

**Debra S. Frank,
Editor,
Los Angeles County Bar Association, Family Law Section
Family Law Practice Reference Book and Symposium Materials**

Los Angeles, CA

Saturday, May 5, 2018



Debra S. Frank, Certified Family Law Specialist

Debra S. Frank, a Certified Family Law Specialist in Century City, California, edited the Family Law Reference Book and Symposium Materials for the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Family Law Section's 50th Annual Family Law Symposium held at the Hilton Hotel—Universal City.

Attorney Frank has edited the Family Law Reference Book for over 15 years. The 1,000-plus page Family Law Reference Book includes chapters by eminent family law attorneys and other distinguished attorneys and members of the family law community:

- Garrett C. Dailey, Esq., "Annual Case Update (Selected Cases)"
- David Kuroda, LCSW, and Joseph P. Spirito, Jr., Esq., "Consensual Dispute Resolution – Making Life Better for Judges, Attorneys, and Families"
- Alison Spirito, Esq., and Joseph P. Spirito, Jr., Esq., "Improving the Mental Health of Children in Divorce"
- Alexandra Leichter, J.D., CFLS, "Private Trials, Arbitrations & Other Solutions to Family Law Disputes," "Practical Tips on Preparing And trying Child Custody Cases," and "Jewish Holiday Guide for Custody/Visitation Schedules"
- Forrest S. Mosten, CFLS, "Representing Your Clients in Mediation: Effectively Setting up a Mediation"
- Glen H. Schwartz, Esq., CFLS, "Parentage Litigation Reference Guide"
- Sorrell Trope, Esq., CFLS, and Lori Howe, Esq., "Initial Request for Order"

- Arnold Freedland, Esq., “How the Private Attorney Handles Title IV-D Child Support Cases”
- Howard S. Klein, Esq., Robert C. Brandt, Esq., CFLS, and Geoffrey Murry, Esq., “Claims of Undue Influence Are Considered Under Different Standards in Family Law and Probate Matters”
- Terry Mc Niff, Esq., CFLS, “Family Law Techniques and Trial Tips,”
- Stephen A. Kolodny, Esq., CFLS, “2018 Family Law Contempts”
- Raymond R. Goldstein, Esq., “A Primer on Enforcement”
- Gary A. Starre, Esq., “Divorce and the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005”
- Jennifer K. Saunders, Esq., Certified Legal Malpractice Law Specialist, “Managing the Risk of Professional Liability Claims”

Ms. Frank also edited the materials for the symposium’s five panels led by judicial officers, attorneys, and accountants. The panels addressed timely topics including:

- E-Docket On Approach: How Best to Prepare for Landing
- Getting and Keeping Clients – Office Management – Ethics and Substance Abuse
- Working Together: Traditional Litigation and Consensual Dispute Resolution in the 21st Century
- Case Management Rules: What the Court Needs from You When Presenting Your Case
- Cash Flow: Where Do You Find the Money?

Debra S. Frank served as the Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Family Law Section for the 2010–2011 term and participates on the Family Law Executive Committee as a Past Chair. She was a member of the Symposium Committee that organized the 50th Annual Family Law Symposium.

Ms. Frank presently serves as President of the Southern California Family Law American Inn of Court, the only Family Law Inn of Court in Southern California. She previously served as President for the 2012-2013, and she was one of the Inn’s founding members. The mission of the American Inns of Court is to foster excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills. A chapter of the American Inns of Court, the Family Law Inn of Court is an amalgam of no more than 80 members including judges, experienced lawyers, law professors, less experienced lawyers, and law students in an organized and continuing structure designed to enhance directly the professional and ethical quality of legal practice in our community.

Debra S. Frank served as Chair of the Family Law Section of the Beverly Hills Bar Association for the 2011–2012 term and on the Beverly Hills Bar Association’s Board of Governors for the 2009 through the 2012 term.

She is the Associate Journal Editor for the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, having served as the editor for the 2000-2001, 2009-2010, and the 2014-2016 terms. The Association of Certified Family Law Specialists (ACFLS) is a nonprofit, statewide bar association. ACFLS plays an active public policy role when the Appellate Courts, Legislature and Judicial Council consider matters of significance to family courts, family court populations or the family law bar. ACFLS has appeared as amicus in many family law appellate cases, including cases where the organization’s participation was invited by the appellate court. It is the mission of ACFLS to promote and preserve the family law specialty. To that end, the Association seeks to: (1) advance the knowledge of Family Law Specialists; (2) monitor legislation and proposals affecting the field of family law; (3) promote and encourage ethical practice among members of the bar and their clients; and (4) promote the specialty to the public and the family law bar.

She served as a Commissioner on the Family Law Advisory Commission, Board of Legal Specialization, for the 2005-2008 term. The Family Law Advisory Commission reviews and make recommendations on certification and recertification applications to the Board of Legal Specialization, develops and grades the legal specialist examinations, reviews and approves applications for legal specialty education provider status and for individual education programs, and recommends revisions to the standards for certification and recertification to reflect current practice in family law.

She served on the State Bar Family Law Executive Committee and was both Editor and Assistant Editor of the State Bar’s publication, Family Law News, and continues to serve as a Contributing Editor for the family law section of the California Lawyers Association (CLA), a member-driven, mission-focused organization dedicated to the professional advancement of attorneys practicing in the state of California. Established in 2018, CLA is a nonprofit, voluntary organization and the new home of the Sections of the State Bar of California and the California Young Lawyers Association.

She was a Governor Jerry Brown appointee to the California Law Revision Commission during his first term. The California Law Revision Commission is an independent state agency created by statute in 1953. It assists the Legislature and Governor by examining California law and recommending

needed reforms. Family law was a major area of examination at that time.

Ms. Frank maintains her law practice in the Century City area of Los Angeles. She has practiced law for more than 30 years, limiting her practice to family law issues. A certified family law specialist, Ms. Frank has played important roles on the executive committees of the State Bar's Family Law Section, the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Family Law Section, the Beverly Hills Bar Association Family Law Section, the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists (ACFLS), and the Southern California Family Law American Inn of Court. She has been a panelist on and moderator of family law programs, has written articles on family law, served as a Judge Pro Tem, and is a past commissioner and vice chair of the California Law Revision Commission. She earned her undergraduate degree from Boston University, her M.A. degree from Carnegie-Mellon University, and her J.D. degree from Southwestern University School of Law.

Through her work with CEB and other contributions to the legal community as a practitioner and instructor, Ms. Frank has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to continuing legal education and the furtherance of the legal profession. She is the author of the chapter "Marital Agreements" in CEB's book *California Marital Settlement and Other Family Law Agreements* and of the chapter "Stock Options and Benefits Under Executive Business Plans" in CEB's book *Dividing Pensions and Other Employee Benefits in California Divorces*. In 2012, she was named a recipient of the "Spirit of CEB" Award, acknowledging her selfless sharing of information for the betterment of the legal profession and the society it serves.

Southern California *Super Lawyers* magazine named her as one of the top attorneys in Southern California for 2009 through 2018. And she is rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell. (AV® Preeminent™ and BV® Distinguished™ are certification marks of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell certification procedures, standards and policies, 2011-present).

Her practice includes divorce and dissolution of marriage; California community property; spousal support/alimony; child support; child custody and child visitation; breach of fiduciary duty; domestic partnerships; prenuptial & postnuptial agreements; litigation; modifications of custody and support agreements; domestic violence; interstate custody; international custody; paternity and paternity tests; and property and debt division.

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