



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN
& THE COURTS

with sponsorship support from the
Family Law Section of the Alameda County Bar Association
Family Law Section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association
and the Santa Clara County Bar Association

proudly present the

Family Law Conference 2006

A Training for Advocates of Low-Income Clients

October 26 & 27, 2006

Milton Marks Conference Center
Administrative Offices of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

*This schedule is subject to change. Please see program descriptions for more details about individual sessions.
A final schedule will be available in the onsite printed program materials.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

- Conference Registration Opens
- Continental Breakfast

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- Welcome and Opening Remarks

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.—Sessions #1

- Plenary Session on DCSS: What's In, What's Out, and How It Affects You
- Technology Session—Conducting Dissolution Workshops Using Technology and Volunteers (space is limited)

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Lunch and Affinity Group Gatherings

2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.—Sessions #2

- Handling Move-Away Cases
- Practice of Family Law Under the New Bankruptcy Legislation
- Technology Session—Training on Using Xspouse (space is limited)

3:55 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.—Sessions #3

- Mock Order to Show Cause (OSC)
- Securing Your Client's Interests in a Retirement Plan

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- LAAC Family Law Awards Presentation Ceremony and Reception—Please Join Us for Fun, Food & Networking!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

- Conference Registration Opens

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.—Sessions #4

- Breakfast Breakout Sessions—Help with Strategic Statewide Planning on Issues Affecting the Family Law Community
 - ⇒ Issues relating to Minors' Counsel
 - ⇒ Ensuring Clients' Access to Help on Pension Issues
 - ⇒ Ensuring a Continuum of Services

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

- Large Group Gathering for Reports Back from Strategic Planning Breakout Sessions

10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.—Session #5

- Plenary Session on Complex Property Issues

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.—Sessions #6 *(Box Lunches Served to Take to Sessions)*

- Key Immigration Issues for Family Law Practitioners
- Military Issues in Family Law Cases
- Technology Session—Training on Using Dissomaster (space is limited)

2:10 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.—Sessions #7

- Domestic Violence Enforcement
- Limited Scope Representation: Understanding It and Encouraging Private Attorneys to Try It
- Technology Session—Training on Using SupportTax (space is limited)

3:40 pm—Conference Ends

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

DAY ONE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Plenary Session on DCSS: What's In, What's Out, and How it Affects You

(1.75 hours MCLE)

This plenary session will discuss the SDU (why we have it, what it does, what types of support orders are covered, and how it will affect parents, employers, IV-D agencies, and private attorneys); the new DCSS Child Support Calculator (how it works, when the public will have access to it, and how it differs from other support calculation programs); practical tips for handling DCSS cases, including common issues you may encounter while handling the typical DCSS case such as public benefits, license releases, tax intercepts and levies, and the role of the DCSS representative in and out of the courtroom.

Conducting Dissolution Workshops Using Technology and Volunteers

(1.5 hours MCLE)(space is limited)

The LA Superior Court is using a new computer program that allows basic information to be entered by Justicecorps volunteers as part of the dissolution workshop. This approach saves time for staff and litigants, provides legible and useful pleadings and allows the attorney to discuss key legal issues rather than spend time on busywork. The program is available at no charge to courts and legal services programs and is designed to allow litigants to finish their divorce cases with clear and comprehensive orders. (*Note: ends at 12:30 p.m.*)

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH & AFFINITY GROUP GATHERINGS

Please select one of the following groups to join over lunch:

- ⇒ Practitioners interested in domestic partnership, LCBT, and same sex domestic violence issues;
- ⇒ Additional Discussion of Miscellaneous Issues Relating to DCSS;
- ⇒ Family Law Facilitators & Self-Help Center Staff
- ⇒ Legal Services & Domestic Violence Nonprofit Staff; or
- ⇒ Practitioners interested in the intersection of immigration and family law issues.

2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Handling Move Away Cases

(1.5 hours MCLE)

Move-aways are an increasingly contentious issue in family law, and California has been on the forefront of the issue. In a series of decisions since 1996, the court has set guidelines for "move-away" cases, allowing the parent with primary custody of the child to relocate but giving the other parent the right to seek a change in custody or visitation rights. From 1996 to 2006, move away custody decisions from the Supreme Court have changed the way attorneys work with parents with custody matters. The current debate is on how to best preserve the bonds between children and their parents, while allowing custodial parents the necessary need to relocate. This session will cover changes in the law and offer practical tips on dealing with low-income clients who present move-away issues, from assessment of the merits of the case, preparation of the papers and representation at the hearing.

Practice of Family Law Under the New Bankruptcy Legislation

(1.5 hours MCLE)

Changes in the bankruptcy legislation are extensive and in certain areas untested. These changes will dramatically affect family law matters. This presentation will cover the danger points regarding the practice of family law under the new legislation. It will also cover the greater enforceability of domestic support obligations (DSOs) and other matters relating to the interface between family law and bankruptcy.

Training on Using XSpouse

(1.5 hours MCLE)(space is limited)

Meets in the Technology Room

A trainer from Xspouse will give an overview of how to use Xspouse to navigate the complexities of child and spousal support.

(Session Descriptions for Day 1 Continued on Next Page)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

DAY 1, THURSDAY 10/26

3:55 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.

Mock Order to Show Cause (OSC)

(1.5 hours MCLE)

This session is geared towards practitioners interested in honing their skills in doing Orders to Show Cause. Come see a mock OSC played out, including common evidentiary issues, and improve your skills set in this area.

Securing Your Client's Interests in a Retirement Plan

(1.5 hours MCLE)

This session will provide tips and models for starting the QDRO process to protect your client's interest on day one. We will discuss how to learn the identity and location of the Plan and how to bring your client's claim to the Plan's attention. We will also discuss Joinder and Provisional Language in Judgment regarding retirement and survivor benefits interests, as well as linking the client with QDRO services through attorney referrals.

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

LAAC Family Law Awards Ceremony and Reception—A Tribute to Excellence in Service

Each year LAAC recognizes the work and service of legal services, pro bono, and court-based advocates in the field of family law with its LAAC Family Law Awards. Please join us for the awards presentation ceremony and reception to honor outstanding members of our community! The 2006 LAAC Family Law Award Recipients are:

Court-Based Staff: **Diane Altamirano**
Imperial County Superior Court
Nominated by the Superior Court

Pro Bono Attorney: **Cynthia Holton**
Law Offices of Cynthia Holton
Nominated by the Public Law Center

Legal Services Staff: **Emberly Cross**
San Francisco Cooperative Restraining
Order Clinic
Nominated by Bay Area Legal Aid

DAY 2, FRIDAY 10/27

8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

BREAKFAST BREAKOUT STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUPS & REPORTS BACK

Gather over continental breakfast with one of the following groups and engage in a facilitated strategic statewide planning discussion on issues affecting the family law community. At the end of the discussion, all three groups will gather in the auditorium to share brief reports back about information shared and any next steps identified.

The three strategic planning breakout topics are:

- Issues relating to Minors' Counsel
- Ensuring Clients' Access to Help on Pension Issues
- Ensuring a Continuum of Services

10:15 a.m. - 12:15 pm

Plenary Session on Complex Property Issues (2 hours MCLE)

This two-hour training panel will cover complex property issues facing family law specialists in dissolutions. Topics will include a general overview of real property issues, including flagging several areas for issue spotting, as well as a more in-depth discussion of the following topics: characterization and valuation of community and separate property interests; 2640 reimbursements; special problems related to re-financing; breach of fiduciary duties; and Moore-Marsden issues. Attendees can expect some emphasis in the area of discovery and trial preparation.

(Session Descriptions for Day 2 Continued on Next Page)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

DAY TWO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Key Immigration Issues for Family Law Practitioners

(1.5 hours MCLE)

Important changes stemming from the passage of VAWA 2005 legislation now allow more work to be done by legal aid providers on behalf of immigrants who are the victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. Topics for this workshop will include changes in Legal Service Corporation rules; identifying potential sources of immigration relief for immigrant victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault (VAWA self-petitions, battered spouse waivers, U and T Visas, gender-based asylum, etc.); and identifying "red-flag" warning signs when working with immigrant victims of domestic violence or sexual abuse, considering immigration law implications in developing family law case strategies.

Military Issues in Family Law Cases

(1.5 hours MCLE)

This session will cover issues such as military pay, how to read the Leave and Earnings Statement, the nature of the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act and how to work with it, military pension issues and service of process on military members.

Training on Using Dissomaster

(1.5 hours MCLE)(space is limited)

Meets in the Technology Room

A trainer from Dissomaster will give an overview of how to use Dissomaster to navigate the complexities of child and spousal support.

2:10 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

Domestic Violence Enforcement

(1.5 hours MCLE)

Advocates for victims of domestic violence know that obtaining a restraining order is only half the battle; enforcing the order is often where the "war" continues to be waged. This panel will include experienced DV practitioners and a

2:10 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

(continued)

Family Law Facilitator to discuss what constitutes a violation, where and when typical violations occur, how violations can be prevented and documented, and the legal remedies available to victims, including contempt. It will showcase San Francisco's unique model to utilize volunteer attorneys to help victims bring contempts on visitation violations.

Limited Scope Representation: Understanding It and Encouraging Private Attorneys to Try It

(1.5 hours MCLE in Ethics)

Limited Scope Representation, also known as unbundling, is now an accepted method of providing assistance in family law cases. It provides great opportunities for pro bono and limited fee services. This session will include ethics opinions, forms, office tools, sample retainer letters, and risk management tools to help avoid ethical and malpractice problems that can arise with limited scope services. It will describe ways to encourage private attorneys to try it and to support Lawyer Referral Services in developing panels of attorneys who unbundle.

Training on Using SupportTax

(1.5 hours MCLE)(space is limited)

Meets in the Technology Room

A trainer from SupportTax will give an overview of how to use SupportTax to navigate the complexities of child and spousal support.

MCLE Information:

Attendees can earn up to 9.75 hours of MCLE credit, including 1.5 hours of ethics.

MCLE credit for Traveling Training workshops is provided by the Legal Aid Association of California, a State Bar of California approved provider. For more information about LAAC trainings or to download another copy of this brochure, please visit www.CALegalAdvocates.org.



REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete both this Registration Form and the Course Selector Form and return with payment to the Legal Aid Association of California **by October 18, 2006**. To download more forms, visit www.CALegalAdvocates.org

Registration Information

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 18, 2006
CANCELLATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 23, 2006

Please print or type.

Name _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Title _____

Address _____

City, State, & Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

State Bar Number _____

Yes, I request a vegetarian lunch.

Special Needs:

To request accommodations related to a disability, please check here and also call Vanessa Carr at (415) 834-0100 x 312.

Cancellation Policy:

Registration cancellations must be received in writing at the LAAC office no later than **October 23, 2006**. Caterers require advance payment for meal costs by LAAC. Therefore, registration fees are nonrefundable if the cancellation is received after **October 23, 2006**. Attendees who register but do not pay nor attend will be invoiced for the full registration fee.

Resource Table: There will be a resource table at the training; please feel free to bring brochures and resource materials.

Registration Fees and Payment

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FEES BELOW

Not sure if you qualify for the LAAC Discount?

To view the 2006 list of LAAC Member Organizations and Individual LAAC Members, go to www.CALegalAdvocates.org.

Registration Fees (received by 10/18/06):

- \$175: Private Bar
- \$125: Regular Non-Profit or Member of a Sponsoring Family Law Section Bar Assn.
- \$75: LAAC Discount (for staff at a LAAC member program or individual members of LAAC only)
- \$75: Court Staff
- \$30: Law Students

Late Registration Fees: (received after 10/18/06 and only if space is available)

- \$195: Private Bar
- \$145: Regular Non-Profit or Member of a Sponsoring Family Law Section Bar Assn
- \$95: LAAC Discount (for staff at a LAAC member program or individual members of LAAC only)
- \$95: Court Staff
- \$50: Law Students

Total Enclosed: _____
(Payable to the Legal Aid Association of California)

Send Completed Forms and Payment to:

LAAC (ATTN: Vanessa Carr)
C/o Public Interest Clearinghouse
47 Kearny Street, Suite 705
San Francisco, CA 94108
FAX: (415) 834-0202

Questions? Contact Vanessa Carr at (415) 834-0100 x 312 or vcarr@pic.org

COURSE SELECTOR FORM

To register, please complete both this Course Selector Form and the Registration Form and return with payment to the Legal Aid Association of California **by October 18, 2006.**

To download more forms, visit www.CALegalAdvocates.org

Name

Email

COURSE SELECTIONS:

**Please help us plan by checking the boxes for the programs you wish to attend.
(Only one program per timeslot).**

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

11:00 A.M. TO 12:45 P.M.

- Plenary Session on DCSS
- Conducting Dissolution Workshops Using Technology and Volunteers (space is limited)

1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.: LUNCH **PLEASE SELECT AN AFFINITY GROUP**

- Domestic partnership, LGBT, and same sex domestic violence issues
- Additional Miscellaneous Issues Relating to DCSS
- Family Law Facilitators & Self-Help Center Staff
- Legal Services & Domestic Violence Nonprofit Staff
- Intersection of immigration and family law issues

2:15 P.M. TO 3:45 P.M.

- Handling Move-Away Cases
- Practice of Family Law Under the New Bankruptcy Legislation
- Training on Using Xspouse (space is limited)

3:55 P.M. TO 5:25 P.M.

- Mock Order to Show Cause (OSC)
- Securing Your Client's Interest in a Retirement Plan

DAY TWO: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

8:30 A.M. TO 10:15 A.M.: BREAKFAST **PLEASE SELECT A STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**

- Issues Relating to Minor's Counsel
- How To Expand Access to Help on Pension Issues
- Ensuring a Continuum of Services

10:15 A.M. TO 12:15 A.M.

- Plenary Session on Complex Property

12:30 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

- Key Immigration Issues for Family Law Practitioners
- Military Issues in Family Law Cases
- Training on Using Dissomaster (space is limited)

2:10 P.M. TO 3:40 P.M.

- Domestic Violence Enforcement
- Limited Scope Representation: Understanding It and Encouraging Private Attorneys to Try It
- Training on Using SupportTax (space is limited)

***LAAC and the AOC thank the dedicated members of the
2006 Family Law Conference Planning Committee:***

Krista Denton

Voluntary Legal Services Program
of the Bar Association of San Francisco

Susan Groves

Family Law Facilitator,
San Diego County Superior Court

Sarah Heckman

Family Law Information Center,
Sutter County Superior Court

Bonnie Hough

Administrative Offices of the Courts
Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Carla Khal

Family Law Facilitator,
Tulare County Superior Court

Jerel McCrary

Bay Area Legal Aid

Julie McCormick

Public Law Center

Rachel Kronick Rothbart

Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law

Julie Saffren

Law Offices of Julie Saffren

Wendy Vaughn

Neighborhood Legal Services
of Los Angeles County

HOTEL INFORMATION:

While attendees are responsible for making their own accommodations arrangements, LAAC has negotiated discounted prices with the following hotels. Make sure you reference the "LAAC Family Law Conference." Rooms are very limited, so make your reservations soon!

HAYES VALLEY INN

(NOTE: this inn offers European-style shared baths).
417 Gough St. @ Hayes St., San Francisco
(415)431-9131
www.hayesvalleyinn.com/
\$69 double bed / \$76 queen bed, plus an additional 10%
discount if 8 or more Family Law Conference attendees book
rooms here.

THE HOTEL MAJESTIC

1500 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
Main: (415) 441-1100
Reservations: (800) 869-8966
www.thehotelmajestic.com/
\$115 for a Standard Queen / \$155 for a Junior Suite

INN AT OYSTER POINT (near the SFO Airport)

425 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco
(800)642-2720 / (650)737-7633
www.innatoysterpoint.com/
\$159 queen bed / \$169 double occupancy
(This hotel has a free shuttle to the airport and BART. The
airport BART station is an approximately 30 minute BART
ride from the conference location).

**If you contact these hotels and all of the
discounted rooms are taken, please contact:**

Vanessa Carr, LAAC Training Coordinator
415-834-0100 x 312
vcarr@pic.org