

California Family Law for Low-Income Litigants: Child Custody, Visitation and Motions Practice

San Francisco, Live Webcast and www.pli.edu,* October 31, 2017

Why You Should Attend

An estimated 80% of family law litigants are self-presented, and the statistic is higher for survivors of domestic violence. Low-income litigants are in great need of your pro bono help. Attend this free PLI program and volunteer with your local legal services agency to represent low-income family law litigants in need. With a limited time commitment, you can help obtain essential legal protections needed for low-income families.

What You Will Learn

Child Custody and Visitation provides a basic overview of the statutes and case law governing child custody and visitation and procedure, including using the California Family Law Judicial Council Forms.

Motions Practice in Family Law Cases provides an overview of the procedural steps to obtaining immediate orders (including judicial counsel forms, family law hearings, etc.) and how to handle family law court hearings.

Who Should Attend

Any California licensed attorney interested in providing pro bono assistance to low-income family law cases (whether limited scope family law matters or full representation in a dissolution matter). This training is designed for new attorneys and attorneys who are interested in transitioning to family law practice.

Program Schedule

9:00

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Stephanie E. Bilinski, Elizabeth A. Hom

9:15

Basic Overview of Child Custody and Visitation

- Child custody and visitation laws
- Child custody and visitation in DV cases
- Client-centered issues, informal agreements

Brenda Star Adams, Trina Chatterjee

10:45 Networking Break

11:00

Child Custody and Visitation Procedure

- Preparing and responding to the initial RFO and declaration
- Procedure of mediation, evaluation, hearing, review hearings and trial
- How to prepare for and handle a family law hearing/trial

Brenda Star Adams, Janice Cho

12:30 Lunch

1:30

Preparing Forms: *Request for Order* – Forms and Procedure

- Overview of available remedies
- Overview of CA Family Law Judicial Council motions forms
- Overview of procedure

Yasmine S. Mehmet, Arati Vasan

2:30

Preparing for Hearing: Client Interview and Preparation for Representation

- Conducting client interview in preparation of hearing representation
- Mock client interview
- Preparing for and reviewing Family Court Services reports
- Witnesses and supplemental evidence gathering

Yasmine S. Mehmet, Arati Vasan

3:30 Networking Break

3:45

Hearing Practice: Findings and *Orders After Hearing*

- Handling a hearing – arguments, questioning parties and witnesses
- Possible hearing results
- Preparing and obtaining safe and enforceable Orders After Hearing

Janet L. Frankel

4:45 Adjourn

Faculty:

Co-Chairs:

Stephanie E. Bilinski

Family Law Supervising Attorney
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