

2020 Joseph Drown Award Recipient

Diane Wasznicky is a family law practitioner in Sacramento, CA. She has been in practice for nearly 40 years and is a Certified Family Law Specialist. Prior to becoming an attorney, Diane was a divorced mother who raised three children alone for nearly all of their minor years. She was also a high school dropout who went back to get her GED at 27, graduated community college with an AA Degree at 30 and went on to get her BA at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst before relocating with three adolescent/teen children to California for law school.

A strong emphasis in Diane's practice has been custody issues, especially high-conflict custody. Diane has served as Minor's Counsel for nearly 35 years and does Special Master/Parenting Coordination in high-conflict cases. Children and their welfare are always her priority.

In her early career, Diane was President of Women Lawyers of Sacramento, President of the Sacramento County Bar Association and Chair of the County Bar Family Law Section. She has served as President of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists and is still on that board as a Coordinating Director. She was honored with the ACFLS Hall of Fame award in 2016. She joined the State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee as a member in 2000 and has continued as an Advisor to Flexcom to this day.

Diane joined the AFCC-CA Board in 2006. Diane has been heavily involved in AFCC-CA. She served as President of AFCC-CA. She has chaired or co-chaired 4 state-wide chapter conferences in Northern California. She has been the chairperson of the AFCC-CA Legislation Committee, focusing on custody related legislation, since approximately 2009 through the present day. Diane has served as Treasurer for AFCC-CA since approximately 2015.

Diane has presented at and helped develop and chair many statewide seminars on custody related topics, especially Minor's Counsel, throughout her career. She also chairs the committee that puts on the all-day Annual Custody Seminar in Sacramento, California every fall. This past year she chaired a small group of Sacramento Family Law professionals who partnered with AFCC-CA to present two separate 40 hour custody trainings on Evaluations and on Mediation for mid-career mental health professionals interested in becoming part of the Family Law professional community.

Diane's passion is Family Law and her cause is the safe parenting and care of children—who are our future!

ABOUT THE JOSEPH DROWN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO CHILDREN

Joseph Drown was a businessman and hotel owner, including the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles, CA. He became interested in the work of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, California Chapter, in the early 1980's after lengthy conversations with Jeanne Ames, the original and longtime historian of AFCC-CA, who shared with him the mission, vision and values of this organization.

Over time he gave \$20,000, in \$10,000 increments, which aided in offering educational programs and training institutes to court-connected personnel, community mental health professionals, family law attorneys, researchers, etc. This award, typically rotated between Northern and Southern California, has been given to acknowledge persons or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the betterment of children's welfare.