California Family Law Report

MCLE Program

Basic Training: Family Law

Essential Skills and Strategies for Building a Successful Family Law Practice

Premieres September 18, 2026 • 8.75 MCLE/Specialization Credits

Our Presenters

Hon. Anne Kiley
Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court
Family Law Division
CFLR Program Director

Christopher C. Melcher
CFLS-CALS
Walzer Melcher & Yoda LLP

We're Here to Help

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Program Details

New to family law? CFLR's **Basic Training: Family Law** is your essential program, meticulously designed and led by seasoned experts. It's crafted specifically for attorneys new to, or with limited experience in, family law practice, and serves as a vital review for those seeking to reinforce their understanding of foundational principles and best practices.

View this program via **CFLRonline.com**.
Premieres September 18, 2026 (Friday)
Beginning at 8:30 a.m. (PT)

MCLE Credit/Specialization: 8 hours

Tuition:
$595 (Through **September 17, 2026** | Advance tuition discount)
$695 (Beginning **September 18, 2026** | Regular tuition)

Enroll today

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California Family Law Report

Basic Training: Family Law

Program Overview

This practical, "how-to" program provides a clear, step-by-step guide to managing a family law case from start to finish. You'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the entire process, commencing with jurisdiction and developing robust case plans, extending to seeking and opposing interim relief, and continuing all the way through final judgment and post-judgment matters.

Importantly, you'll gain insight into the significance of each key family law form. You'll learn how to effectively use the Petition and Response to initiate a case, the Request for Order to begin hearings, the critical supporting and responsive declarations, the mandatory Declarations of Disclosure, and the mandatory forms in DVPA proceedings.

Our expert panel distills complex substantive law into actionable strategies, demonstrating how to competently manage the many forms and procedures. Regardless of which side you represent, you will acquire core family law legal knowledge and receive invaluable practical insights directly from the experts. Equip yourself with the knowledge and confidence to build your family law practice effectively.

Program Highlights

The Proceedings
- Dissolution
- Legal separation
- Parentage
- Petition to establish custody and support
- DVPA

Jurisdictional Issues
- Personal jurisdiction: when required and when not
- Divisible divorce
- UCCJEA
- UIFSA

The Filings: Mandatory Judicial Council Forms
- Summons and petition
- Response
- Declaration under UCCJEA
- Requests for Orders
- Income and expense declarations
- DVPA forms

The California Rules of Court – Title Five, Family Law Rules
- Joinder
- Bifurcation
- Requests for Orders
- Meet and confer requirements
- Evidentiary hearings
- Custody mediation and evaluations
- Minor's counsel
- Child testimony

Date of Separation

Premarital Agreements

Property and Debt Characterization and Division

Fiduciary Duties

Preliminary and Final Declarations of Disclosure

Family Code §217

Child Custody and Visitation
- UCCJEA
- Pendente lite requests
- Relocation
- Post-judgment modifications

Child Support
- Child Support Guidelines
- Calculating guideline support
- Rebutting the guideline

Spousal Support
- Pendente lite
- At trial and post-judgment modifications

Attorneys' Fees and Costs
- Dissolution / legal separation proceedings
- Parentage proceedings
- DVPA proceedings
- 271 Sanctions

Domestic Violence Prevention Act
- Legislative intent
- Discovery limitations
- Qualifying relationships
- The DVRO hearing
- Mutual Restraining Orders
- Renewal

Enjoy flexible viewing with our new on-demand streaming, pause and resume the program at your convenience. Enrollees will have online access to view this program for 6 months.

MCLE Credit/Specialization & Course Materials

Approval of specialization credit in Family Law has been granted by the California Board of Legal Specialization and approval of MCLE credit for this activity has been granted by The State Bar of California in the amount of **8.75 hours**.

The course materials include a copy of the complete set of slides and worksheets used by the panelists, plus other supplemental materials. Course materials will be available to download and view online when the program premieres.

Presenter Biographies

Hon. Anne Kiley is a Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, assigned to the family law division at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Prior to being appointed as a judicial officer, Judge Kiley was a Certified Family Law Specialist, Certified by the State Bar of California, and a partner of and head of the family law department at Elkins Kalt in Century City. Judge Kiley graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, with honors, and received her J.D. cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School. Judge Kiley was an Associate Editor of the University of Michigan Law School Law Review and was made a member of the Michigan Chapter of the Order of the Coif. Judge Kiley has been an adjunct professor of law at the University of Southern California Gould Law School, where she taught Family Law and Community Property courses. Judge Kiley serves as Program Director for CFLR and as such teaches multiple courses, including the annual Family Law Refresher Course, the Advanced Family Law Course and trial advocacy programs. She is a contributing author of The Rutter Group **California Practice Guide: Family Law**.

Christopher C. Melcher, **CFLS-CALS**, **CFLS**, is dually specialized in family law and appellate law. Based in Los Angeles, he maintains a statewide practice involving high-value estates and complex legal issues, serving as a litigator at the trial and appellate level, a consultant to family lawyers, and an expert witness. He focuses on the financial aspects of divorce, litigation regarding premarital agreements, and international family law. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the International Academy of Family Lawyers. He is also a Diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. He is certified as a specialist in Family Law Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He served as Chair of the State Bar of California Family Law Section for the 2011-2012 term and served on the board of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists and the AAML Southern California Chapter. He has presented over 200 continuing legal education programs and published books and articles on family law. He is a contributing author of The Rutter Group **California Practice Guide: Family Law**.

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Family Law Disrupted: When Death and Crime Change Everything (6.75 MCLE hours)

Family Law Refresher Course 2026 (11.25 MCLE hours)

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Family Law "How To" Series: Tracing - Demystifying Commingled Funds in Family Law (3.25 MCLE hours)

Advanced Family Law Course 2025 (79 MCLE hours)

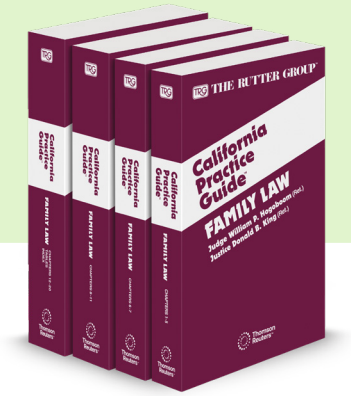
And more coming soon...

Print titles available at special prices to program enrollees!

THE RUTTER GROUP CALIFORNIA PRACTICE GUIDE

FAMILY LAW

By Judge William P. Hogoboom (Ret.) **and Justice Donald B. King** (Ret.)
Contributing Authors: Michael Asimow, Bruce E. Cooperman, Judge Anne Kiley and Christopher C. Melcher



Family Law is your trusted guide to mastering domestic relations and dissolution practice in California. This comprehensive resource covers every critical aspect of family law, including pendente lite relief, support, custody, property, tax, agreements, modification, domestic partnerships, and enforcement. Written with clarity and precision, this resource provides a thorough analysis of applicable case law, statutes, and rules. Years of expertise are condensed into practical, actionable guidance, enabling you to manage your time efficiently and serve your clients effectively across all phases of family law. Each topic and procedure is systematically explored and broken down into easy-to-understand steps, ensuring you have the knowledge and confidence to achieve exceptional results for your clients.

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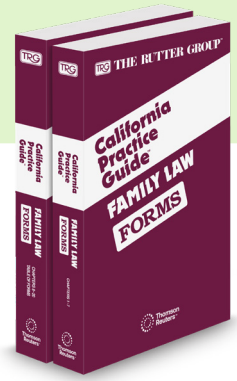
THE RUTTER GROUP CALIFORNIA PRACTICE GUIDE

FAMILY LAW FORMS



Family Law FORMS is an essential companion to **California Practice Guide: Family Law**. It contains more than 250 practice-tested forms (both Judicial Council and attorney-drafted), cross-referenced to the **Family Law** Practice Guide where the related substantive and procedure law is discussed in detail.

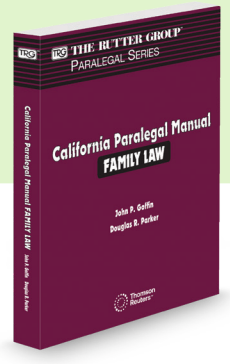
This set includes petitions, responses, and pendente lite and postjudgment Requests for Orders (along with accompanying declarations and points and authorities), plus QDROs, agreements, questionnaires, checklists, and tax forms.

TWO LOOSELEAF BINDERS AVAILABLE TO WEBCAST ENROLLEES FOR 50% OFF THE REGULAR PRICE*

THE RUTTER GROUP CALIFORNIA PARALEGAL MANUAL

FAMILY LAW

By John P. Goffin and Douglas R. Parker



Family law paralegals are highly valued and depended upon to provide substantive and procedural support in this challenging and emotionally-charged field. This manual is written especially for paralegals by a highly respected family law attorney, along with a senior paralegal and Rutter Group author with extensive family law experience. Their combined talents in the field give readers the advantage and benefit of learning the fundamentals of family law from both perspectives, helping the paralegal become an optimum and essential part of any family law practice, large or small.

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Basic Training: Family Law

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MCLE Program

View this program via **CFLRonline.com**; Instructions will be provided to enrollees about how to access this program online.

■ **CFLRonline.com**

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Beginning at **8:30 a.m. (PT)**

Tuition Deadline

Enrollees are entitled to an early enrollment discount. Your registration(s) will be considered "regular tuition" unless received in our office by the deadline date listed below (**NO EXCEPTIONS**):

Advance tuition deadline: 9-17-2026

Additional Information

Refunds: Tuition is 80% refundable up to 10 days before the start of the program.

Tuition

☐	**Advance tuition** (through **September 17, 2026**)	**$595**
☐	**50% OFF each enrollment for 2nd and/or 3rd associate(s) from the same firm** (applicable for Advance tuition **ONLY** - must enroll by tuition deadline)	
☐	**Regular tuition** (beginning **September 18, 2026**)	**$695**

Note: This program is produced in conjunction with the California Family Law Report (CFLR). The TRG RutterPASS is not accepted for this program.

TOTAL _____

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- ■ **California Paralegal Manual: Family Law**

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