

**Debra S. Frank,
President,
2017-18 Southern California Family Law
American Inn of Court
Meet the Judges Night**

Los Angeles, CA

Monday, June 11, 2018



Debra S. Frank, Certified Family Law Specialist

Debra S. Frank, a Certified Family Law Specialist in Century City, California, is currently serving as President of the Southern California Family Law American Inn of Court for 2017-2018 term. On June 11, 2018, the Family Law Inn of Court hosted its annual Judges' Night. During the evening, the Inn honored Judge Christine Byrd.

The Southern California Family Law American Inn of Court held it's annual "Meet the Judges Night," on Monday, June 11, 2018. More than twenty current and retired judicial officers of the Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles attended and shared their practice pointers and pearls of wisdom with Inn of Court members and guests. The judicial officers were sent a list of questions in advance of the meeting, including:

- What is the biggest mistake you commonly see attorneys make in your courtroom? Any suggestions on how to avoid it?
- How can we, as attorneys, make your job easier?
- As a judge, what's the greatest pleasure you get from your day on the bench?
- Have any funny events happened in your court room that you can share with us?
- If you could change one thing in family law, what would it be?
- What was the most memorable event in your legal career?
- What's the best piece of advice you think we should give our clients?

Following introductory remarks by Debra S. Frank, each judicial officer spoke for about 5 minutes. The Honorable Thomas Trent Lewis, Supervising Judge, Family Law Division, Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles, then introduced and presented the Honorable Christine Byrd with the Inn's Third Annual Award for Judicial Excellence.



This was the final meeting of the Southern California Family Law American Inn of Court for 2017-2018 term and Ms. Frank's final meeting as President. She previously served as President of the Southern California Family Law American Inn of Court 2012-2013, the only Family Law Inn of Court in Southern California, and she was one of the Inn's founding members.

The mission of the American Inns of Court is to inspire the legal community to advance the rule of law by achieving the highest level of professionalism through example, education, and mentoring. 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.



After the Judicial Officers' Presentations, Inn Members and Guests Interact

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 also 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 the editor of the Family Law Reference CD/book prepared in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Bar Association Family Law Symposium for over fifteen years.

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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Contact Information
Debra S. Frank, Esq.
Attorney at Law
Debra S. Frank, APLC
Los Angeles, CA
310-277-5121