

CHRISTINE DRASS CALDWELL

ATTORNEY AT LAW

CERTIFIED CHILD WELFARE LAW SPECIALIST
The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

Peace Talks Mediation Services, Inc.
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(310) 301-2100

EDUCATION

HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

JURIS DOCTOR, May 1999

Member, *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly*, 1996-97

Honorable Mention for Moot Court Brief, 1996

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, IRVINE, CA

BACHELOR OF ARTS, Psychology and Social Behavior, *cum laude*, June 1994

POST GRADUATE EDUCATION

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, MALIBU, CA

LL.M. CANDIDATE, STRAUS INSTITUTE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION, Spring 2009

MEMBERSHIPS

CALIFORNIA STATE BAR, Admitted December 6, 1999

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL FOR CHILDREN

EXPERIENCE

LAW OFFICE OF CHRISTINE DRASS CALDWELL, LOS ANGELES, CA

Minor's Counsel, November 1, 2006 - present

- Represent 45 children in high-conflict family law and probate matters.
- Assist parties in settling custody and visitation disputes.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES, CA

Juvenile Dependency Court Mediator, May 2007 – November 2007.

- Mediate conflict and create agreements between parents, social workers and children as to jurisdiction, family reunification/ maintenance, child placement, and family-law exit orders.

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES, CA

Attorney, January 2000 – October 31, 2006.

- Trial counsel for 1000+ children and some parents in dependency court proceedings.
- Advocate for children at IEP meetings, Regional Center meetings, delinquency court, probate court, mental health proceedings, and in the ICWA dependency court.
- Mentored new attorneys and supervised summer law clerks.

HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Research Assistant for Disability Law Professor Paul Grossman, Spring Semester 1999

- Researched the amended Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and case law for rewrite of course reader, *Disability Law in the Traditions of Civil Rights Law*, Volume III.

SADDLEBACK VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, MISSION VIEJO, CA

Instructional Assistant at Esperanza Special School, 1998

- Assisted in the elementary class and as an aid for a 16-year-old student with autism.

Recreation Leader at Kid's Connection, 1998

- Organized and supervised activities in after-school program for children with special needs.

PUBLIC COUNSEL, LOS ANGELES, CA

Law Clerk, Summer 1997

- Advocated for approximately 30-40 recipients of General Relief per week.
- Supervised volunteer law associates in advocating on-site at DPSS offices.
- Provided information, referrals, and advocacy to welfare recipients via toll-free hotline.
- Provided legal aid to at-risk youth and veterans at legal clinics.

COMMUNITY LAW PROGRAM, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Instructor, Spring Semester 1997

- Instructed eighth-grade class three times per week on legal issues regarding domestic violence, gangs, and immigration.
- Facilitated group problem solving, courtroom simulations, and projects in which students interpreted and applied relevant legal concepts.

CRISIS INTERVENTION YOUTH SHELTER, LAGUNA BEACH, CA

Volunteer Counselor, Summer 1996

- Encouraged independent decision-making, group interaction, and positive communication among high-risk adolescent youths in a structured and supportive environment.

CHILD ABUSE SERVICES TEAM, ORANGE, CA

Court Appointed Special Advocate, 1994

- Provided comfort and support to sexually abused children to lessen trauma during medical examinations and interviews with social workers, therapists, district attorney, and police.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, IRVINE, CA

Research Assistant for Restorative Environments Experiment and Memory Study, 1993

- Monitored college students working in an urban or natural environment.
- Conducted testing of students' physiological responses and cognitive performance.
- Evaluated subjects' responses to determine which environment promoted work productivity.

TRAINING *

AFCC-CA – *The Rosetta Stone of Child Custody*, February 2008

LA SUP. CT. – *A New Beginning for Partnership for Children and Families in LA County*, 2007

AOC – *Institute for New Court Professionals*, August 2007

NACC – *State of the Art Advocacy for Children, Youth, and Families*, August 2005

NITA – *Trial Advocacy Training*, 2003

MOSTEN – *40-Hour Basic Divorce Mediation Training*, June 2002

* Training list not exhaustive.

