



CENTER FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

FAMILY LAW FORUM

Marin Families at Risk:
A closer look at problems & solutions

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
The Lark Theater
7PM – 9PM

The goals of CJE's Family Law Forum are to educate the Marin community about procedures and challenges within the family law system, to discuss best practices, and to encourage an ongoing dialogue about safeguards and solutions. This forum is the 3rd in CJE's 2007 forum series.

AGENDA

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| Moderator | Peter B. Collins |
| WELCOME & COMMUNITY RESOURCES | Erin Fogg <i>CJE Staff Consultant</i> |
| OVERVIEW OF FAMILY LAW | Robert Cleek <i>Marin County Family Law Attorney</i> |
| FILM DEBUT | <i>Family Court Crisis: Our children at risk</i> |
| SPECIAL ISSUES IN FAMILY LAW | |
| Unique Challenges | Robert Cleek <i>Marin County Family Law Attorney</i> |
| Failure to Follow Law | Barbara A. Kauffman <i>Marin County Family Law Attorney</i> |
| Systemic Shortcomings | Meera Fox <i>Executive Director, Child Abuse Solutions</i> |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES | Dr. Angela Browne-Miller <i>Author, Psychotherapist & Trainer</i> |
| MARIN IN NATIONAL CONTEXT | Connie Valentine <i>Director, CA Protective Parents Association</i> |
| CALL TO ACTION | Kathleen Russell <i>CJE Staff Consultant</i> |

PANELISTS & PRESENTERS

Dr. Angela Browne–Miller – *Author, Psychologist & Trainer*

Author of over a dozen books, lecturer, psychotherapist, social scientist, Dr. Angela Browne–Miller is based in Corte Madera, California and earned her two doctorates and two masters degrees at the University of California Berkeley, where she lectured in three departments for over a decade. Angela has served as a U.S. National Institute of Mental Health Postdoctoral Fellow, a U.S. Administration on Children, Youth and Families Fellow, and a U.S. Public Health Department Fellow. Over the past three decades, she has worked with several thousand persons experiencing: substance, relationship and behavioral addictions; “co” addictions; intimate partner abuse and violence; family violence; other relationship challenges; stress, anxiety, and other “disorders”; and the children of many of the above. Dr. Browne–Miller’s newest book is *To Have And To Hurt: Seeing, Changing Or Escaping Patterns Of Abuse In Relationships*.

Robert Cleek, esq. – *Marin County Family Law Attorney*

A third generation San Franciscan, Robert Cleek graduated from the University of San Francisco with a degree in psychology and sociology, and received his Juris Doctorate degree from Golden Gate University School of Law. He worked as a group home supervisor in San Francisco with emotionally disturbed adolescents and spent nine years with the Department of Corrections at San Quentin Prison as a Correctional Officer and Correctional Counselor before being admitted to practice in California state courts in 1978. He is also licensed to practice in the Federal courts of the Northern and Southern Districts of California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Cleek currently practices family law and does appellate work with his law–partner wife, Catherine Elin, as *Cleek and Elin*, in Novato, CA.

Connie Valentine – *President, California Protective Parents Association*

Connie Valentine, M.S. is the president of California Protective Parents Association, an organization that assists non–abusive parents and their abused children in custody disputes through research, education and advocacy. She is the conference coordinator for the annual Northern California Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Conference in Davis, CA and has presented at many conferences on the topics of child abuse and problems protecting abused children in custody disputes.

Barbara Kauffman, esq. – *Marin County Family Law Attorney*

Well–known as an outspoken advocate for social justice, Ms. Kauffman began her law career at *Pillsbury Madison & Sutro* in San Francisco, practicing bankruptcy, real estate and political law. She has practiced family law exclusively since 1995, primarily in Marin County since 1999. At that time, she became an advocate for social justice and judicial excellence and continues to donate a considerable portion of her practice to causes and cases that represent her highest ideals. She graduated from Stanford University with a degree in journalism, and completed her law degree at Santa Clara Law School, where she graduated cum laude.

Meera Fox, esq. – *Executive Director, Child Abuse Solutions, Inc.*

Meera represented juvenile wards of the Dependency court as an attorney for Children’s Law Offices before becoming a successful sole practitioner representing Protective Parents of sexually abused children in Family Court custody proceedings. After a three–year stint as director of new programs at the Child Abuse Forensic Institute, Ms. Fox now serves as the Executive Director of Child Abuse Solutions, Inc. Ms. Fox regularly speaks at conferences and trains professionals on various aspects of child abuse and the law.

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- Marin County Human Rights Commissioner Cesar Lagleva
- Marin County Human Rights Commissioner Maureen McManus.

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