

**PRACTICAL
STRATEGIES**

*For Litigating
Difficult Family
Law Issues*

ACFLS 2023
**SPRING
SEMINAR**

Friday, March 24 - Sunday, March 26

Omni Rancho, Las Palmas Resort and Spa
Rancho Mirage, CA

ACFLS ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR

The Association of Certified Family Law Specialists (ACFLS) invites you to participate in our annual Spring Seminar program, the penultimate family law educational experience. Spring Seminar, presented since 1992, is the cutting edge in Family Law education. Each year ACFLS selects a topic in Family Law and gives that topic a deep analytical treatment of the kind that only ACFLS can provide. The program spans 3 half days, a Friday afternoon, and Saturday and Sunday mornings. There are six presentation panels composed of well-respected jurists, experts and attorneys. As each of these panels give their in-depth presentation, our Responder Panel of elite bench officers asks questions, and give opinions – often in contrast to that of the panels, creating a true intellectual discourse of the day’s topics. At the end of the three-day program the Responder Panel holds court with their final comments, observations of the subject, and answer questions submitted from the audience. All attendees are invited to attend an exquisite buffet on Friday evening and network with colleagues and presenters, as well as a cocktail reception Saturday evening. The Saturday and Sunday programs end mid-day so participants can enjoy the resort and relax a little.

Adding to your Spring Seminar experience, all attendees are provided access to our Spring Seminar mobile application (The App) and Website. The App is the foundation of our sense of Spring Seminar community. Attendees can track the real time Spring Seminar schedule, post comments and photos, download program materials and message other attendees. Throughout the program, important announcements are pushed through the App to keep you connected with our ACFLS Spring Seminar community and events.

Spring Seminar Committee

Co-Chairs: Courtney Shepard and Catherine Goodrow

Spring Seminar Treasurer: Diane Wasznicky

Members: Sherry Peterson, David Lederman, Avi Levy, Michele Brown, Christopher Dietrich, Kelly Robbins, Deborah Frank, Chris Melcher, Jennifer Hemmer, Henry Lewis, Jillian Atuegbu, Barbara Hammers, Stephen Montagna, Dorie A. Rogers, Dianne Fetzer, and Dee Rolewicz

2023 SPRING SEMINAR PROGRAM

Friday
MAR 24

Responder Panel:

Hon. Thomas Trent Lewis (Retired), Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Shauna L. Chastain, and Hon. Margo Lewis Hoy (Retired)

Moderator:

Garrett C. Dailey, CFLS

11:00 am–1:00 pm

Las Palmas Ballroom

Seminar Registration

Pre-function reception area between the Las Palmas Ballroom and Fiesta Ballroom

1:00 pm–1:15 pm

Las Palmas Ballroom

Welcome & Opening Remarks

1:15 pm–4:15 pm

(with 15 minute break from 2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Diving Into the Details: Challenging and Defending Premarital and Interspousal Agreements

Presenters: Christopher C. Melcher, CFLS and Anne C. Kiley, CFLS

This presentation focuses on the litigation of the validity and enforceability of Premarital Agreements and Interspousal Agreements (e.g., Transmutation Agreements). Understanding the distinctions and the laws that apply is critical not only to preparation for litigation, but to determine what if any issues to litigate. A hypothetical Premarital Agreement and Interspousal Agreement will be presented to the audience, with each panelist taking a side and sharing strategies for litigation including discovery and other trial preparation and presentation at trial.

2:45 pm–3:00 pm Break

Foyer (name badge required)

(Exhibitors and Coffee/Snack)

4:30 pm–5:00 pm

Las Palmas Ballroom

Advocacy Aspects

Presenter: Ronald S. Granberg, CFLS

Reduce client expectations - without becoming overbearing. State your case - persuasively. Counteract opposing contentions - credibly. Motivate your judicial officer - gracefully. Common advocacy problems are examined, with solutions suggested.

4:00 pm–5:00 pm

Las Palmas Ballroom

Registration

Pre-function reception area between the Las Palmas Ballroom and Fiesta Ballroom

6:00 pm–8:00 pm

Starlight Terrace (name badge required)

Dinner

Welcome Reception Buffet Dinner

Saturday
MAR 25

2023 SPRING SEMINAR PROGRAM

Responder Panel:

Hon. Thomas Trent Lewis (Retired), Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Shauna L. Chastain, and
Hon. Margo Lewis Hoy (Retired)

Moderator:

Garrett C. Dailey, CFLS

6:30 am–8:00 am

Las Palmas Ballroom Breakfast Buffet

Fiesta Ballroom across from the Las Palmas Ballroom
(registered attendees only – name badge required)

7:30 am–8:00 am

Las Palmas Ballroom Registration

Pre-function reception area between the Las Palmas
Ballroom and Fiesta Ballroom

8:00 am–8:15 am

Las Palmas Ballroom Announcements

8:15 am–10:15 am

Difficult Custody Issues in High Conflict Cases: A Practical Approach for Judges and Practitioners

**Presenters: Deborah H. Wald, CFLS, Hon. Monica F.
Wiley, and Robert A. Simon, Ph.D.**

This seminar will include an experienced child custody
litigator, a Judge, and a mental health professional, who
will combine their expertise to provide useful strategies
for addressing some of the most difficult custody issues.
Topics will include resist/refuse dynamics, Intimate
Partner Violence (IPV), and the challenges of figuring out
custody arrangements and parenting plans where there
are more than two parents/parenting figures involved.

10:15 am–10:30 am Break

Foyer (name badge required)
(Exhibitors and Coffee/Snack)

10:30 am–12:30 pm

Attributes of the Difficult to Litigate Business Appraisal: How to Deal with the Variables and Complexity

**Presenters: Andrew L. Hunt, CPA, ASA, Michael A.
Morris, CFLS, and Robert A. Benavente, CFLS**

Perhaps the most daunting task in family law is trying a
complex business valuation matter. If you are walking
into the courtroom, it means that you were unsuccessful
in resolving the substantive issues. Business valuation
involves a large number of highly complex variables.
Because of that, objective analysis quickly runs into
subjective judgment. And despite the number of
variables and subjectivity, the valuation expert is
expected to opine to a singular point estimate of value
which will prove dispositive.

This session will explore the valuation variables and
issues that create the most difficulty to the practitioner in
successfully trying a business valuation.

12:30 pm–12:45 pm Break

Foyer (name badge required)
(Exhibitors and Coffee/Snack)

12:45 pm–1:15 pm

Advocacy Aspects

Presenter: Ronald S. Granberg, CFLS

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overbearing. State your case - persuasively. Counteract
opposing contentions - credibly. Motivate your judicial
officer - gracefully. Common advocacy problems are
examined, with solutions suggested.

5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Las Palmas Lawn (name badge required)

Happy Hour

Relax and chat with friends and colleagues. One drink
and light bites hosted by ACFLS.

2023 SPRING SEMINAR PROGRAM

Sunday
MAR 26

Responder Panel:

Hon. Thomas Trent Lewis (Retired), Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Shauna L. Chastain, and Hon. Margo Lewis Hoy (Retired)

Moderator:

Garrett C. Dailey, CFLS

7:00 am–8:15 am

Las Palmas Ballroom

Breakfast Buffet

Fiesta Ballroom across from the Las Palmas Ballroom (registered attendees only – name badge required)

8:15 am–8:30 am

Las Palmas Ballroom

Announcements

8:30 am–9:45 am

Advanced Issues with Attorneys Fees at Trial: From A to \$\$\$

Presenters: Hon. Erin M. Childs and Stephen D. Hamilton, CFLS

This program will address requests for attorney fees at trial, including steps to take pre-trial in order to maximize your client's recovery of fees at trial. Presenting your fee request in complex and high conflict matters will be emphasized. Practical information such as use of Requests for Admissions, obtaining true sanctions under Cal. Code Civ. Proc. §128.5, best billing practices to support your client's fee request and the recourse available in matters where a lack of civility has occurred will be discussed.

9:45 am–9:50 am Break

Foyer (name badge required)

(Exhibitors and Coffee/Snack)

9:50 am–10:20 pm

Advocacy Aspects

Presenter: Ronald S. Granberg, CFLS

Reduce client expectations – without becoming overbearing. State your case – persuasively. Counteract opposing contentions – credibly. Motivate your judicial officer – gracefully. Common advocacy problems are examined, with solutions suggested.

10:20 am–10:30 am Break

Foyer (name badge required)

(Exhibitors and Coffee/Snack)

10:30 am–12:00 pm

Ask the Judges - the Last Word

Presenters: Hon. Thomas Trent Lewis (Retired), Hon. Mark Juhas, Hon. Shauna L. Chastain, and Hon. Margo Lewis Hoy (Retired)

This is a favorite of Spring Seminar attendees! Submit your hypothetical questions concerning anything from this year's program, "Practical Strategies for Litigating Difficult Family Law Issues," in advance by email to Executive.Director@acfls.org with "Ask the Judges" in the subject line. (The opinions the judges voice on stage are not predictive of future rulings nor can the judges comment on pending cases.)

Located in Rancho Mirage, California, the hotel is convenient to the world-famous Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Palm Desert's El Paseo with a shopping experience similar to Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive, and fine dining at a stunning number of establishments. Set on 240 lush acres, our resort has been renovated to include a fresh, new color palette, expanded fitness center, refurbished spa and redesigned boutiques. Make a splash in one of our three pool settings. Splashtopia, our 2-acre water playground, features a 450-foot lazy river, two 100-foot water slides, cliff-side Jacuzzi, sandy beach and fountains and sprinklers for the kids.

You can also take time for yourself and replenish your body and soul at the hotel's 20,000-square-foot spa. New heights of relaxation will be discovered with their exhilarating treatments that use pure essences of desert botanicals. The hotel's 27 holes of championship golf will challenge amateurs and pros alike with palm tree-lined fairways and incredible mountain vistas.

SAVOR STAR TREATMENT

in the Coachella Valley



Registration for ACFLS 2023 Spring Seminar

Register online at acfls.org, or mail/fax registration form to:

Dee Rolewicz, ACFLS Executive Director
1296 E. Gibson Rd., Ste. A #253, Woodland, CA 95776
Phone: 916-217-4076 • Fax: 916-930-6122

Pay by credit card or enclose check payable to ACFLS.

Registration is not complete until tuition payment is received.

Seminar Registration Includes:

- Three half days (11 hours of MCLE and Family Law Specialization credits)
- Friday evening Welcome Reception Buffet Dinner for registered attendees (no-host bar)
- All guests for Friday Dinner: \$30 per guest
- Saturday and Sunday Breakfast Buffets (registered attendees only)
- Saturday Happy Hour (registered attendee and one guest – one free drink each)
- Coffee and snacks at breaks
- Electronic materials including seminar handbook and additional materials.

ACFLS Members: \$650; Non-members: \$725

Electronic Materials and Program: Can't make it in person? ACFLS Members: \$650; Non-members: \$725 (includes ground shipping and sales tax)

NOTE: SEMINAR REGISTRATION FEES ARE **NON-REFUNDABLE & NON-TRANSFERABLE**. THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON WILL RECEIVE THE ELECTRONIC PROGRAM AND MATERIALS.

2023 Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa Room Reservations ACFLS Spring Seminar attendees are solely responsible for making their own transportation and lodging arrangements. The room block reservation link and code will be provided on your receipt after you register for the seminar on the ACFLS website by email, upon receipt of your paid seminar registration. As soon as you receive the code to the room block, reserve your room immediately through the reservation link on your receipt or online at rancholaspalmas.com. **ROOM BLOCK WILL BE OPEN DECEMBER 1ST.** Information is available at acfls.org. The block fills up quickly!

The 2023 Spring Seminar discounted room rates start at \$245 per night inclusive of resort fee and parking. Discounted room rates may apply for three nights before and three nights after the seminar dates, subject to availability. Attendees staying at the resort will also enjoy a 15% discount on spa, golf and tennis bookings.

If you have a succinct question for the Judges' "Last Word" panel on a topic related to this year's theme—no more than 25 words, not related to any pending case—please email your question to Dee Rolewicz at Executive.Director@acfls.org.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Attending the **FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION?**

Yes No

GUEST NAME(s): (FOR FRIDAY NIGHT WELCOME BUFFET RECEPTION) @ \$30 PER GUEST

GUESTS MUST BE PREREGISTERED AND HAVE A NAME TAG.

TOTAL NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING: @ \$30 PER GUEST

EMAIL ADDRESS: (REQUIRED)

ACFLS MEMBER PRICE @ \$650

NON-MEMBER PRICE @ \$725

ATTORNEY PRACTICING UNDER 5 YEARS @ \$550

DATE ADMITTED TO STATE BAR: (REQUIRED)

NONPROFIT @ \$550

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: (REQUIRED)

BENCH OFFICERS (CURRENTLY SITTING ON FAMILY LAW ASSIGNMENT) (NO CHARGE)

ALL ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE PROGRAM AND MATERIALS ELECTRONICALLY.

ELECTRONIC PROGRAM & MATERIALS **ONLY**

ACFLS MEMBER @ \$650 NON-MEMBER @ \$725

GRAND TOTAL: \$

CHECK ENCLOSED CREDIT CARD

VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT #:

EXP. DATE:

3 OR 4 DIGIT VV#:

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

SIGNATURE:

ACFLS²⁰²³ SPRING SEMINAR

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