

EARN UP TO 12 HOURS MCLE AND CFLS CREDIT  
THE MERITAGE RESORT AND SPA, NAPA CALIFORNIA

MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN NAPA**

FAMOUS AUTHORS WRITE  
ABOUT FAMILY LAW

**AAML**<sup>TM</sup>  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER'S 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

# FRIDAY, MAY 5TH

## REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

## WELCOME TO “ONCE UPON A TIME IN NAPA...”

CO-CHAIRS: GREG MAPLE, SAMANTHA BLEY DEJEAN, ANDREA PALASH  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT: MICHÈLE BISSADA

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

## DIVORCE AND TAXES - THE GOOD, BAD & UGLY

LESLIE DAWSON

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Discussion of the unique income tax issues related to divorcing parties. Areas covered are division of property, reporting income and withholdings during the divorce, reporting community deferred compensation post-divorce.

“If thou dost marry, I’ll give thee this plague for thy dowry: be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny. Get thee to a *CPA*. Farewell. Or, if thou wilt needs marry, *for God’s sake, consult a tax professional*, for wise men know well enough what monsters the *IRS* makes of them.”

--William Shakespeare, Hamlet (Sorry, Shakespeare.)

## WHAT FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE *DOBBS* DECISION AND ITS AFTERMATH

DEBORAH WALD AND AMY WHELAN

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

This presentation will address the broader implications of the Dobbs decision and their relevance for family law attorneys. Topics will include implications for access to abortion, and to healthcare more broadly; broader implications for assisted reproduction law; broader implications for transgender health; and broader implications for rights stemming from the right to privacy, including for LGBTQ people. NOTE: Topics may change as the situation evolves.

## LUNCH

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

## BRAVE NEW WORLD - TECHNOLOGY TIPS AND TRAPS FOR ATTORNEYS WORKING FROM HOME

MICHAEL LITTLE AND SAMANTHA BLEY DEJEAN

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

This presentation will address the new landscape of the remote practice of law with an emphasis on technology best practices.

“Midway upon the journey of our life, I found myself within a forest dark, for the straightforward pathway had been lost *as well as all of my data and there is a talking cat on my Zoom screen where my face should be.*”

--Dante Alighieri, The Divine Comedy (Sorry, Dante.)

## BREAK

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM



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## FRIDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>

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### **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, PART DEUX: IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF BENNETT AND DARCY - THE CHILD SUPPORT CASE**

ALEXANDRA MUSSALLEM, KATIE SIMS, HON. CHARLOTTE WALTER WOOLARD (RET.), AND JACQUELINE SINGER, PH.D

**2:15 PM - 3:30 PM**

This program will examine tactics for establishing that a payor qualifies as an extraordinarily high earner under Family Code section 4057(b)(3) and making the case for the children's reasonable needs. The discussion will take a holistic approach to a high earner case with consideration for the pervasive affluence in our communities, the psychological impacts of affluence and a lifestyle disparity in households, and the economics of proving your client has an extraordinarily high income and quantifying children's reasonable needs in light of the extraordinarily high earning parent's standard of living. We will also look at how to separate the custodial parent's needs from the children's reasonable needs and whether there is an implicit limit on how much a custodial parent may benefit from increased child support."

*"Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance, unless, of course, you are a gimlet-eyed opportunist and you bag a bazillionaire."*

--Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice (Sorry, Jane.)

### **FRIDAY EVENING WELCOME RECEPTION**

**Vineyard Terrace**

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**



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# SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

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## **BREAKFAST**

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM**

CO-CHAIRS: GREG MAPLE, SAMANTHA BLEY DEJEAN, ANDREA PALASH

## **APPELLATE PANEL**

**9:15 AM - 10:45 AM**

CLAUDIA RIBET, KELLY ANN WOODRUFF, AND JUSTICE STEVEN Z. PERREN

This program will address advanced issues in preparing for an appeal or writ, including preserving the record for appeal, managing the complex statement of decision process, strategically using post-trial motions, and attorney's fees on and after an appeal.

*“As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect. Then he couldn't remember what qualifies as an appealable order or the timeline for filing a request for a statement of decision; that's when he **really** freaked out.”*

*--Franz Kafka, The Metamorphosis (Sorry, Kafka.)*

## **THE ADDICTED LAWYER**

**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM**

BRIAN CUBAN

Substance use disorders have always been higher than the societal norm in the legal profession. Most lawyers know someone in the legal profession whose career was either lost or significantly harmed due to addiction. Attorneys and law students like anyone else can be genetically pre-disposed to alcoholism, substance use disorders, depression, eating disorders and even adult self-harm. The stress of practicing law can be an environmental trigger to these issues. The associated shame and fear of judgment can inhibit a lawyer from disclosing these issues until there both physical and employment consequences. Brian Cuban discusses his experiences with mental health issues, both as a law student at the University Of Pittsburgh and practicing attorney in Dallas Texas for over twenty years. Brian discusses his recovery, redefining his career as well as restoring family and passion for life.

## **BREAK**

**11:45 AM - 12:00 PM**

## SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

### THE USE OF A PARENT COORDINATOR IN FAMILY LAW LITIGATION

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

CHRISTINE D. PIGEON, PH.D., DAVID DONNER, AND HON. MARJORIE A. SLABACH (RET.)

There are many ways that litigators can use the PC to help their clients regarding child custody issues. This panel will explore the usual and creative application of this intervention. Participants will learn the nuts and bolts along with which clients could benefit from same. Additionally, sample appointment orders and the protocols associated with the appointment of a PC will be discussed and distributed.

*“[U]ntil the day when God will deign to reveal the future to man, all human wisdom is contained in these two words, --‘Wait and hope’ that the parties retain a Parenting Coordinator, because **someone** has to decide whether little Madison can be evaluated for an allergy to box turtles.”*

*--Alexandre Dumas, The Count of Monte Cristo (Sorry, Alexandre.)*

### SATURDAY EVENING COCKTAIL PARTY

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Village Lawn at the Grand Reserve\*

*\*Please note the Vista Collina is now called the Grand Reserve.*



Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind.  
“Pooh!” he whispered.  
“Yes, Piglet?”  
“Well,” said Piglet, taking a deep breath.  
“*I want a divorce.*”

# SUNDAY, MAY 7TH

## BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

CO-CHAIRS: GREG MAPLE, SAMANTHA BLEY DEJEAN, ANDREA PALASH

## DEMYSTIFYING BUSINESS VALUATIONS

9:15 AM - 10:45 AM

CHRISTOPHER C. MELCHER AND KENNETH PIERCE, MBA, ABV, CVA, MAFF

To be an effective advocate at a valuation trial, you must explain the client's position to the court through direct and cross examination of the parties and experts. This program will simplify the principles of business valuation so you can gather the relevant information needed to present a persuasive, evidence-backed case to the court.

*"It's a great huge game of chess that's being played—all over the world—if this is the world at all, you know. If it's not the world, it might be Cleveland. But that's not the issue. The issue is: what's it worth? Is it really a business? Or is it a lucrative hobby? Under-capitalized? Over-capitalized? Filled with helium? Whatever you decide, bring a sweater and some snacks."*

--Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking Glass (Sorry, Lewis.)

## BREAK

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM

## JUDGE'S PANEL- NEED WE SAY MORE?

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM

MODERATOR: BRANDON BLEVANS | PRESENTERS: HON. MARK JUHAS, HON. SHEILA SHAH LICHTBLAU, AND HON. MONICA F. WILEY

Bench Officers from both Northern and Southern California will give their "view from the bench" and the lens ("North v South") each has on disputed issues routinely brought for decision.

*"It is better to be feared than loved, if you cannot be both. It is best, however, to be the judge."*

--Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince (Sorry, Machiavelli.)



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGISTER ONLINE

<https://aamlnorcal.org/2023-Symposium>

## REGISTRATION FEE

Early Bird - \$975, Register by March 3, 2023

\$1,200 as of March 4, 2023

\$1,350 as of April 22, 2023

## HOTEL ROOMS

[Click here](#) to reserve your room at the group rate of \$339. The group rate expires on April 4, 2023.

We highly recommend booking rooms early as the hotel will likely sell out before the April 4th room rate expiration.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Written notice received by March 3, 2023, will be issued full refund less \$50 admin fee.

No refunds will be issued for cancellations received after March 3, 2023.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are still opportunities to sponsor the 46th Annual Symposium.

[Click here to review.](#) Act quickly, as sponsorships are first come first serve!

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact AAML NorCal Executive Director, Jennifer Cass at [admin@aamlnorcal.org](mailto:admin@aamlnorcal.org)

