

## **California Family Law Basics: Pro Bono Representation in Low-Income Family Law Cases 2018**

**San Francisco, Live Webcast and [www.pli.edu](http://www.pli.edu),\* August 14-15, 2018**

### **Why You Should Attend**

Millions of Californians are unrepresented in Family Court matters (estimated 80% of litigants are unrepresented). Low-income clients are in desperate need of your pro bono help. Attend this free two-day PLI program for an introduction to family law practice and then volunteer with your local legal services agency to represent low-income family law litigants in need.

### **What You Will Learn**

- Working with Pro Bono Low-Income Clients
- Family Law 101/Overview in Low-Income Family Law Cases
- Basic Overview of Child Custody and Visitation
- Child Custody and Visitation Procedure
- Obtaining Child and Spousal Support in Low-Income Family Law Cases
- Property Issues in Low-Income Family Law Cases
- Using California Family Law Judicial Council Forms
- How to Finish a Dissolution Case: Case Settlement, Trial, Judgments

### **Who Should Attend**

Anyone interested in providing pro bono assistance to low-income family law clients in California (whether limited scope family law matters or full representation in a dissolution matter) would benefit from attending. The program is appropriate for new attorneys and more experienced practitioners looking to volunteer with nonprofit legal services agencies who can provide ongoing mentorship and support.

## **AGENDA**

Day One: 9:00 – 5:00

Morning Session:

9:00

### **Opening Remarks**

***Stephanie E. Bilinski***

9:15

### **Family Law 101/Overview in Low-Income Family Law Cases, Part I**

- Working with pro bono low-income clients (responsibilities and boundaries)
- Basic overview of family law:
  - Terminology
  - Applicable statutes
  - Family law proceedings (Superior Court, Local Rules)
  - Judicial Council Forms

***Stephanie E. Bilinski, Lauren De La Rosa***

10:15 Networking Break

10:30

### **Family Law 101/Overview in Low-Income Family Law Cases, Part II**

- Substantive law:
  - Community property
  - Child custody/visitation best interest standards
  - Child and spousal support
  - Attorneys' fees snapshot
  - Client education
- Types of family causes of actions and motions

***Stephanie E. Bilinski, Christopher J. Donnelly, Janet L. Frankel***

11:30

### **Family Law 101/Overview in Low-Income Family Law Cases, Part III**

- Initial pleadings:
  - Petition and attachments
  - Summons
  - Service of Process
- TROs, ex parte motions, DVPAs, etc.

- Overview of paths of dissolution to judgment (flowchart)

***Stephanie E. Bilinski, Christopher J. Donnelly, Janet L. Frankel***

12:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session:

1:45

**Basic Overview of Child Custody and Visitation**

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

***Stephanie E. Bilinski, Fawn Jade Koopman, Staci Lambright***

3:15 Networking Break

3:30

**Child Custody and Visitation Procedure**

- Preparing and responding to the initial RFO and declaration
- Procedure of:
  - Mediation
  - Evaluation
  - Hearing
  - Review hearings
  - Trial
- How to prepare for and handle a family law hearing/trial

***Stephanie E. Bilinski, Fawn Jade Koopman, Staci Lambright***

5:00 Adjourn

Day Two: 9:00 – 5:00

Morning Session:

9:00

**Opening Remarks**

***Stephanie E. Bilinski***

9:15

**Obtaining Child and Spousal Support in Low-Income Family Law Cases, Part I**

- Overview of substantive law
  - Child and spousal support
- Procedural steps to obtaining child and spousal support orders

***Janice Cho, Roxanne Hoegger Alejandre***

10:15

**Obtaining Child and Spousal Support in Low-Income Family Law Cases, Part II**

- Working with the Department of Child Support Services
- How to prepare and handle support hearing

***Janice Cho, Roxanne Hoegger Alejandre***

11:15 Networking Break

11:30

**Property Issues in Low-Income Family Law Cases, Part I**

- Identifying/characterizing community and separate property assets and debts
- Mandatory disclosures
  - Declaration of Disclosure
  - Schedule of Assets and Debts

***Janet L. Frankel***

12:30 *Lunch*

Afternoon Session:

1:45

**Property Issues in Low-Income Family Law Cases, Part II**

- Basic overview of discovery
  - Formal and informal
- Methods and dividing and distributing community assets and debts

***Janet L. Frankel***

2:45

**How to Finish a Dissolution Case: Case Settlement and Trials**

- How to prepare and handle a Mandatory Settlement Conference
- Basic overview of family law trials

***Jerel McCrary, Erin Orum***

3:45 Networking Break

4:00

**How to Finish a Dissolution Case: Judgments**

- Judgments and related forms:
  - True defaults
  - Defaults with agreements
  - Uncontested judgments

***Jerel McCrary, Kemi Mustapha***

5:00 Adjourn

**Faculty:**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Stephanie E. Bilinski**

Family Law Supervising Attorney  
Justice & Diversity Center of The Bar Association of San Francisco  
San Francisco, California

**Jerel McCrary**

Managing Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
San Francisco, California

---

**Janice Cho**

Law Office of Janice Cho  
Oakland, California

**Lauren De La Rosa**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
Napa, California

**Christopher J. Donnelly**

Partner  
Leland, Parachini, Steinberg, Matzger & Melnick, LLP  
San Francisco, California

**Janet L. Frankel**

Certified Specialist in Family Law  
Law Offices of Janet L. Frankel  
San Francisco, California

**Roxanne Hoegger Alejandre**

Staff Attorney  
Bay Area Legal Aid  
San Francisco, California

**Fawn Jade Koopman**

Staff Attorney

Bay Area Legal Aid

San Francisco, California

**Staci Lambright**

Staff Attorney

Bay Area Legal Aid

San Francisco, California

**Kemi Mustapha**

Staff Attorney

Bay Area Legal Aid

San Jose, California

**Erin Orum**

Staff Attorney

Bay Area Legal Aid

San Jose, California

**Program Attorney: Christina Thompson**