



Robert J. Merlin

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LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Law Offices of Robert J. Merlin, P.A. – Managing Partner – June 2006 - Present

Merlin & Hertz, P.A. – Managing Partner; November 1998 – May 2006.

Robert J. Merlin, P.A. – Managing Partner; September, 1991 - October 1998.

Young, Franklin, Merlin & Berman, P.A. - Partner; December 1990 - August, 1991.

Young, Stern & Tannenbaum, P.A. - Associate; June, 1989 - November, 1990.

Steinberg, Merlin & Slewett, P.A. - Partner; April, 1981 - May, 1989 (Firm previously known as Steinberg & Merlin, P.A.; Steinberg, Wohl & Merlin, P.A.; Steinberg & Wohl, P.A.; Steinberg, Sorota & Wohl, P.A.; and Steinberg & Sorota, P.A.).

August, Pohlig & Milstein - Associate; June, 1980 - March, 1981.

Myers, Kaplan, Levinson, Kenin & Richards - Associate; March, 1979 - May, 1980.

EDUCATION

Legal:

University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, Florida-Juris Doctor: December, 1978 with Honors; GPA: 3.2; Dean's List - December, 1977 - August 1978; Class Ranking - Top 15%.

Cambridge University, Cambridge, England and The Institute of Law-Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland: International Trade Law Program in conjunction with the University of Florida College of Law - Summer, 1978.

Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia; September, 1976 - May, 1977; GPA: 79.4 (on an 89-point scale), Class Ranking - Number 5 in class of 100.

Undergraduate:

University of Florida - 1976 with Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with major in Accounting, GPA: 3.2.

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

Legal:

Florida Bar Board Certified in Marital and Family Law (1994-Present); First Family Inns of Court (1994-2001 and 2011-Present); Concerned Matrimonial Lawyers of Dade County, Inc.: President (1997-1999), Member of Board (1997-2001).

Admissions: United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida-Trial Bar; United States Circuit Court of Appeals-Eleventh Circuit.

Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator - 2011 - Present.

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts - Member (2001-Present).

Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts – Past President (2015-2016), President (2014-2015), President Elect (2013-2014), Vice President (2012-2013), Member of Board of Directors (2010-2016), Member (2001-Present).

Recipient of Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals President's Award – 2017.

Recipient of FLAFCC President's Award - 2013.

Recipient of Stu Webb Distinguished Service Award from the Collaborative Family Law Institute - 2012.

Collaborative Family Law Institute, Inc. – President (2009-2013), Past Chair of Marketing Committee, Past Secretary, Member of Board and Executive Committee, Member since 2003.

Collaborative Family Law Professionals of South Florida – Member since 2009.

South Palm Beach Collaborative Law Group - Member since founding in 2014 (helped to create organization).

Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals - Member of Board (2012 - Present), Member since creation in 2011, Co-Chair of Florida Collaborative Family Law Conference (2014 & 2015), Certification Committee Chair – heading creation of accreditation standards, helped to create Florida Collaborative Ethical Standards.

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals – Member since 2006; Board Member (2016-Present); Chair of UCLA Advisory Committee Chair 2016-Present and Member since 2014; Fundraising Committee Co-Chair 2016-Present and Member since 2015; Professional Development Committee (2014).

Worked for eight years to adopt the Uniform Collaborative Law Act in Florida which went into effect on July 11, 2017.

Trainer of interdisciplinary professionals in the Collaborative Family Law Process meeting IACP Trainer Standards (2011-Present) in Miami, Gainesville, Tampa, Boca Raton, Jacksonville, Panama City, Punta Gorda, Fort Lauderdale, and Lakeland, Florida and in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Lecturer on Collaborative Family Law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law since 2006 and to various local bar associations and other professional and business organizations.

Presenter on Collaborative Family Law at the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts annual conferences in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2018.

Presenter on Collaborative Family Law at the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 FACF Conferences.

Presenter on using peacemaking processes in cases with high conflict children's issues at 2017 conference of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Presenter on Hope at the 2017 and 2018 IACP Forums and at the annual Alternative Dispute Resolution conference of the Florida Dispute Resolution Center.

Presenter on Collaborative Family Law at the 2013 national convention of the National Bar Association.

Presenter on Collaborative Family Law to the Florida Association of Psychologists and the Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapists.

Presenter on Collaborative Family Law on behalf of the Collaborative Family Law Institute through a Daily Business Review presentation - January 2010.

Presenter and lecturer on Collaborative Family Law at basic interdisciplinary Collaborative Law training on behalf of Collaborative Family Law Institute 2010 – 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

2006 Dade County Bar Pro Bono Outstanding Law Firm Award.

1998 Recipient of Florida Eleventh Judicial Circuit Ray H. Pearson Guardian-Ad-Litem Award.

Martindale-Hubbell Rating: AV

Listed: Leading Florida Attorneys in Family Law with Network of Leading American Attorneys; Martindale-Hubbell Preeminent Family Law Attorneys; Florida Super Lawyers; Florida Trend Magazine Florida Legal Elite; South Florida Legal Guide to Top Lawyers and Law Firms.

The Florida Bar: Mental Health Committee 2017-2019; Family Law Rules Committee – Chair 2017-2018, Vice Chair 2016-2017; Family Law Section (Legislation Committee 2009-2013 and Chair or Co-Chair of ADR Committee 2010-2014); American Bar Association and member of Family Law Section; American Trial Lawyers Association (Past Member); Coral Gables Bar Association; Dade County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section, Founder and Co-Organizer of the High School Mock Trial Program, Small Claims Clinic Program - Volunteer (7 Years); Past member of Miami Beach Bar and North Dade Bar Associations.

University of Florida Levin College of Law Center on Children and Families Advisory Board – 2004 - Present.

Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court Parenting Coordinators Advisory Board (2006-2016).

Law School Activities

University of Florida - Law Review, Research Editor; Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity; International Law Society - Secretary; John Marshall Bar Association Homecoming Skits.

Mercer University - Law Review; American Jurisprudence Book Award - Criminal Procedure; Carl Vinson Research Assistant to Professor Richard Creswell; Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity; Student Bar Association Placement Committee.

PUBLICATIONS

"The Marital Home - Will It Come Back to Haunt You?", The Florida Bar Journal, May 1993.

"Developing a Collaborative Family Law Practice" chapter in Aspatore Inside the Minds Series publication of Leading Lawyers on Exploring Collaborative Law, Integrating it Into a Practice, and Implementing Marketing Strategies (2011).

"Collaborative Law Process Act Passes," The Florida Bar Family Law Section Commentator, Vol XXX, No. 1, Fall 2016.

"The Long and Winding Road to Implementing the Uniform Collaborative Law Act and Rules in Florida," The American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section Dispute Resolution magazine, Vol 23, No. 2, Winter 2017.

"The Collaborative Law Process Act: The Future Is Now", The Florida Bar Journal, April 2017.

"The Collaborative Law Process Rules: This is How We Do It", The Florida Bar Journal, April 2018.

Contributing author to *Building a Successful Collaborative Family Law Practice*, (Adam Cordover with Forrest S. Mosten) ABA, 2018.

Numerous newspaper articles including in The Miami Herald, The Florida Bar News, South Florida Legal Guide, South Florida Business Journal and Daily Business Review.

COMMUNITY:

Greater Miami Jewish Federation: Board of Directors (1988-2015 and 1981-1983); Planning and Distribution Committee (2010-2014); Agency Support Committee (2007-2014); Human Resources Development Chair (2007-2010); South Dade Board of Directors (1990-1992); Leadership Foundation-Founder; Pledge Redemption Committee Chairman (1998-2000); Long Range Strategic Planning Committee (1990-1994); Attorney's Division Chairman (1996-1998); Judicial Reception Chairman-1995; Campaign Leadership Development Committee-Chairman; 1989 Opening Dinner Co-Chairman; Campaign Committee; Commerce and Professions Division-Board; Community Relations Committee; Young Adult Division: Chairman (2 years), Campaign Chairman, Vice-Chairman; 1989 Stanley C. Myers Presidents' Leadership Award; 1983 Sandra Goldstein Atid Young Leadership Award.

Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc.: Chair (2004-2006); Vice Chair (2002-2004), Board of Directors (2001-Present), Executive Committee (2001-2008); Planning Committee Chairperson (2001-2004).

Jewish Vocational Services, Inc.: Board of Directors (1994-2000); Vice-Chairman (1998-2000); Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee (1997-1998); Chairman-Political/Legal Committee (1998-1999); Member of Reconfiguration Committee for merger of Jewish Vocational Services, Inc., Jewish Family Services of Dade County, Inc. and Community Council for Jewish Elderly.

Hillel Foundation, Florida Region: Executive Board (1998-2003); Development Chairman (1998-2002).

University of Florida Hillel – 2008 Gator Award for Outstanding Service

Miami Commission on Jewish Continuity.

United Jewish Appeal National Young Leadership Cabinet: Member (7 Years), Florida Regional Chairman, Miami Area Campaign Chairman, Area Washington Conference Chairman, Regional Fly-In Chairman.

Beth David Congregation: Vision 2020; Vice President, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Parliamentarian, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Long Range Planning Committee-Chairman, Rabbi Search Committee, Chair of Merlin Education Fund.

Project Heritage of Florida: Board of Directors (1989-2003).

B'nai B'rith Ko-ach Lodge: Member (8 Years), Publicity Vice President (2 Years).

Jewish Agency for Israel Committee.

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce: 1986-87 Leadership Miami, 1987-88 Leadership Miami Criminal Law Follow-up Session Co-Chairman; 1988-89 Curriculum Committee.

Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce: 1992-94 Board of Directors; 1993 Operation Thank You Chairman; 1993-94 Good Morning Coral Gables Co-Chairman; Host Committee - Chairman; Local Affairs Committee, State and National Affairs Committee; Recruitment Committee; Membership Committee; Retention Committee; Member 1988-2009.

Miami Heat Fan Forum: 2000-2001; 2002-2003.

North Miami Youth Opportunity Board - Founder (1971).

Undergraduate:

Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity: President (2 Years), Vice President (1 Term); President of the Delegates - 1975 Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity National Convention; Varsity Track Team; Inter-Fraternity Council (2 Years); President's Council on Housing.

LANA M. STERN, PH.D., P.A.
1450 Madruga Avenue, Suite 310
Coral Gables, Florida 33146
(305) 448-5006

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology, University of Miami,
Coral Gables, Florida
Dissertation Topic: "Conversational Avoidance to Incest and Non-Incest Statements during an
Initial Interview"
Internship in Counseling Psychology, Georgia State University Counseling Center,
Atlanta, Georgia
Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance, University of Miami,
Coral Gables, Florida
Bachelor of Arts in Education, American University,
Washington, DC

STATE OF FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Psychologist (PY 3769)
Marriage and Family Therapist (MT 215)

CERTIFICATIONS

Parent Coordinator
Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator

AWARDS

Florida Psychological Association
"Outstanding Contribution to Psychology in the Public Interest"-1993
Dade County Psychological Association
"Certificate of Commendation"-1993

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association
Florida Psychological Association
Dade County Psychological Association
Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
Collaborative Family Law Council of Florida
International and Florida Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

PUBLICATIONS

“Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”, The Collaborative Review – The International Journal of the Academy of Collaborative Professionals, Volume 12, Issue 1, (2017).

“Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”, *The Divorce Puzzle—Connecting the Pieces Collaboratively*, (2017)

Co-Author, Chapter 22, Florida Dissolution of Marriage The Florida Bar, 10, 11 & 12th Editions

Dissertation Topic: “Conversational Avoidance to Incest and Non-Incest Statements during an Initial Interview”

EMPLOYMENT

Psychologist in Private Practice – Coral Gables, Florida

MHP in Multiple Collaborative Divorce Cases

Collaborative Family Law Institute

Board Member

Past Vice President

Florida Collaborative Trainers, Inc.

Interdisciplinary Training Group

Co-Founder and Trainer

Adjunct Assistant Professor

University of Miami School of Law

Workshop in Collaborative Law

Adjunct Assistant Professor

Florida International University

Supervision of Masters' Practicum and Internship

Mental Health & School Counseling

Consultant

Drake Beam Morin, Coral Gables, FL

Outplacement Career Assessment

Adjunct Assistant Professor

University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Counseling and Sexuality

Child Abuse/Prevalence and Prevention

Guidance Counselor

Dade County Public Schools

Human Growth & Development Facilitator

Teacher

Dade County Public Schools

Collaborative Trainings Attended

03/18/05- CFLI 1hr. What is Collaborative Law?
02/25/06- CLTA, Inc. 2 Day Basic Intro Training
05/31/07- ICLT 2 Day Basic Interdisciplinary Training
04/11/08- Lone Star Collaborative Law Trainers 2 Day Basic Training
10/23/09- The Forum – Reflections and Visions, MN
.10/28/10- The Forum – Creating Collaborative Connection, DC
10/18/12 - The Forum – Reflections on Collaborative Leadership, IL.
10/17/13 – The Forum – The Power of Our Collective Wisdom, TX
10/25/14 – The Forum – The Art of Holding Hope -Vancouver, BC
10/15/15 – The Forum – Honoring the Past and Celebrating the Future – Washington, D.C.
10/27/16 – The Forum – Welcome to the Future – Lake Las Vegas, Nev.

Collaborative Trainings and Presentations

Miami, FL – Basic Introductory: November 9 & 10, 2018
Australia – “Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”: November 2018
Punta Gorda, FL – Basic Introductory: April 27 & 28, 2018
Lakeland, FL - Basic Introductory: December 1 & 2, 2017
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: October 20 & 21, 2017
Tampa FL - Basic Introductory: April 27 & 28, 2017
Miami, FL - Advanced: November 13, 2016
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: November 11 & 12, 2016
Miami, FL - WLRN Radio Presentation on Collaborative Process: September 25, 2016
Panama City, FL - Basic Introductory: July 9 & 10, 2016
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: March 19 & 20, 2016
Jacksonville, FL - Basic Introductory: February 26 & 27, 2016
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: June 5 & 6, 2015
Orlando, FL - CFLCF Conference, Workshop, May 15, 2015
Tampa, FL. FLAFCC Annual Conference Oct. 2015.
Boca Raton, FL - Basic Introductory: December 5 & 6, 2014
Vancouver, BC - IACP Forum, 3 Hour Workshop: October 25, 2014
Tampa, FL - FLAFCC & OSCA/FCC Conference: October 18, 2014
Orlando, FL - CFLCF Conference, 2 Workshops: August 1 & 2, 2014
Boca Raton, FL - Basic Introductory: June 13 & 14, 2014
Miami, FL - WLRN Radio Presentation on Collaborative Law: May, 2014
San Antonio, TX - IACP Forum, Workshop: October, 2013
Manchester, NH - Basic Introductory: June 7 & 8, 2013
Tampa Bay, FL - CFLCF Workshop, May 18, 2013
Tampa, FL - Advanced Workshop: March 23, 2013
Tampa, FL - Basic Introductory: March 21 & 22, 2013
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: November 9 & 10, 2012
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: November 11 & 12, 2011
Gainesville, FL - Basic Introductory: July 15 & 16, 2011
St. Petersburg, FL – FPA”Role of the MHP in Collaborative Divorce”, July 2010
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: November 12 & 13, 2010
Miami, FL - Basic Introductory: November 13 & 13, 2009
Palm Beach, FL – FPA”Collaborative Divorce and the MHP”, July, 2009