

## Statewide Conference on Self-Represented Litigants

March 14-17, 2006

San Francisco, CA

### *Faculty Biographies*

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**Sue Alexander**, a Certified Family Law Specialist by the California State Bar, was appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court Bench in October 1997, hearing Family Law and Child Support cases. Commissioner Alexander received her MS in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling from San Jose State University in 1978 and has an inactive license with the State of California as a Marriage and Family Therapist. She graduated with honors from Golden Gate School of Law in 1983. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Commissioner Alexander, who also is a Certified Specialist in Probate, Estate Planning and Trust Law, had a solo practice emphasizing family law, estate planning and probate, conservatorships and guardianships, juvenile law and mental health law. She is a member of the CJER Family Law Education Committee, the Family and Juvenile Advisory Committee to the Judicial Council, the Board of Directors of the California Court Commissioners Association, the State Ethics Committee for the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and serves on various other boards and committees dealing with family law, child support and domestic violence issues.

**Katherine Alteneider** is the Co-Director of the Alaska Court System's Family Law Self-Help Center. Before joining the court, she was a staff attorney for Alaska Legal Services Corporation, specializing in domestic violence and elder law. After law school, Katherine served as a law clerk to Judge Eric Smith of Palmer, Alaska. She received her J.D. cum laude from Seattle University School of Law, and her B.A. in Philosophy from Northwestern University.

**Diana Avendaño** has been a Paralegal at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLS) for 16 years. Ms. Avendaño started her career at NLS in the Family Law Department and has worked on a variety of projects including developing non-profit corporations, and small businesses.. For the past five years, Ms. Avendaño has been the lead coordinator for the NLS Self-Help Centers which provide assistance to self-represented litigants in housing and family law matters. Ms. Avendaño runs the day-to-day operations of the Centers and is currently overseeing the opening of NLS' 3 new Self-Help Centers, one which is due to open in early April 2006.

**Albert Balingit** is a staff attorney with the Legal Services Unit of the State Department of Consumer Affairs and also the Coordinator of the Dispute Resolution Office. As a staff attorney, he specializes in Small Claims. He worked on the Small Claims Act of 1990 and wrote numerous sections of the Small Claims Cleanup Bill of 1992. He is one of the principal authors of the *Consumer Law Sourcebook for Small Claims Judicial Officers*. He is a consultant to the California Center for Judicial Education for its California Judges Benchbook, *Small Claims Court and Consumer Law* and the *Benchguide*. He is the California Department of Consumer Affairs' liaison with the Small Claims Advisor Association. Mr. Balingit was appointed by the Chief Justice to the Judicial Council's Civil and Small Claims Committee and has served on the

Temporary Judges Working Group and the Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants. Mr. Balingit has been conducting training program for small claims court judges since 1990. Mr. Balingit has been a small claims pro tem judge in Sacramento since 1986. Mr. Balingit graduated from the University of California, Davis School of Law in 1975. Since that time and prior to his employment with the State Department of Consumer Affairs and for 15 years, he has been in both private practice and state service litigating cases in both the administrative and regular court forums.

**Louise Bayles-Fightmaster** was appointed to the Sonoma County bench in August 2004. She is currently assigned to the Family Law Division and hears the AB 1058 Child Support Calendar, the Pro Per Calendar, and some other general Family Law cases. Prior to her appointment to the bench Ms. Bayles-Fightmaster was the Family Law Facilitator for the Sonoma County Superior Court from September 1997 until August 2004. Ms. Bayles-Fightmaster has been active in the statewide education and development of self help services for self represented litigants. Her particular area of interest is ethics and the evolving role of attorneys and the courts in self represented programs. Ms. Bayles-Fightmaster is a Certified Family Law Specialist and trained mediator.

**Berta Alicia Bejarano** joined the Court Interpreters Program in May 2003 as a Court Interpreter Services Analyst. She is a certified federal court interpreter who began her interpreting career as a language specialist/court interpreter for the U.S. Department of Justice. She studied at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, received certification in linguistic theory from the University of California at Berkeley, and has a graduate degree in organizational management. She is a member of the Board of the California Healthcare Interpreters Association and comes to the AOC from Kaiser Permanente, where she worked for almost five years setting up interpreter programs.

**Marcia Bell** has been the director of the San Francisco Law Library since 1991. She is a past president of the California Council of County Law Libraries and the Council's representative to the California Commission on Access to Justice. She is a graduate of Golden Gate University School of Law and Syracuse University. She practiced law in San Francisco for several years before fulfilling a life-long desire to live on a tropical island by moving to the Pacific island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. During her seven years on Saipan she was Deputy Director of Micronesian Legal Services and worked in private practice. Prior to law school, she was a social worker in Contra Costa County and New York.

**Trina Blackshire** is a Certified Family Law Paralegal. She has worked for the Court for over 8 years, first as an assistant in the Family Law Facilitator's Office and more recently as the Court's Child Support Program Coordinator. In this role she serves as a liaison to AB1058 grant Commissioners, designated staff and the Dept. of Child Support Services. She services the calendars in Oakland and Hayward. She works with the AB1058 grant Commissioners and self represented litigants who need assistance with procedural information, child support mediation and orders after hearing.

**Aviva Bobb** has been a judge since 1980. She has served as Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court, Supervising Judge of the Family Law Departments and Supervising Judge of the Probate Department. Prior to her appointment to the bench she was the Executive Director of the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. She received the 2005 Benjamin Aranda Access to Justice Award for her efforts to improve access to the courts for low and moderate income people and the Distinguished Jurist Award of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**Evy Leviege Braggs** is a Certified Family Law Paralegal. She has worked for the Court for over 8 years, first as an assistant in the Family Law Facilitator's Office and more recently as the Court's Domestic Violence Case Manager. In this role she services the civil domestic violence restraining order calendars in Fremont, Hayward, Oakland and Pleasanton. She works with pro per litigants who need assistance with treatment referrals as well as provides procedural information to the litigants on how to resolve family law issues. She works as the court/community liaison for advocate agencies and batterer's treatment programs. Ms. Braggs is also responsible for training court employees on the procedural aspect of processing Domestic Violence cases. Ms. Braggs currently sits on the Alameda County Death Review Team, the Family Violence Council, and Southern Alameda County Domestic Violence Task Force. She has a degree in Criminal Justice from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

**Diane Bras** has been the Placer County Family Law Facilitator since 1997 and was a staff attorney for the Placer County Superior Court for eight years before that. She actually knew almost nothing about family law when she started as a Facilitator! She started in a converted storage room and has been gradually empire-building ever since; she now has two full time court staff paralegals and a half time paralegal from Legal Services of Northern California, in addition to an ever-changing cast of volunteers and interns. Diane is still not sure how she managed to land a job where she gets paid for having so much fun.

**Julie L. Bronson**, as the ADR Administrator for the Los Angeles Superior Court, is responsible for managing the nation's largest court-annexed ADR program, which processes over 30,000 court ADR referrals annually and has over 2,200 volunteers. She has over 15 years experience developing, implementing and administering comprehensive court-based ADR programs. She has both lectured and served as consultant on ADR programs to other State Courts, numerous foreign delegations studying ADR and civil law reform, media entities, universities, professional associations, consumer and community organizations, local and state officials. She facilitated the developmental design for the first court-annexed mediation program in Bulgaria and was a faculty member for the Central and Eastern European Commercial Mediation Roundtable, Bosnia Herzegovina. Ms. Bronson has received numerous awards including the prestigious Peacemaker of the Year award in 1999 from the Southern California Mediation Association, The Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles Presidential Award, 2001, and the Los Angeles County Outstanding Program Staff of the Year Award, 2004.

**Alice Buck** is a Staff Attorney and Family Law Facilitator in the Family Court Division of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego. She supervises a staff of eleven including six attorneys. She received her BA from San Diego State University, and her JD University of San Diego. Before going to law school, Ms. Buck was a high school English teacher, real estate broker and loan broker.

**Tina M. Burkhart** has been the Court Executive Officer of the Glenn County Superior Court since April 1999. Prior to being appointed to this position, Ms. Burkhart worked with the Administrative office of the Courts and the Orange County Superior Court. She was the Assistant Clerk/Administrator of the Bakersfield (Kern County) Municipal Court and also worked in the Los Angeles Superior Court. Ms. Burkhart holds a bachelor's degree from California State University Fullerton, a master's degree in judicial/public administration from the University of Southern California, and is an ICM Fellow.

**Caron Caines** earned her J.D. from the University of Southern California in 1990 and her B.A. from California State University at Northridge in 1983. For the last 16 years, she has been an attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLS). Ms. Caines started her career as a family law attorney, and in 1995, spearheaded NLS' venture into Community Economic Development. Currently, she is the Managing Attorney of NLS' Housing and Family Law Advocacy Groups. In addition, she oversees NLS' court-based Self-Help Legal Access Centers in Van Nuys, Antelope Valley, Pomona, and Inglewood. In 2005, the Centers assisted over 49,000 low-income litigants with housing and family law issues who would otherwise have been unable to access legal services.

**Deborah J. Chase** is a Senior Attorney with the California Judicial Council, Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts. She is a family law specialist certified by the State Bar of California with over 24 years in practice as an attorney. She also holds a doctorate degree in clinical psychology. Immediately before joining the AOC, Chase served as family law facilitator for the Superior Court of Alameda County, California. She is a past president of the California Family Law Facilitators' Association, and was a co-author of the first published article on the family law facilitator program, *California's Family Law Facilitator Program: A New Paradigm for the Court*. Dr. Chase has taught criminal and civil domestic violence at the B.E. Witkin Judicial College and served on the Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, and the State Bar's Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

**Maggie Cimino** is a Supervising Education Specialist for managers, supervisors, and staff in the trial and appellate courts. She began work with the AOC in 2001. In addition to her work at the AOC, she has provided consulting for the Macedonia Modernization Project, and faculty for the Kentucky Judicial College Faculty Development Program, and the Institute for Faculty Excellence in Judicial Education. Prior to moving to San Francisco from Anchorage, Alaska, she was a private consultant providing training and business planning/facilitation in Alaska for the native communities and the court system.

**Christine Copeland** has been an attorney for 14 years. She practiced family law for 4 years, then worked in Family Law Facilitator programs for about 6 years in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara. She worked at the AOC for 1 year on the Equal Access/Self-represented Litigant project. She is currently with the Self-Service Center in Santa Clara. Ms. Copeland got her B.A. in Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz and her J.D. from Santa Clara University in 1992.

**Dan Corsello**, is the executive director at the van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, San Francisco. Previously, Mr. Corsello was a director of Napa County Human Services for 20 years and upon retirement I formed a coalition of 50 non-profit organizations in Napa, prior to going to work with the foundation about 6 years ago. Mr. Corsello has been the Chair of the Legal Service Affinity Group for the past three years. The van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation is primarily a social justice foundation. Their average grant is about \$10,000, higher if you are a public interest law organization. They also fund grassroots social service programs that provide for underserved populations. They fund programs throughout Northern California and distribute over \$2 million per year. They do a great deal of work in the field of immigration, deportation, and asylum. The foundation recently sponsored a Conference in Sacramento on Alternatives to CYA.

**Mary Anne Devine** is the Family Law Facilitator for the Contra Costa County Superior Court. Ms. Devine was appointed Assistant Family Law Facilitator in October 2001 and was appointed Family Law Facilitator in December 2001. Before she came to the court, Ms. Devine practiced family law in San Francisco. Ms. Devine earned a bachelor's degree in history at San Francisco State University and is a graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law.

**Kathleen Fleming Dixon** serves as managing attorney for the Los Angeles Superior Court Self-Help Collaboration Project and for their JusticeCorps internship program. Leaving private practice after 25 years in family law, Kathleen has focused since 2002 on the development of partnerships for the Superior Court with various legal service providers, bar groups, community organizations, and schools to leverage resources to expand and enhance services for self-represented litigants throughout Los Angeles County.

**Neal Dudovitz** is currently the Executive Director of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLS-LA) and has served in that capacity since 1993. During that time he has overseen NLS-LA's growth to one of California's largest legal services programs with a current budget in excess of 10 million and more than 120 employees and the development of many innovative projects including the Disaster Legal Assistance effort following the Northridge Earthquake, the Health Consumer Center and courthouse based Self Help Legal Assistance Centers. Neal is a member of numerous national, state and local organizations and bar associations and has conducted trainings/workshops throughout the country. In 2003 he was named a Durfee Foundation Fellow. He received his J. D. from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston in 1973. Prior to joining Neighborhood Legal Services, Neal was an attorney with the National Senior Citizens Law Center for more than 17 years where he handled major federal court litigation

throughout the United States, including two cases before the United States Supreme Court.

**Nancy Eberhardt** is the Director of Family, Juvenile and Probate Operations with the San Diego Superior Court, has been with the courts for 15 years. She currently sits on the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee. She is a past speaker at CEB, CBA, CJER and CJSP events and was a member of the Probate Education Committee for four years.

**Mary Eikel** graduated from Wellesley College and earned a master's degree at The Johns Hopkins University before graduating from the University of San Diego Law School in 1974. She has over twenty-five years of experience at the appellate court working as a chamber's attorney for the late Presiding Justice Gerald Brown, then as the writs attorney and lastly as the managing attorney for the Fourth District, Division One. In addition, she spent two years as a prosecutor with the office of the San Diego City Attorney. She retired in 2003. Ms. Eikel has authored numerous articles in the area of appellate practice including the original chapter on writs in Rutter's book, *Civil Appeals and Writs*, and has participated in numerous bar, law school and CJER programs about appellate law and Court of Appeal practices and procedures. Her interest in self-representation at the appellate level culminated in the practice manual, *Step by Step: Civil Appellate Practices and Procedures for the Self-Represented*.

**Mary Lavery Flynn** (formerly Mary Viviano) has been working on statewide legal services issues for over 25 years. She currently serves as staff to the California Commission on Access to Justice, a blue ribbon group working to expand the availability of the legal system for all Californians, regardless of income. She was involved with establishment of the \$10 million Equal Access Fund, publication of *The Path to Equal Justice Report* [2002] and *Language Barriers to Justice in California* [2005], and expansion of the availability of self-help centers and limited scope legal assistance. She also works closely with access to justice coordinators in other states, and is working with the ABA and NLADA to coordinate the work of access to justice commissions around the country. A graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, Mary began her career as an associate with Lillick, McHose & Charles in San Francisco, was executive director of the Public Interest Clearinghouse, from 1980 to 1992, and Director of the State Bar's Office of Legal Services from 1992 to 1998.

**Theresa Gary**, Attorney at Law, was born and raised in the Central Valley of California. Earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Bakersfield in 1989. She completed her Juris Doctor from Whittier Law School in 1992 and was admitted to the California State Bar in December of the same year. Before becoming the first Family Law Facilitator for Kern County in 1998, Ms. Gary was in private practice for five years, engaged in juvenile, family and civil litigation. She is married to Steve Gary, they have a son together – Frank, and two grown step-daughters. She loves animals and currently has a school of goldfish, one turtle named Hoodini, one cat named Eddie and a guinea pig named Amy - and a lot of air fresheners in her house.

**Susan Gelmis** is the Supervising Attorney of the Motions and Pro Se Units at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has been with the court for 16 years, starting as a Civil Motions Attorney in 1989. In 1992, she became the Supervising Attorney for the newly established Pro Se Unit, which she helped to define and create. In 1993, she worked with the court and the federal bar to create the Circuit's Pro Bono Program, which she directs. Susan also became Supervising Attorney of the Motions Unit in 2000, where she oversees sixteen attorneys, five paralegals and three administrative staff. Susan is a 1987 graduate of NYU Law School and a native of New York.

**John Greacen** is a nationally renowned leader in court administration, court automation and electronic filing, court performance measurement and innovation. He was awarded the Award of Merit by the National Association for Court Management in 1999 for lifetime contributions to court innovation and administration. Mr. Greacen has served in executive roles in trial and appellate courts, and has led a variety of successful court re-engineering efforts. He has held major leadership positions in national court administration organizations and in national and state bar associations. He has been actively involved in the development of national specifications for the use of XML in electronic filing and other legal processes. Mr. Greacen has published on a variety of legal and court administration topics; he writes a regular column in the American Bar Association's Judges Journal. He regularly speaks and teaches on court administration topics.

**Christina M. Griffin** is an attorney at Legal Assistance for Seniors in Oakland who specializes in guardianship cases. She has volunteered assisting self-represented litigants with guardianship cases for the last few years. In 2005 she received a Wiley Manual Award from the State Bar of California for her work with self-represented guardianship litigants. Previously, she ran a program at Volunteer Legal Services Corporation in Oakland which provided legal services to self-represented guardianship litigants.

**Susan Groves** has been with the Family Law Facilitator's Office of the San Diego Superior Court since June of 2000. She was previously in private practice for over 20 years as a sole practitioner. Her areas of practice included family law and immigration litigation. While in private practice, Susan routinely volunteered at a local community agency providing free legal information to the public and was a frequent guest speaker on a popular radio talk show answering general legal questions from callers.

**Clifford Ham** is a Senior Project Architect on the Design and Construction team. Mr. Ham was raised in southwestern Michigan, where he had undergraduate training in political science and city planning. He holds a master's of architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and is a California licensed architect. Prior to joining the AOC in October 2002, Mr. Ham spent the past 21 years with HOK—a major architectural firm in San Francisco. In that position, he had responsibility for projects totaling over 18 million square feet and \$675 million in construction value. He has been project manager for four new courthouses in the western U.S. containing a total of 120 courtrooms, with building area of 2 million square feet and construction value of approximately \$238 million. Mr. Ham is

fascinated by the challenge of managing creative endeavors that involve many participants such as that of creating courthouses that enrich people's lives and communities.

**Robert Hawley** is currently Deputy Executive Director of the State Bar of California. His areas of responsibility for the State Bar, among other things, include oversight of the State Bar's Office of Legal Services, Access & Fairness Programs and substantive oversight of the State Bar's Professional Competence Unit which administers the Ethics Hotline, the Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC), the State Bar's professional responsibility publications and other functions related to the development of California's Rules of Professional Conduct. He received his Juris Doctorate (J.D.) degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law and his Masters in Law (LL.M) from New York University, School of Law. Mr. Hawley began his legal career as a disciplinary prosecutor for the State Bar. He then entered private practice for over ten years. He served as a member of the State Bar's Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct (COPRAC) as well as its Chair and Special Advisor. Prior to rejoining the State Bar's staff, he served as Risk Management Chair and Deputy Managing Partner for a major Bay Area law firm. Mr. Hawley has taught Professional Responsibility and labor law at various Bay Area law schools for the past twenty years, and is currently on the adjunct faculty of McGeorge School of Law and Golden Gate University School of Law.

**Donna Hitchens** has served as Presiding Judge, a trial judge in the Civil and Criminal Divisions and as Supervising Judge of the Unified Family Court since being elected to the Superior Court in 1990. She graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law in 1977. She previously received her master's degree in Counseling and Psychological Services from Springfield College. She is a former member of the Judicial Council and the Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness in the Courts. She currently chairs the Presiding Judges & Court Executive Officers' Education Committee and is a member of the Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and the Probate Conservatorship Task Force. Judge Hitchens has worked closely with court staff, the Bar Association of San Francisco and various community organizations to improved services for self-represented litigants. She received the 2001 Benjamin Aranda Access to Justice Award for her efforts to improve access to the courts for low and moderate income people and the 2002 Judicial Officer of the Year Award from the Family Law Section of the State Bar of California.

**Kristen E. Hoadley** is the Family Law Facilitator for the Superior Court of San Francisco County and the Program Manager of the San Francisco Unified Family Court's Family Law Self Help Center. She has been with the Family Law Facilitator program since 1997. From 1992 to 1997, she worked as the Family Law Staff Attorney at the court in San Francisco. Ms. Hoadley is a graduate of Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley and has a bachelor's degree in political science from Rutgers University. She serves on the Judicial Stakeholders Work Group with the Department of Child Support Services.

**Michelle C. Hopkins** is presently a Family Law Staff Attorney (hired on a contract basis) with the Los Angeles Superior Court's Self Help Collaboration Project and

JusticeCorps. In January 2003, Ms. Hopkins developed and piloted a 3-part self help dissolution workshop series in the Los Angeles Superior Court. In collaboration with the Family Law Information Center, Ms. Hopkins continues to present and supervise the workshop series in four court locations within the Los Angeles Superior Court. Over the past 12 years, Ms. Hopkins has practiced in the areas of family law and defense litigation and has provided extensive pro bono legal services through her volunteer work with non-profit legal agencies in Los Angeles County. Ms. Hopkins is a past recipient of The State Bar of California's "Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services". Ms. Hopkins earned her JD degree from University of The Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and her BA from the University of California, San Diego.

**Bonnie Rose Hough** is a Supervising Attorney with the Administrative Office of the Court's Center for Families, Children & the Courts, where she has been employed since 1997. The focus of her work is on helping courts meet the needs of self-represented litigants. She serves as Committee Counsel to the Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants. She oversees 5 grant programs providing funding for legal services and court-based self-help programs. She also assists the Family and Juvenile Advisory Committee with family law forms and rules. Prior to joining the AOC, she was in private practice in family law. She was also a co-founder of the Family Law Center, a nonprofit legal services organization in Marin County, and served as its executive director for six years. She is a fellow with the Harvard Law School Bellow-Sacks Project on the Future of Access to Civil Justice and serves as co-chair of the Access and Delivery Committee of the California Commission on Access to Justice.

**Daryl Inaba** has worked at the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc. since its inception in 1967 and directed its Drug Detoxification, Rehabilitation and After Care Program until 1998. From 1998 until 2005, he served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics, and currently serves as the Research Scientist at this agency. During his years at the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics, he has supervised the clinical treatment of over 120,000 substance abusers most of whom were self-referred into "recovery oriented," outpatient treatment. Dr. Inaba is noted for his work in developing innovative treatment and culturally relevant services especially in the Asian and African American Communities. Dr. Inaba is an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center. He is also a Special Consultant and Instructor at the University of Utah School of Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies and an Adjunct Professor at College of San Mateo Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies. Dr. Inaba is the author of the book *Uppers, Downers, All Arounders*, and he has produced several published articles and a series of award winning educational films on various aspects of addiction science. He has received over 60 individual commendations, awards and honors in recognition of his substance abuse treatment, education, drug prevention and community service efforts.

**Harry Jacobs** is an Attorney with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts and has been employed by the AOC since June 2002. Before joining the AOC, Mr. Jacobs worked at CFCC as a consultant on a variety of projects including the California Courts Self-Help Center. In May 2002, he received a master's degree from U.C. Berkeley's

School of Information Management and Systems. Mr. Jacobs practiced law for many years with Morrison & Foerster in its San Francisco and New York offices. He attended law school at the University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall). He volunteers each week at the Probate guardianship and conservatorship clinics at the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. He is a member of the advisory committee for the National Legal Services Document Assembly Server.

**JoAnn Johnson** is the senior Family Law Facilitator for the Ventura County Superior Court. She supervises a staff of one additional facilitator and three non-attorney personnel operating four locations within the county. Ms. Johnson has developed and implemented Family Law Workshops from inception to final judgment, which are offered at the main courthouse on a weekly basis. Prior to accepting the Facilitator position in January, 2002, Ms. Johnson was in private practice for eight years.

**Dave Jones** (D-Sacramento) represents the 9th District in the California State Assembly. Assemblymember Jones chairs the Assembly Judiciary Committee. He also serves on the Health Committee, the Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee (PERSS) and the committee on Revenue and Taxation. Assemblymember Jones has several significant accomplishments in the Assembly. He secured \$5 million in the 2005-2006 budget to establish funding for self-help law centers. He also added funds to the 'Equal Access Fund' for grants to nonprofit legal aid organizations to help meet the legal needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled peoples. Prior to his election to the State Assembly, Dave Jones served as a Sacramento City Councilmember for five and a half years. Before his election to the City Council, Dave worked for six years as a legal aid attorney with Legal Services of Northern California, providing free legal assistance to the poor. In 1995 Dave was one of only 13 Americans awarded the prestigious and competitive White House Fellowship, and he served in the Clinton Administration for three years as Counsel to United States Attorney General Janet Reno. He has also served as a policy and legal advisor in the State Assembly. Dave is a graduate of DePauw University, Harvard Law School and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Dave Jones (D-Sacramento) represents the 9th District in the California State Assembly.

**Mark Juhas** was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2002. Prior to that he was in private practice as a partner with Harrington, Foxx, Dubrow and Canter. He is currently assigned to family law in downtown Los Angeles. Immediately prior to his current assignment, he presided over a family law department in Antelope Valley where he initiated an innovative Pro Per Day Calendar that brought support from the family law facilitator and self-help center into the courtroom to assist self-represented litigants

**Hannah Silk Kapasi** is a staff attorney in the Workers' Rights unit at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. She represents low-income individuals on wage and hour and expungement cases and oversees a Workers' Rights self-help clinic. Hannah received her J.D. from UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall) School of Law in 2002. She received the Justice Stanley Mosk Fellowship at Bet Tzedek Legal Services upon graduation. Before attending law school, she worked in the state legislature for then-Assembly

Member Fred Keeley. Her legal work has focused on employment rights and the removal of barriers to employment for low-wage workers.

**Marcia Koslov** is the Library Director for the Los Angeles County Law Library. She holds Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Missouri and is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts. Her previous positions include Head Librarian for the Missouri Supreme Court Library, Wisconsin State Law Librarian, Director of the Knowledge Management Office of the National Center for State Courts and Deputy Director of the Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas School of Law. Most recently, she held the position of Executive Assistant to the Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court focusing on issues related to self-represented litigants. Ms. Koslov has been active in local and national organizations including the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Bar Association, and the State Bar of Wisconsin. She has served as a library consultant to both state and local courts. She is a frequent contributor to magazines and journals and a frequent speaker at seminars and conferences of judicial, bar and library organizations.

**Debbie Lamb** has worked for the Sonoma County Superior Court and Department of Child Support Services for a combined total of 27 years. She is currently the Family and Juvenile Court Manager for the Sonoma County Superior Court—a position she has held for 5 years. She is a graduate of the Sonoma State University Paralegal Program. In 2004, she completed the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management.

**Cristina Llop** is the Director of the ACCESS center at the San Francisco Superior Court. ACCESS, one of 5 Model Self-Help Pilot Projects funded by the Judicial Council, is a multi-lingual center assisting self-represented litigants with civil matters. Prior to developing and implementing the ACCESS center, Ms. Llop was an Assistant Family Law Facilitator also at the San Francisco Superior Court from 1997 through 2002. She has been an attorney since 1994.

**James F. Mensing, J.D., Ph.D.** is a Senior Research Analyst with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC), a division of the Judicial Council of California's Administrative Office of the Courts. His current projects include on-going research and evaluation regarding the Equal Access Fund, a legislative appropriation to non-profit legal aid providers, evaluation of the effectiveness of court based self-help centers, and several studies looking at the effects of mediation services in family court. Prior to joining the CFCC, Dr. Mensing worked as a Post-Doctoral Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley investigating the effects of welfare reform on mothers and young children. His research background includes work in both the United States and Colombia regarding the development of moral and social reasoning, family relationships, and the effects of violence on children. Before moving to California, he practiced law in the areas of civil rights, housing, and disability rights in rural Florida. During that time he served on the State Bar's Disability Law Committee and helped set up one of Florida's first court-based mediation programs. Dr. Mensing currently serves on the Long Range Planning Committee of the California Bar's Access to Justice Commission.

**Maria Mindlin** holds a graduate degree from University of California, Davis in Education, with an emphasis in Language Acquisition and research in Reading Theory. She is a published author and trainer on Readability, Literacy and Plain Language and works with many of the Departments of the State of California to produce materials that are easy to read in English and excellent platforms for translation. Her seminars give attorneys the basic skills they need to evaluate and create effective forms and instructions.

**Monica Mitchell** works as a Judicial Staff Counsel for the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino. One of Monica's duties with the Court is to act as a Probate Attorney, reviewing Guardianship, Conservatorship and Estate Cases. In October 2005, the Court opened its first Guardianship Assistance Program to help self-represented litigants file guardianship petitions and to answer their questions regarding how to complete the process once in court. Monica was one of the primary developers of this program, and she has been running the clinic so far. She is also collaborating on San Bernardino Superior Court's 5 Year Growth Plan to increase self-represented litigant's access to the courts. Monica has been practicing law since 1987 after graduating cum laude from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. She has been with the Court in San Bernardino since 2000.

**Carlos R. Moreno** was sworn in as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of California on October 18, 2001, following his nomination by Governor Gray Davis. Justice Moreno began his career as a deputy city attorney with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, prosecuting criminal and civil consumer protection cases and handling politically sensitive and legislative matters as special counsel to the city attorney. In the fall of 1986, Governor George Deukmejian appointed Justice Moreno to the Municipal Court, Compton Judicial District, where Moreno adjudicated criminal matters involving serious felony offenses and supervised the court's civil department. In October 1993, Governor Pete Wilson elevated Justice Moreno to the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Moreno presided over felony trials for four years in the Criminal Courts Building in downtown Los Angeles. Justice Moreno was then nominated to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton. In February 1998, he was unanimously confirmed to the United States District Court for the Central District of California by the United States Senate. Moreno served as a federal district court judge for over three years, presiding over a broad range of complex civil and criminal matters. Justice Moreno has served as President of the Mexican American Bar Association and has been a member of the California Judges Association, the Presiding Judges Association, and the Municipal Court Judges Association of Los Angeles County. He has served on the Board of Visitors of Stanford Law School and the Board of Governors of the Association of Yale Alumni. He is a Director of the Arroyo Vista Family Health Center and a former President of the Yale Club of Southern California. In 1997, Moreno received the Criminal Justice Superior Court Judge of the Year Award from the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

**Suzanne Clark Morlock** has served as the Managing Attorney for the Self Help Assistance and Referral Program, the Family Law Facilitator for Butte County for the

past three and a half years. Prior to that, Ms. Morlock maintained a private practice in Family and General Civil Litigation. She served as the Administrator and Interim Dean at Cal Northern School of Law where she also taught Legal Research and Writing.

**Deborah Mullin** was appointed the Family Law Facilitator for the Anacapa Division of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court in October 1997. She assists self-represented litigants in their family law matters, especially in the areas of child support, spousal support and health insurance. The litigants are helped in the courtroom, one-on-one in legal clinics, in workshops and in mediation sessions. With the birth of a son in 2002, she is indeed fortunate to be able to job-share with a wonderful co-facilitator, Sigrid Twomey. Ms. Mullin started her career as a Deputy District Attorney with the County of Ventura and then as an associate with a local general practice firm. In 1992 Ms. Mullin opened her solo practice in Santa Barbara, working primarily in the areas of family law, estate planning and personal injury and as the labor representative for a local union. Ms. Mullin graduated in 1977 from UC Santa Barbara with a double major in experimental psychology and French. She has done graduate studies in grassroots organizing at the UCLA School of Social Welfare. She graduated from the Santa Barbara College of Law in 1988.

**Michell Nuñez** is a Research Analyst with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts. Prior to joining the AOC in March 2004, Ms. Nuñez was a Research Associate with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency where her efforts were concentrated on program evaluations involving the juvenile justice system. Projects included the development of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department Strategic Plan (2002); process and program evaluation of Parents Anonymous and the Repeat Offender Prevention Program; and working with the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council in the evaluation of the San Francisco Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act programs. Ms. Nuñez holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal of Justice in New York.

**Lynn E. O'Connor** is a Professor of Psychology at the Wright Institute in Berkeley, and an Associate Clinical Professor at the University of California, at Berkeley. She is also the Director of the Emotion, Personality and Altruism Research project ([www.eparg.org](http://www.eparg.org)). Her research includes studies of the drug-of-choice phenomenon and personality, gender differences in people in recovery from addiction, and recently, the development of a measure estimating neurotransmitter levels and psychopathology. Influenced by clinical work O'Connor has studied empirically empathy-based guilt, shame and psychological problems; guilt and responses to terrorism; guilt, empathy, and submissiveness in depression; empathy, altruism, guilt and personality across cultures. Pursuing her research from an evolutionary perspective, Professor O'Connor has gathered data in Germany, Italy, Sweden, Argentina, and Japan, and carried out studies of personality and psychological problems in chimpanzees, under the auspices of the Jane Goodall Institute. Professor O'Connor has been a Research Associate at the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Detoxification and Aftercare Project and at Walden House Drug Treatment Facility in San Francisco. She has also been active in the San Francisco Psychotherapy Research

Group since 1987, initiating its training program in 2001. She has numerous publications of her research, in addition to clinically focused book chapters.

**Kathleen O'Leary** was appointed Associate Justice for the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three (Santa Ana) in January, 2000. Prior to her appointment to the Court of Appeal, Justice O'Leary served as an Orange County Superior Court Judge from 1985 to 2000. She was that court's first female Presiding Judge from 1998 to 2000. She also served as Judge for the West Orange County Municipal Court from 1981 to 1985 and also served as this court's Presiding Judge. Throughout her judicial career, Justice O'Leary has been active in judicial administration and judicial education. She served on the Judicial Council from 1993-1997 and was recognized by the Judicial Council as Jurist of the Year in 1999. She is past member and chair of the California Judicial Education and Research Governing Board and remains active in judicial education. In 2003 she was presented with the California Judges Association Bernard S. Jefferson Award for Distinguished Service in Judicial Education. She has been a member of a number of other judicial committees including the Task Force on Trial Court Funding, the Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Community Focused Court Planning Steering Committee. Currently Justice O'Leary chairs the Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and the Judicial Council's Court Interpreters Advisory Panel.

**Leigh Parsons** has supervised Santa Clara County's four Self-Service Centers since 2002. The Centers provide guided self-help and referrals to about 20,000 self-represented litigants per year in all areas of the law handled at Superior Court. The four Centers are comprised of the main Self-Service Center, Restraining Order Help Center, CourtMobile and Small Claims Advisor. Before supervising the Self-Service Centers, Leigh worked at the Family Law Facilitator's Office in Santa Clara County from 1996 to 2002 helping litigants with primarily support and parentage issues. Before that she had a career in the Technology field. Leigh has assisted with Santa Clara County's website development and website outreach and given domestic violence trainings to the local Bar. Leigh is committed to community outreach and increasing access to justice for self-represented litigants. Leigh received her JD from Lincoln Law School in San Jose and her undergraduate degree in Engineering from the University of Florida.

**Donna M. Petre** was appointed to the Municipal Court of California, County of Yolo, in April 1986 and elevated to the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, in December 1989. Judge Petre currently is co-presiding judge of the Yolo Unified Family Court which has been chosen by AOC as a mentor court. She received a bachelor's degree in music from Clarke College in Iowa. At Northwestern University in Chicago she received her master's degree in history. Before attending law school, Judge Petre was employed as a history editor at Encyclopedia Britannica. She received her juris doctorate from the Hastings College of the Law. Judge Petre worked as a legal research attorney for Justice Thomas Caldecott in the California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Four, San Francisco. On completing her clerkship, she joined the California Attorney General's Office, where she served as an attorney in various divisions, including Medi-Cal fraud, consumer fraud, and criminal appeals. Judge Petre served for

years as a trial advocacy instructor at the University of California at Davis and was honored by being named a national member of the Order of Barristers for her years of service to the law school. In 1994, she was appointed to serve on the Judicial Council's Trial Court Coordination Evaluation Committee. In 1999, she was appointed to the Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee.

**Deana Piazza** is a Senior Research Specialist with the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts, where her current projects include a domestic violence research initiative that examines the effects of specialized probation supervision and seeks to develop recidivism prediction models, and a proposal to implement a data collection and reporting system for courthouse facilitators. Ms. Piazza was previously a researcher with the California Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC), where she managed the evaluation of the Model Self-Help Pilot Program and was involved in juvenile justice and family court services research. Prior to joining CFCC, Ms. Piazza was with the Criminal Justice Research Division of the San Diego Association of Governments, where she evaluated juvenile justice programs and analyzed regional crime and arrest statistics. Ms. Piazza has an M.A. in Applied Sociology from Temple University and a B.A. in Sociology, with a concentration on family demography, from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Mary Joy Quinn** is the Director of the Probate Department in San Francisco Superior Court. She has worked with conservatorships for over 28 years both as a court investigator and as a manager of court investigators. She has lectured and published widely on the topics of conservatorships, undue influence, and elder abuse.

**M. Carmen Ramirez**, is a 1974 graduate of Loyola University School of Law, Los Angeles. She is currently the attorney coordinator of the Ventura Superior Court's Self-Help Legal Access Center, located in the Colonia area of Oxnard. She also is one of two attorneys who staff the Ventura Superior Court's Mobile Self-Help Unit. Prior to this, Ms. Ramirez spent 23 years working in legal services programs, delivering civil legal services to the poor, including 16 years as the Executive Director of Channel Counties Legal Services Association, from 1982 through 1998. In 2005, she was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. She was President of the Ventura County Bar Association in 1998 and remains active in several bar organizations including the Volunteer Lawyers Committee, and the Lawyers' Referral and Information Service Committee. She was chair of the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services of the State Bar of California, 2000 to 2001 and has been active in community affairs, serving as past president of El Concilio Del Condado De Ventura County, a Board Member of the Ventura County Community Foundation, and has been active in many other community organizations.

**Carole Raimondi** began her work with the Alameda County Superior Court as a Family Law Facilitator in September 2002. Since December 2005 she has been the Program Director for Self-Help Services. Prior to her employment with the Court, Carole was in private practice as an attorney and mediator. As a member of the Bar she volunteered with Family Violence Law Center, Homeless Action Center, Centro Legal de la Raza and

the Yellow Brick Road Foundation. Currently she is president of Women Lawyers of Alameda County.

**Ronnette V. Ramos** graduated with honors from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts in History and Political Science in 1994 and from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California in 1997. As an attorney, Ronnette pursued systemic change for persons with disabilities through advocacy and community education as the Advocacy Unit Supervisor at the Independent Living Center of Southern California. She educated, encouraged and provided direct legal services to the low-income residents of metropolitan Los Angeles facing evictions, as well as, recruited, trained and coordinated volunteer attorneys, paralegals and law students for the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles' Unlawful Detainer Equal Access Project. Presently, Ronnette assists self-represented litigants in family law, unlawful detainer and other civil matters as a staff attorney for the Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County's (NLS-LA) Pomona Self Help Legal Access Center.

**Tina Rasnow** is a senior attorney with the Ventura County Superior Court, and a coordinator of its Self-Help Legal Access Center. She received her undergraduate degree in Women's Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and her J.D. degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1983. Prior to working for the court Ms. Rasnow practiced real estate law in Westlake Village. She serves on the California Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and its Access and Fairness Advisory Committee. She also serves as Chair of the State Bar Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services. She is a past president of the Ventura County Bar Association. Ms. Rasnow has authored articles in local newspapers and professional periodicals on access to justice and diversity issues, including a law review article *Traveling Justice: Providing Court Based Pro Se Assistance to Limited Access Communities*, published in the February 2002 Fordham Urban Law Journal.

**Lisa Reep** began her position as Executive Director of the Contra Costa County Bar Association in October 1994. For ten years prior to that, she worked with the American Arbitration Association (AAA) in San Francisco, most recently as their Director of Education Services. She has been a consultant with the American Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information Service's Program for Assistance and Review (PAR) since 2002; served as President of the Executives of California Lawyers Associations (ECLA) from 2001-2003; was Vice-Chair of the State Bar of California's Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration from 1996-2000; and was a member of the State Bar's Committee on Lawyer Referral and Information Services. She has been a member of the Advisory Board for Cal State Hayward's Paralegal Studies program since 1994, and from 1986-2005, volunteered as a Mediator, Arbitrator, and Trainer for California Community Dispute Services. Ms. Reep received her B.A. from the University of California in Santa Barbara, and attended the Center for Bilingual and Multi-Cultural Studies in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

**Scott D. Reep** serves as the Small Claims Legal Advisor in Contra Costa, Lake and Mono counties. He has participated in a number of grant projects; one of which created a

self-help legal center by partnering with a local community college. He serves on the boards of several non-profit corporations and is a principal in the law firm Gizzi & Reep, LLP in Benicia. Scott was recently named the Contra Costa County "Pro Bono Attorney of the Year".

**Lollie A. Roberts** is the Family Law Facilitator for the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento. Previously she worked for Child Support Services of Arizona and in private practice. Prior to attending law school, she taught elementary school. Ms. Roberts has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego and a juris doctor from Santa Clara University School of Law. Ms. Roberts serves on the Judicial Stakeholders Work Group with the Department of Child Support Services and is a member of the Business Executives Group for the development of the California Child Support Automation System (CCSAS).

**Michael Roddy** is the executive officer of the Superior Court of San Diego. From 2001 to 2005, he was the AOC Regional Administrative Director for the Northern/ Central Region. Before joining the AOC, Mr. Roddy served as the executive officer of the Superior Court of Sacramento County from 1998 to 2001 and of the consolidated Sacramento Superior and Municipal Court from 1994 to 1998. He previously served as assistant executive officer of the Superior Court of San Diego County. Mr. Roddy is a past member of the Judicial Council's Court Executives Advisory Committee, Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Education Committee, Trial Court Budget Commission, Court Technology Advisory Committee, and Jury System Improvements Task Force. He is also a past president of the California Association of Trial Court Administrators and currently serves on the statewide Probation Services Task Force. Mr. Roddy received a bachelor's degree in political science and a certificate in judicial administration (M.P.A.) from the University of Southern California.

**Jay Sacks** has been the Small Claims Legal Advisor for the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego since 1996. He founded the San Diego Small Claims Clinic in 1990. Prior to founding the San Diego Small Claims Clinic, Mr. Sacks practiced in general civil litigation. He received his BA in Psychology from UCLA in 1975 and his JD from University of San Diego in 1979.

**Raquel A. Sandoval** is a legal processing clerk for the Ventura Superior Court. She is currently assigned to the Oxnard self-help center providing assistance to primarily Spanish-speaking self-represented litigants. She has presented to the Mexican Consulate on Ventura's foster care program and at local high schools on the Self-Help Legal Access Centers. She initiated the "Tip of the Day" program for a Spanish-speaking radio station for which the court received the Ralph N. Kleps Award. Raquel is a member of Court Clerks Association and Mexican American Bar Association.

**Jill Selvaggio** is a Project Manager and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo. Jill has worked for the Court for five years and has worked on many projects for Self-Represented Litigants, including the Superior Court Referral Guide to Legal Assistance, [www.EZLegalFile.org](http://www.EZLegalFile.org), and

Community Law Night – an informational fair that offers free attorney consultations and seminars. She is also active on the County’s Self-Represented Litigants Collaborative where she is the chair of the subcommittee that focuses on coordinating the efforts of the many agencies throughout the county who assist self-represented litigants. She earned her Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation from Loyola University Chicago.

**Evyn Shomer** has been with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts since November, 1999. Her current position is Court Coordination Attorney working with the Unified Courts for Families Program. Prior to this assignment she was a Judicial Review and Technical Assistance Attorney, providing technical assistance to California juvenile courts. As part of the Unified Courts for Families team, she provides on-going technical assistance to the California family, juvenile and probate courts, with a specific focus on court unification and coordination issues. She also staffs the Domestic Violence Safety Partnership project and the Probate Conservatorship Task Force. Before joining the AOC, she had a solo practice, focusing on family law, family mediation, probate guardianships, and representation of parents and children in juvenile law cases.

**Kathleen Sikora** is a former senior attorney at the California Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), retiring in May 2003 after four years on the Legal Staff and 15 years at the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), the AOC’s Education Division. A graduate of Stanford University and Hastings College of the Law, Ms. Sikora was primarily responsible for CJER’s judicial curriculum development on issues of gender, race/ethnicity, persons with disabilities, and sexual orientation fairness. Areas of subject matter expertise also include faculty development and the current research on social psychology and decision making. She has served as an instructor at the Conference of Chief Justices, the Second International Conference on the Training of the Judiciary, the National Judicial College, and numerous judicial education programs both within and outside California.

**Fariba Soroosh** is the Family Law Facilitator for Santa Clara County. She has been with that office since August 1998 and started as Assistant Facilitator to one of the original Facilitators: Honorable Constance Jimenez. She obtained her law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law and was admitted to practice of law in California in 1993. She was in private practice in the areas of family law, guardianships and general mediation from 1993 to 1998, where she dedicated a majority of her time providing unbundled and limited scope services to her mostly self represented clients. Providing pro bono services for the self represented is still a major part of Fariba’s professional life outside of her full time job. She has been a volunteer mediator, trainer and coach with Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations Dispute Resolution Program Services since 1995. She has also been volunteering with the Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley since 1994, most recently at a policy and program development level, and was recently named to that agency’s board of directors.

**Kelly Tait** is a communication consultant and a speech communication instructor at the University of Nevada, Reno. In addition to having 14 years of university-level teaching

experience, Ms. Tait has designed and conducted a variety of communication skills-based workshops and seminars for organizations such as the National Judicial College, the New York State Judicial Institute, the Supreme Court of Virginia, and the Nevada State Bar Association. Subjects include faculty development, courtroom communication skills, and facilitation skills. Ms. Tait earned her M.A. in Speech Communication/Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno. At UNR, she teaches business and professional speaking, public speaking, small group communication, and intercultural communication.

**M. Sue Talia** is an expert on limited scope representation, also known as unbundling. A certified family law specialist, Sue is a member of the California Limited Scope Task Force, which won the ABA's prestigious Louis M. Brown Award in 2004. She is also the recipient of the ABA's Cindy Raisch Award for her innovative efforts in connection with the creation of California's first limited scope family law referral panel, and has received a special individual award for her efforts by the California Commission on Access to Justice.

**William T. Tanner** received a J.D. from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1994 and a B.A. in Philosophy/Law and Society from University of California, Riverside in 1991. In 1996 Mr. Tanner went to work for the Legal Aid Society of Orange County. He is currently a Directing Attorney and oversees the Legal Resolutions Center, Small Claims Court Advisory Program of Orange County, Legal Aid's Lawyer Referral Service and aspects of I-CAN!

**Vici Taus** has mediated and trained mediators in northern California since 1994. She created the curriculum and provided the training in Chico for a 25 hour small claims court basic mediation training during 2005 in conjunction with Butte County's SHARP (Self Help and Referral Program). She teaches Alternative Dispute Resolution at Cal Northern School of Law in Chico. Vici works with both unrepresented and represented parties in court referred and private disputes. She received her initial mediation training at the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1988. Since 1993, her home base has been a walnut farm in Gridley. She maintains an active license to practice law in California.

**Lorraine C. Torres** was appointed as the Orange County Family Law Facilitator in December 2004. Her employment with the Orange County Superior Court began in February 1999 when she was hired in the Facilitator's office to supplement their program with a Spanish speaking attorney. Her legal career as a solo general practitioner goes back to 1981 when she maintained an office in Orange County while raising her two sons. Before completing her legal education and passing the bar, she worked with the Internal Revenue Service as an Estate and Gift Tax revenue agent and law clerk. From 1994 through 1998 her practice concentrated on medical/health and elder abuse issues. As the Orange County Family Law Facilitator she supervises a staff of six, including four court processing specialists and two assistant facilitators. In September 2005 she was assigned to supervise and direct the Family Law Information Center and Orange County's pilot Self-Help Center project at the Lamoreaux Justice Center. The Self-Help

Center provides information to self-represented litigants in family law, probate/mental health and juvenile law.

**William C. Vickrey** has served as Administrative Director of the California Courts for more than a decade. Prior to his arrival at the AOC in April 1992, he was the state court administrator for the Utah Administrative Office of the Courts, and also served as the executive director for the Utah Department of Corrections; and director for the Utah State Division of Youth Corrections. Mr. Vickrey has served in national court leadership positions as President of the Conference of State Court Administrators and Vice-Chair of the National Center for State Courts' Board of Directors. He is a recipient of the Warren E. Burger Award, one of the highest honors from the National Center for State Courts, for his significant contributions to the field of court administration. For his outstanding leadership in judicial administration and significant contributions to the California courts, he was presented with the Judicial Council's Distinguished Service Award. In joining with Chief Justice Ronald M. George in leading California's judicial branch through historical changes to improve the statewide administration of justice, the Chief Justice has paid tribute to Mr. Vickrey's creativity, commitment, and tireless energy on behalf of the state courts and the public they serve. Among the many other awards and recognitions he has received, he was presented with the Leadership 2000 Award from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals for his vision and leadership in the development of drug court programs across the state. In Utah, Mr. Vickrey received the James Larson Award from the Utah Corrections Association for outstanding contributions to that field. He is co-author of "The Utah Court of Appeals: Blueprint for Judicial Reform," Utah Bar Journal, and "Managing Transition in a Youth Corrections System," University of Chicago. Mr. Vickrey received his bachelor's degree from the University of Utah.

**Cara Vonk** has been an attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts since 1984, specializing in civil matters, both small and complex. She currently staffs the Small Claims and Limited Cases Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee among other duties. Before joining the AOC, Cara was a research attorney in Alameda Superior Court and in private civil practice in Contra Costa County before that.

**Karin Wang** is the Vice-President of Programs at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), in Los Angeles, the largest organization in California providing direct services, litigation, advocacy and education to Asian and Pacific Islander communities. In her current role, Ms. Wang supervises and develops APALC's program work. From 1997 to 2000, Ms. Wang was a staff attorney at APALC, where she directed its immigrant welfare work as part of the California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (CIWC). Ms. Wang serves on the State Bar's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA) of Los Angeles and the Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA). Ms. Wang is a graduate of UC-Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law and has practiced with the law firm of Morrison & Foerster LLP in San Francisco.

**Dale Wells** served as Family Law Facilitator in Riverside County for six years. He has served as a commissioner in the same court, presiding over a Family Law calendar for two-and-one-half years. He has served on the statewide Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and on the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee to the Judicial Council.

**Michael H. Wells** holds a JD from Golden Gate University, School of Law. He was admitted to practice in California in 1982, and admitted to practice in Oregon in 1992. He has been a criminal prosecutor (1982-1987) a civil litigator (1987-1996) and a family law attorney (1996-2003) He actively practiced in Oregon from 1992-2001. He has been the Court Facilitator for the Superior Court of the County of Siskiyou since 2003.

**Cathy Westlund** graduated from State University College of New York at Fredonia in 1976 and from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1995. She did an internship with the Federal Department of the Interior during my second year in law school. Ms. Westlund sat for the Bar in 1995 and was sworn into practice in California in December, 1995. She has been in private practice as a family law attorney, both as a sole practitioner and an associate in a small firm in Merced. She also served as a staff attorney for California Indian Legal Services in Oakland. Ms. Westlund worked for both Merced and Fresno Counties as a Deputy D.A. in Family Support and then for Fresno County as a Child Support Attorney IV for the Department of Child Support Services before coming to the Fresno Facilitator's Office first as a Family Law Information Center Attorney, and then as Facilitator in November, 2005. As Facilitator, Ms. Westlund also oversees the Fresno Family Law Information Center and the Spanish Self-Help Center.

**Suzanne M. Whitlock** is an attorney with over 17 years experience in family law and has been a California State Bar Association of Legal Specialization certified Family Law Specialist since 1997. A Stanislaus County resident for 30 years, she was in private practice before being selected as the first Family Law Facilitator for the Stanislaus County Superior Court in June, 1997. Ms. Whitlock is an active member of the Stanislaus County Bar Association and is a founding member of the California State Family Law Facilitators Association. Her hobbies include gardening, quilting, and reading fictional mysteries (never true crime).

**Don Will** is a supervising research analyst at the Center for Families, Children and the Courts. He has been involved in many research projects in the courts, particularly looking at mandatory child custody mediation and model self help centers. His recent article "Information Needs in Juvenile Dependency Court" is available on the CFCC website. Don attended the University of California, Berkeley.

**Claire A. Williams, J.D.**, is the Director of the San Francisco Unified Family Court ("UFC"). Before assuming this position in 2003, she was the Staff Attorney for the UFC for 3 years. Ms. Williams practiced family law and adoption for 6 years prior to joining the court. She received her J.D. from Golden Gate University in 1994 and her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1988.

**Linda Wright** is presently a Family Law Attorney with the Los Angeles Superior Court. She is the immediate supervisor of the Family Law Information Center, a pilot project established to help family law litigants better understand their obligations, rights and remedies and to provide procedural information to enable them to better understand and maneuver through the family court system. The Centers are located in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and in the Courthouse. In a twelve-month period of time, the Centers reported assisting approximately 30,000 self-represented litigants. Ms. Wright has been with the Family Law Facilitator's office for five years. Previously Ms. Wright was in private practice for 19 years, practicing family law exclusively from 1986 until joining the Facilitator's Office in May of 2000. Ms. Wright received her BA from USC and her JD degree from Whittier College School of Law.

**Martha Wright** came to the AOC in 2001 after spending several years working as a proposal development consultant to community based non-profits and government agencies. Ms. Wright has developed successful federal, state and private grant applications in the areas of community development, school violence prevention, community policing, technology opportunities and after school programs. In her role with the AOC, she researches funding opportunities, provides technical assistance and facilitates the development of grant applications for AOC and trial court programs and research projects. She was responsible for creating the California JusticeCorps program, a unique AmeriCorps funded project that recruits and trains university students to work as assistants in court-based legal access self help centers. Ms. Wright has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California at Davis and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Sonoma State University.

**Michael L. Wright** is the AB 1058 program manager and a supervising attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Center for Families, Children & the Courts and has been employed by the AOC since 2000. Previously, he was the supervising deputy district attorney for the Marin County District Attorney/Family Support Division. Mr. Wright is a graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law and has a bachelor's degree in political science from Indiana University.

**Laurie D. Zelon** serves as an associate justice of the California Court of Appeal. She joined Morrison & Foerster as a partner in 1991 where, prior to her appointment to the Superior Court in 2000, she had an active litigation practice, involving scientific and technical issues, fiduciary obligations, and other complex commercial disputes. Prior to joining Morrison & Foerster she was a partner at Hufstedler, Kaus & Ettinger. Ms. Zelon is past President of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. She has been active in the American Bar Association and served as Chair of the Standing Committee on Lawyers' Public Service Responsibility, as a member of the Consortium on Law and the Public, and as Chair of its national Law Firm Pro Bono Project. From 1994 to 1997, she was Chair of the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants. She is the California State Delegate to the House of Delegates. She recently completed her service as a member of the Ethics 2000 Commission. She is past Chair of the California Commission on Access to Justice. She was the 1993 Recipient of the William Reece Smith, Jr. Special Services To Pro Bono Award, the 1999 Recipient of the Charles

Dorsey Award from the National Legal Aid & Defenders Association, and the 2000 recipient of the Loren Miller Legal Services Award from the State Bar of California. She was the first recipient, in February 2000, of the Laurie D. Zelon Pro Bono Award, given by the Pro Bono Institute of Washington, D.C.

**John Zorbas** has served as director of the Butte County Public Law Library for the past eleven years, where he provides day-to-day reference assistance, procedural instruction and practical guidance to a wide spectrum of the public desiring help for a “legal” issue. John’s first foray into the work of a librarian was as a California public library youth services and adult reference volunteer. He subsequently taught legal research and writing to groups of between seventeen and twenty-three students for four years. His work as a Judge Pro Tem encouraged his interest in mediation. He holds a mediation certificate from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine and is assigned to the ADR Panel at Butte County Superior Court. John Zorbas currently serves on the board of directors of Legal Services of Northern California and is a member of the Judicial Council Task Force on Self Represented Litigants. He received his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1981, J.D. from Monterey College of Law in 1985, and M.S.L.S. from Catholic University of America in 1994.

**Richard Zorza** is an attorney and independent consultant who has worked for the past fifteen years on issues of access to justice. His current projects include the development of a national Self Represented Litigation Network, see [www.selfhelpsupport.org](http://www.selfhelpsupport.org) acting as a consult to the Harvard Law School Bellow-Sacks Project on the Future of Access to Civil Justice, [www.bellowsacks.org](http://www.bellowsacks.org), evaluating the use of video conference for court appearances in Montana, working in support of the national LawHelp network of access to justice websites, [www.lawhelp.org](http://www.lawhelp.org) and with the development of a benchbook on self represented case issues for the California courts. His book, *The Self-Help Friendly Court: Designed from the Ground Up to Work for People Without Lawyers*, was published by the National Center for State Courts in 2002. He writes broadly on access to justice and ethics issues, including an article on judicial neutrality in *pro per* cases in the Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics. Additional information and publications are available on his website, [www.zorza.net](http://www.zorza.net).