

**Catherine Conner**

Conner, Lawrence, Rodney, Olhiser & Barrett, LLP  
829 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 523-0480

**Education:** U.C.L.A. 1978, B.A., History & Sociology  
U.C. Berkeley Boalt Hall 1982, Juris Doctorate

**Licensing/  
Certification:** State Bar of California, 1982, #104324  
Certified Family Law Specialist, State Bar of California, 1992 to present

**Awards:** Rex Sater Award for Excellence in Family Law, 2003  
Northern California Super Lawyer, 2005 – present  
Eureka Award, Collaborative Practice, 2007  
Best Lawyers in America, 2006 – present  
Best Lawyers, Santa Rosa Family Lawyer of the Year, 2012 and 2016  
Careers of Distinction, Sonoma County Bar Association, 2018 Honoree

**Employment/  
Professional Activities:** Founding Partner: Conner, Lawrence, Rodney, Olhiser & Barrett, LLP, 1983 to present  
Treasurer, Director: The Center for Understanding in Conflict, 2015 to present  
Judge Pro Tem: Domestic Calendar, Settlement Conference Panelist and Case Management Conference panelist, Sonoma County Superior Court, 1992 to present  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. Member from 2000 to present. Board of Directors 2008 to 2014. President in 2013.  
Collaborative Council of the Redwood Empire. Member from 2004 to present. Board of Directors 2004 – 2008. (President, 2004 – 2006)  
Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Steering Committee, Sonoma County Bar Association. Member from 2000 to present. Steering Committee 2001 to 2004.  
Family Law Committee of Sonoma County, 1987-1989, 1999-2001 (2001 Chair), 2016-2017  
Collaborative Law Section, Sonoma County Bar Association. (Co-Chair 1998-2000)  
Sonoma County Women in Law. Member from 1984 to present (Board, 1984-1988)  
Association of Certified Family Law Specialists. Member from 1996 to present.

**Presentations  
And Trainings:**

**Training Organizations:**

Center for Understanding in Conflict/Center for Mediation in Law  
40 hour Basic Mediation Intensive, April 2008, September 2008,  
September 2009, April 2010, October 2010, March 2011, October 2011,  
March 2012, October 2012, March 2013, October 2013, January 2014,  
March 2014, November 2014, March 2015, May 2015, November 2015,  
April 2016, November 2016, March 2017, November 2017, March 2018,  
November 2018  
Self-Reflection for Conflict Professionals Intensive series  
September 2014 – June 2015; February – June 2016, February to June 2017  
1 ½ day training, Complicate the Narratives: Conflict Mediation Training for  
Journalists, November 2018  
1 day training, Navigating Conflict for Mental Health Professionals,  
September 2017

1 day training, How to Communicate with Parties in Conflict, September 2016  
1 day training, Power Imbalance – November 2015  
1 day training, End Game – April 2015  
1 day training, Conflict and the Role of the Professional, November 2014  
1 day training, Contracting – The Agreement to Mediate, November 2013  
1 day training, Advanced Looping: Bringing Greater Understanding to Parties  
in Conflict, January 2012  
2 day training, Role of the Law, November 2012  
Monthly Support and Development Group, 2011 to 2014

#### Collaborative Practice Trainers

Mastery of Collaborative Practice, 8 class series, 2008  
Mastery of Collaborative Practice, 10 class series, 2007

#### Conference Workshops:

##### Canadian Bar Association Legal Conference

Navigating Impasse in Negotiations, 8/13

##### Collaborative Family Law Council of Florida, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

Plenary presentation – The Role of the Law in Collaborative Practice, 5/13

##### Collaborative Practice California annual conference

Divorce Law for Non-Legal Professionals, 4/18

Understanding Impasse, 4/15

Bringing Interests Down to Earth, 4/12

Bridge Over Troubled Teams, 4/10

Pre-Conference Institute on Self Reflection for Conflict Professionals, 4/10

Board retreat facilitation, 8/08, 8/09

Well Functioning Collaborative Practice Groups, 4/08

Communication Challenges for Client-Centered Collaboration, 5/07

The Role of the Law in Collaborative Cases, 3/06

Building Successful Collaborative Groups, 3/06

##### Collaborative Professionals of Washington Annual Conference

Difficult Conversations, November 2013

##### International Academy of Collaborative Professionals annual conference

The Power of Presence and Awareness in Collaborative Practice, 10/18

The Ultimate Paradigm Shift, 10/17

The Sign-On Meeting: Doorway to a Successful Collaborative Case, 10/14

Access to Collaboration, 10/13 and 10/14

Pre-Conference Institute for Practice Group Leaders, 10/10

Difficult Conversations, 10/10

Practice Group Excellence, 10/10

Pre-Conference Institute for Practice Group Leaders, 10/09

Pre-Conference Institute on the Role of the Law, 10/09

Pre-Conference Trainer's Institute, 10/08

Thriving Collaborative Practice Groups, From Theory to Practice, 10/08

The Collaborative Endgame, 10/08

Development and Care of Multi-Disciplinary Practice Groups, 10/05

Building an Effective Collaborative Team Panel, Boston Annual Forum, 10/04

Better Practices Panel, Vancouver Annual Forum, 10/03

##### International Academy of Collaborative Professionals Institute

Technology in Collaborative Practice, March 2013

##### Law Society of Manitoba, Annual Family Law Conference

Demystifying Collaborative Practice and Mediation, March 2015

##### Michigan Collaborative state annual meeting

1 day facilitation and training, 1/09

##### Challenging Conflict, European Collaborative Conference, Germany

Interdisciplinary Team Dynamics, 6/10

State Bar of California Convention  
Collaborative Law, 10/02

**Practice Group Trainings:**

A Better Divorce

1 day training, Interests in Collaborative Practice, 2/13

Australian Practice groups in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane

Three 1 day workshops, Working in an Interdisciplinary Team, 7/12

Central Valley Collaborative Law Affiliates

Teambuilding in Collaborative Practice, 1/13

Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals

2 day training, The End Game, 5/09

Collaborative Council of the Redwood Empire

1 day training, Collaborative Teamwork with Challenging Clients

Growing Your Collaborative Practice series, 4 sessions, 2011

2 day training, Power Imbalance and Gender in Collaborative Cases, 11/09

Board retreat facilitation, 9/07 and 9/08

1 day training, Difficult Conversations, 11/07

2 day Training, The End Game, 11/06

2 Day Training, Role of the Law in Collaborative Cases, 11/05

3 Day Training, Mediation Skills for Collaborative Practitioners, 11/04

Growing Your Collaborative Practice, 10/04

Roles of Professionals in Collaborative Cases, 6/04

Collaborative Divorce Solutions, Orange County

1 day annual retreat, 7/10

Collaborative Divorce, Vancouver

2 day training, Overcoming Impasse, 5/14

Collaborative Family Law Professionals of Marin

2 day training, The End Game, 11/09

½ day training, The End Game, 3/09

2 day training, The Role of the Law, 3/08

2 day training, Creating the Collaborative Team, 9/07

Collaborative Practice Group of Contra Costa/East Bay

Annual group retreat facilitation, 3/10

Annual group retreat facilitation, 9/08

2 day training, The Collaborative Endgame, 6/08

2 day training, Collaborative Negotiations, 11/07

2 day training, Mediation Skills for Collaborative Practitioners, 9/05

Collaborative Practice, Durham

1 day training, The End Game, June 2016

Collaborative Practice Hong Kong

2 day Basic Collaborative Training, 2/10

1 day Collaborative Practice Group Formation workshop, 2/10

Collaborative Practice Manitoba

1 day training, A Model for the First Joint Meeting and the Role of the Law, 3/15

Collaborative Practice Napa

1 day training, Introduction to Collaborative Practice, 3/08

Collaborative Practice, San Francisco

1 day annual retreat facilitation, 6/10  
2 day training, The End Game, 11/09  
1 day annual retreat facilitation, 3/09

Collaborative Practice San Mateo  
1 day annual retreat and training, 1/09  
1 day annual retreat and training, 1/11

Collaborative Practice, Santa Cruz  
1 day training, The Role of the Law in Collaborative cases, 11/16

Collaborative Practice, Toronto  
1 day strategic planning retreat, 11/13

Eidos Projekt, Fischbachau, Germany  
3 day trainings, Basic Collaborative Practice, 8/07, 2/08 and 1/09  
1 ½ day training, Collaborative Teamwork, 4/14

Ithaca Area Collaborative Law Professionals  
½ day training, Is the Law a Problem or Is It You? 8/15  
1 day training, Finding the Way through Rocky Seas in a Collaborative Case,  
May 2016 (jointly with Collaborative Practice, Albany)

Indiana Continuing Legal Education Foundation  
1 day training, Interest Based Conflict Resolution: An Interdisciplinary  
Collaborative Practice Workshop, 9/18

Martina Ammon and Rupert von Katzler, Bad Aibling, Germany  
2 day Basic Collaborative Training, 6/10

MediationFest, Cologne, Germany  
2 day training, Collaborative Teamwork, 3/14

Okanagan Collaborative Family Law Group  
½ day training, Starting the File Off on the Right Foot, June 2016

Sacramento Collaborative Practice Group  
1 day training, Interest Based Negotiation, 9/13  
1 day training, The End Game, 5/09

The Association of Collaborative Professionals Calgary  
1 day training, Team Dynamics in Challenging Conflict, 9/18

**Other workshops, presentations or trainings:**

Solutions Journalism Network  
Complicating the Narratives – Mediation Training for Journalists, 11/18

The Mediation Society  
Competency, Norms, Styles, and Cultures in Mediation, 5/15

Sonoma County Bar Association, Family Law Section  
Family Law Comprehensive Series: Negotiations and Settlement, 2/18  
Financial Documents Literacy in Family Law, 5/17  
Technology and Electronic Documents in Law Practice, 3/13  
Tracing from A-Z, 6/07

Sonoma County Legal Aid, 11/05  
Alternative Approaches to Co-Parenting Disagreements

Business Valuation Seminar, Legal Aspects, 9/03

Steven C. Neustadter Collaborative Law Symposium, 5/03

Conflict Resolution Skills, Timber Harvest Workshop, 9/02

Family Law Case Management Conference Program Training, 6/02

Legal Aid Family Law Training, 2/99, 2/00, 2/02

Family Law Evidence Seminar, 4/01

Child Custody Evaluator Training, 6/99

The Expert Witness, 10/98

CEB Recent Developments in Family Law, 1990-1994

**Publications:**

Collaborative Family Law Practice Materials, 2002  
with Steven C. Neustadter, Revised 2004, 2008 and 2011 with Margaret L. Anderson

*The Use of Experts in Child Custody Litigation*, FairShare newsletter,  
May 2000, with Jacqueline Singer, Ph.D.

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GARY J. FRIEDMAN  
Law Offices of Gary J. Friedman  
34 Forrest Street  
Mill Valley CA 94941  
United States of America

## **EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

BA, Brown University, 1966;  
JD, Boston University, 1969.

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## **PRESENT POSITION**

Principal, Mediation Law Offices, Mill Valley, California, USA, since 1976,  
Co –Founder, The Center for Understanding in Conflict, Santa Rosa, California, USA, since 1979

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE PRESENT POSITION**

Sole practitioner, Mill Valley, California, USA. General practice with emphasis on family and business law, 1976;  
Trial Lawyer, Friedman and Friedman, Bridgeport, Connecticut, USA. Litigating personal injury, contractual disputes, real estate problems, criminal defense and general business cases, 1970-75;

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## **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Mediation: Commercial law, including contracts;  
Intellectual property;  
Real Estate;  
Employment and family conflicts.

## **EXPERIENCE IN MEDIATION**

Mediator since 1976.

Has mediated over 2,000 cases in the area of commercial law, including contracts, real estate, intellectual property, employment and corporate disputes and family conflicts, including estate and divorce.

In 1976, developed a model of mediation, the Understanding Based Model of Mediation, that is now practiced extensively in the United States and Europe. As one of the first lawyer mediators and a primary force in the current mediation movement, has used this model to complete over one thousand mediations in the last three decades, including numerous 2-party and multi-party disputes in the commercial and non-profit realms, in the area of intellectual property, real estate, corporate, personnel, partnership formations and dissolutions, and family law. Examples include contractual disputes concerning the supply of power and co-ownership of generation facilities between large public utilities; a dispute with a hospital resulting in a restructuring of the relationship between medical and administrative personnel; an environmental dispute over the use of a nature preserve; a dispute within a major symphony orchestra; a dissolution of a major law firm; an intellectual property dispute between a publisher and author of a series of highly successful books; and a conflict within a religious organization between the head and the residential community.

### **Mediation Teaching:**

Harvard Law School's Program in Lawyering, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, since 1994;

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), WIPO Workshops for Mediators in Intellectual Property Disputes, Geneva, Switzerland, since 1995;

The Center for Understanding in Conflict, Introductory and advanced training in mediation, Santa Rosa, California, USA, since 1980;

Conducted introductory and advanced training in mediation for lawyers, judges and psychologists throughout the United States, Europe and Israel, since 1989;

Taught courses in negotiation and mediation at Stanford University Law School, and the New College of Law, California, USA, 1984-94;

Frequent lecturer at law schools, conferences and organizations throughout the United States of America and Europe, since 1980.

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## EXPERIENCE IN COURT LITIGATION

Six years of experience of litigation of personal injury, contractual disputes, real estate problems, criminal defense and general business cases.

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## MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Member:

- State of Connecticut Bar, 1970;
  - United States District Court, 2nd District, 1972;
  - State of California Bar, 1976.
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## MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

*A Guide to Divorce Mediation*, Workman Publishing, (1993).

Numerous articles on mediation in periodicals.

In collaboration with the Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation, featured as the mediator in an educational video, *Saving the Last Dance: Mediation Through Understanding*, which applies his model of mediation to a highly charged business dispute.

*Challenging Conflict: Mediation through Understanding*, Harvard's Program on Negotiation and the American Bar Association (2009)

*Inside Out: How Conflict Professionals Can Use Self-Reflection to Help Their Clients*, American Bar Association (2015)

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# **Natalia Lopez-Whitaker**

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**NACHLIS & FINK**  
291 Geary Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Telephone: 415-399-8380  
Email: [Natalia@nachlisfink.com](mailto:Natalia@nachlisfink.com)

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Attorney/Mediator/Collaborative Practitioner**

**Nachlis & Fink**

**291 Geary Street, Suite 600**

**San Francisco, California 94102**

**08/2008-Present**

Senior Associate/Managing Attorney. One of four attorneys engaged in specialized family law practice. Trials, law and motion practice, consulting attorney, Family Law Mediation, and Collaborative Family Law Practitioner.

#### **Certified Law Clerk/Post Bar Law Clerk**

**Alameda County Public Defender's Office, Hayward Branch**

**Hayward, CA**

**10/2007-06/2008**

Conducted client interviews in the office and in jail, Attorney for Misdemeanor morning calendar; appeared in court for arraignments and attorney and plea, argued 1538.5 motions, researched and motion writing.

#### **Law Clerk**

**San Francisco Public Defender's Office Division Juvenile Division**

**San Francisco, CA**

**01/2007-07/2007**

Researched and assisted in writing motions, investigation requests, and case management request forms. Conducted client interviews and trial preparation.

#### **Law Clerk**

**California Indian Legal Services**

**Oakland, CA**

**01/2006-12/2006**

Researched ICWA dependency cases, and other issues involving Tribal sovereignty and governance. Assisted in client intakes, interviews, and case preparation.

### **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY OF THE DAY and MEDIATOR** for Pro Per Litigant Calendar  
San Francisco Superior Court  
2010-Present

### **CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING IN CONFLICT**

Member, Board of Directors. Fall 2018-Present

### **INSTITUTO FAMILIAR DE LA RAZA, San Francisco**

Member, Board of Directors, 2012-2017

### **CO-FOUNDER**

Kindred Oakland Collective, a shared network, workspace, and gathering space specifically designed by and centered around professional people of color  
2017-Present

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco, CA**

Doctor of Jurisprudence, December 2007

**Activities:** Latino/a Law Student Association (LaLSA), Officer

#### **San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA**

Bachelor of Arts *cum laude*, Raza Studies, May 2000

Bachelor of Arts *cum laude*, International Relations, May 2000

**Honors:** Deans List Fall 1996, Spring 1999-Spring 2000

**Activities:** M.E.Ch.A., Officer 1996-2000

SFSU Associated Students, Humanities Representative 1998-1999

### **MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

- Member, California Bar Association
- Member, The Bar Association of San Francisco (Member of the Family Law Section)
- Member, Alameda County Family Law Association
- Member, San Francisco La Raza Lawyers Association
- Member, East Bay La Raza Lawyers Association
- Member, Collaborative Practice East Bay/CPCAL
- Member, International Association of Collaborative Practitioners
- Member, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
- Northern California Super Lawyers, Rising Stars, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016

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## **PRESENTATIONS**

2019, Presenter, Mediation Society, Real Talk: Addressing Racial Bias &. Creating Transformative Work, with Lacey Wilson, Eric Butler, Catherine Conner, Becca Vershbow, and Gary Friedman

2019, Teacher, Center of Understanding in Conflict, Real Talk: Addressing Racial Bias &. Creating Transformative Work, two day workshop with Lacey Wilson, Eric Butler, Catherine Conner, Becca Vershbow, and Gary Friedman