to Representing Clients." She has served as a mediator in family and child protection cases in Connecticut, and is the author of two articles on custody, and one on representing children in Connecticut custody cases. Her current works-in-progress include an article questioning absolute neutrality in child custody mediations, one entitled *The Family Lawyer as an Agent of Healing and Reason*, and one on teaching professionalism through clinical programs. Professor Kaas graduated from Cornell

University in 1976 and received her J.D. with highest honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1983. She was a law clerk for the Honorable Ellen Bree Burns in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut and was a litigation associate at Wiggin & Dana for four years before joining the faculty at the law school in 1989.

Howard M. Krieger, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist in independent practice for 30 years. He was trained in psychotherapy, assessment and consultation. Dr. Krieger has extensive experience working with children, adolescents and adults. He received postdoctoral training in neuropsychology at the Yale University school of Medicine. Over the years, Dr. Krieger has developed expertise in working with children and families involved in the legal system in areas of abuse and neglect, divorce and post divorce adjustment, criminal and personal injury litigation and mediation. He has worked for many years as a Special Master at the Regional Family Trial Docket. Dr. Krieger served as an instructor for the state of Connecticut judicial system in the area of child and adolescent development and interviewing skills, training judges, family relations officers, juvenile and adult probation officers and supervisors in the Department of Juvenile and Adult probation. Dr. Krieger is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Connecticut Psychological Association, the American Academy of Neuropsychologist, and the Connecticut Council for Divorce Mediation and Collaboration. He has received Diplomate status in the American Board of Psychological Specialties with a forensic specialty in clinical psychology from the American Board of forensic examiners.

Sandra Lax, J.D. is a 1988 graduate of the University of Bridgeport School of Law. She is a founding partner of the firm Lax and Truax in Fairfield. Her areas of concentration are family law, GAL/AMC work, mediation, and gay and lesbian rights. Sandy is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and is currently an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac Law.

Marcia Lebowitz, M.S.W., is the founding director of the Children's Divorce Center in Woodbridge, CT. She is also an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law, where she has been teaching *Divorce and the Divorcing Family* since 2000. Ms. Lebowitz is a licensed and board certified pediatric social worker who received her degree from Simmons College School of Social Work. She founded the Children's Divorce Center in 1979 to provide supportive, child-focused, divorce-related services for children and parents, divorce and post-divorce mediation services, and professional and community related educational programs. She is the author of *I Think Divorce Stinks*, an honest book on divorce for children, and is the creator of "Divorce from a Child's Point of View", an exhibit of children's divorce-related drawings from her practice. The exhibit, which is on display for this GAL/AMC training, has been presented at a variety of educational programs, including "Children and the Law" at Harvard Law School, and has been featured in *The New York Times*.

Hon. Lynda B. Munro is the Chief Administrative Family Judge for the State of Connecticut, currently sitting in Middletown at the Regional Family Trial Docket. Judge Munro received her B.A. in 1976 from Connecticut College and her Juris Doctor in 1979 from the Case Western Reserve University Law School. She was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1979. Prior to serving on the bench, Judge Munro was in private practice from 1979 until September 1994, when she was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge. Since then, she has heard cases in the Meriden, New London, New Haven, Hartford-New Britain, and Middletown Judicial Districts. Judge Munro was Presiding Judge over Housing Matters in the New Haven and Waterbury Courthouses in 1996, Presiding Judge over the Family Division in the New Haven Judicial District from September 1997 until August 1998, and Presiding Judge over the Regional Family Trial Docket in Middletown from August 1999 to September 2000 and again from August, 2003 to September 2004 and serves in that capacity currently. She was previously assigned for three years to the Civil Division in the New Haven Judicial District, where she presided over special proceedings and was assigned to Complex Civil Litigation Docket. Judge Munro has served as chairperson of Continuing Education for all Superior Court Judges in Connecticut. She was a member of the Governor's Commission on Divorce, Custody, and Family, and of the Chief Justice's Commission on Attorney Grievance Process. She also served on the Connecticut Bar Association Task Force on the Future of the Legal Profession. Currently, Judge Munro is an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law, teaching Advanced Family Law.

Helen Murphy, J.D. has been a partner with Murphy, Murphy and Nugent in New Haven since 2000. She has been in private practice with a focus on family law since 1986 and was a Family Relations counselor prior to that for several years in New Haven. She has a master's degree in counseling and is a certified mediator and nut job. She was instrumental in establishing the special masters program in New Haven Superior Court in 1999, as well as the New Haven Academy of Child Advocacy in 2008. Attorney Murphy has served, by appointment of the courts, as attorney for minor children and guardian *ad litem* on numerous occasions throughout her legal career.

Hon. Maureen M. Murphy is a Superior Court judge and was formerly a partner in the firm of Murphy, Murphy, and Nugent, LLC. Before her elevation to the bench, she frequently served as a Guardian *ad Litem* for children in custody disputes. While in practice, she was cooperating attorney with GLAD in Kerrigan v. State of Connecticut, the Connecticut same sex marriage equality case, which resulted in Connecticut being the second state in the country to afford full equality to same sex couples. She was the 2005 recipient of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Organization for Women Harriet Tubman award for social justice, the 2006 recipient of the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center Dorothy Award, and the 2007 Maria Miller Stewart Award from the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF).

Mary-K O'Sullivan, MA, LMFT, LADC, LPC is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and Drug & Alcohol Counselor, and is also licensed as a Professional Counselor. For more than 20 years, she has educated, trained and provided consultation regionally and nationally in the specialty areas of criminal justice treatment and rehabilitation, co-occurring disorders, women's issues in treatment and program design. Ms. O'Sullivan has been the director of inpatient, outpatient, and partial hospitalization programs for both adults and adolescents with behavioral health and addictive disorders and is past director of The Center, which was the certification/licensure training facility for substance abuse and prevention for the state of Connecticut. Ms. O'Sullivan is currently completing the requirements for a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Kenneth Robson, M.D. was born in Chicago, Illinois, and now lives and works in West Hartford, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine before devoting half a century to patient care, teaching, scholarship, and public service--twenty years at the Tufts University School of Medicine and a decade as Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at The Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut. He has authored and edited many books and papers in his field, as well as a book on A. Bartlett Giamatti, the former commissioner of baseball. Dr. Robson was appointed Professor of Psychiatry at the Tufts University and the University of Connecticut Schools of Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. He frequently serves as a psychiatric evaluator for the courts and as a Special Master for the Regional Family Trial Docket.

Linda Santos Smith, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Trumbull, CT. She received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2003. Prior to relocating to Connecticut a year ago, she lived and worked in Boston, MA., where she served as Assistant Director of the Comprehensive Family Evaluation Center at Tufts Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Tufts University School of Medicine, and also maintained a private practice in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Dr. Smith serves as a forensic psychologist who specializes in evaluating and treating children and families interfacing with the courts, has served as an expert witness, and consults with parents and separating/divorcing families. She also serves as a parent coordinator.

Carla Smith Stover, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor at the Yale University Child Study Center. She has extensive clinical experience with families impacted by domestic violence including police-mental health collaboration with the Child Development-Community Policing Program, early intervention, and longer term evidence based treatments including TF-CBT and Child Parent Psychotherapy. Additionally, she is the Research Director for the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence at Yale. She conducts program evaluation research on engagement and treatment strategies for children and families exposed to trauma and domestic violence.

Dr. Stover was awarded a K23 grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to develop and evaluate an intervention for fathers with co-occurring substance abuse and IPV that specifically targets their roles as fathers.

Louise T. Truax, is a partner at Lax and Truax in Fairfield, CT. She was admitted to the bar, 1993, Connecticut. *Education:* University of Vermont (B.A., 1984); Sacred Heart University (A.A., 1986); Pace University (J.D., cum laude, 1993). *Member:* American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, named to *Best Lawyers in America*, 2008 – present; Editor in Chief, Connecticut Family Lawyer, 2006 - present; Board of Editors, Connecticut Family Lawyer, 1994 – present, Fairfield County Bar Association, Connecticut Bar Association (Member, Executive Committee, Family Law Section, 1995 – present, Chair 2007-2008, Chair Elect, 2006, CLE Chair 2005, Secretary, 2004, Treasurer, 2003,) and American Bar Association (Member, Family Law Section). *Author:* “Superior Court Highlights,” “Deposition Strategies,”: “Law of the Fifty States,” Special Master, Stamford, Bridgeport Superior Courts, and Regional Family Trial Docket.

Robert D. Zaslow, J.D. has been an attorney in Connecticut since 1994, primarily working in the Family Courts representing both parents and children. He began his legal career working for two years for Legal Aid in Lima, Ohio. Returning to Connecticut he clerked for the judges of the Hartford Superior Court (Criminal, Family, and Civil divisions), and has since been in private practice. In addition to Family Law matters, Attorney Zaslow's practice also includes real estate matters, probate matters, child protection issues, and some civil litigation concerns. In addition to his practice, Attorney Zaslow is an Executive Committee Member of the Family Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association, presently serving as its CLE Chair. He is also a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (ACC.), a board member of the Hartford County Bar Foundation, and a member of the Collaborative Divorce Lawyers Association. Having worked for Legal Aid and clerked for the judges of the Superior Court, Attorney Zaslow values the need to give back to the court system, and is a Special Master for the Family Division of the Hartford Superior Court, the New Britain Superior Court, as well as for the Regional Family Trial Docket in Middletown and the Early Intervention Program (EIP) in Hartford. Robert D. Zaslow earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Connecticut at Storrs, and his juris doctorate from the Claude W. Pettit School of Law at Ohio Northern University. Attorney Zaslow is a principal in the firm of Zaslow & Sandler, LLC and the Vice Chair of the Family Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.