

## INSTRUCTOR BIO

STEPHEN H. SULMEYER, J.D., Ph.D. is a lawyer, clinical psychologist, mediator, trainer, and collaborative divorce coach in Marin County, California. He specializes in complex and high-conflict disputes in a wide range of subject areas, including family and divorce, probate and elder, family businesses, business/commercial, intellectual property, employment, discrimination, partnerships, personal injury, and community matters. He is particularly skilled at getting to the heart of the human issues that tend to drive most disputes and create obstacles to settlement. In particular, his years of working with people and organizations in conflict has convinced him of the value of identifying and working with, rather than shying away from, the underlying psychological obstacles that are often the real barriers to the resolution of conflicts. By attending to all aspects of disputes, Steve has found that parties are generally able to achieve the most comprehensive and durable results, and to maximize efficiency and conservation of resources. Steve is also a trainer both in psychology and in various modalities of dispute resolution.

Steve is a former chairperson of the Marin County Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, and a member of the Association for Dispute Resolution of Northern California (ADR-NC), the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR), the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), the Academy of Professional Family Mediators (APFM), the American Bar Association's ADR section, as well as numerous legal and psychological organizations. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford University, and his Ph.D. from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, where he has taught as a member of the adjunct faculty. He serves on mediation panels of the Marin County and Alameda County Superior Courts and the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Steve is also the co-founder (with Judge Verna Adams) of the Marin Superior Court's Interdisciplinary Settlement Conference (ISC) program, in which mental health professionals and lawyers trained in dispute resolution team up to assist judges in settling cases. He is also the founder and president of Integrative Mediation Bay Area (IMBA), an organization that teams up mental health professional- and attorney-mediators in a conjoint mediation model in family law and other cases. Steve is the co-author of "The Interdisciplinary Settlement Conference: A Grassroots Alternative for Resolving High-Conflict Parenting Disputes in Lean Times," which was published in the October, 2015 issue of *Family Court Review*.