



Florida Collaborative Trainers

Fitting the Pieces Together – An Interdisciplinary Training Group

THE TRAINERS

PAUL A. GARCIA, CPA/CFF, CVA has over 30 years' experience in all aspects of accounting, tax, consulting services, and litigation support. Paul is highly experienced in the taxation of closely held businesses and individuals as well as taxation of foreign corporations and non-resident aliens. Paul's civil litigation experience includes settlement negotiations, business valuations, shareholder/partner disputes, and the sale/purchase of business enterprises.

Paul specializes in forensic and valuation matters for matrimonial dissolution matters. He works in collaboration with attorneys to evaluate income and expenses; asset and liability analysis; equitable property distributions; alimony and child support calculations; representation in mediations, court hearings, and trials. Paul also serves as a neutral forensic in matrimonial dispute cases working jointly with both husband and wife. Paul has been a civil court-appointed expert in Miami-Dade and Broward County, Florida. Paul may be reached at 305 448-0404 and at paul@paulgarciacpa.com

ROBERT J. MERLIN, ESQ. is a partner in the Law Offices of Robert J. Merlin, P.A. in Coral Gables, Florida specializing in Marital and Family Law, especially Collaborative Family Law. Bob is Florida Bar Board Certified in Marital and Family Law, is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator and has been practicing law in the State of Florida for over 35 years. He is a member of The Florida Bar, the American Bar Association, the Dade County Bar, the Coral Gables Bar, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, the Collaborative Family Law Institute, the Collaborative Family Law Council of Florida, Collaborative Family Lawyers of South Florida and the South Palm Beach County Collaborative Law Group, the last five organizations being dedicated to the promotion of the practice of Collaborative Family Law as a means of amicably dissolving marriages and resolving family disputes.

Bob lectures regularly on Collaborative Family Law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law and to various organizations of lawyers and other professionals. He meets the standards of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals as a Qualified Collaborative Trainer. He is a Board member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals and a past President of the Collaborative Family Law Institute. He is a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the immediate past President of its Florida chapter. He is on the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court Parenting Coordinators Advisory Board. Bob has worked extensively to pass the Uniform Collaborative Law Act and Rules in Florida.

Bob graduated with honors from the University of Florida College of Law with a Juris Doctor in 1978, where he also was an associate editor of the Law Review, and he also attended Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, The Institute of Law-Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland and the Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Bob received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in 1976 with a Bachelor of

Science in Accounting. Bob received the 2006 Dade County Bar Pro Bono Outstanding Law Firm Award and the 1998 Florida Eleventh Judicial Circuit Ray H. Pearson Guardian-Ad-Litem Award. He is listed in the Leading Florida Attorneys in Family Law with the Network of Leading American Attorneys, is among the Florida Super Lawyers and the Florida Trend Magazine Florida Legal Elite, he is AV rated with Martindale-Hubbell and he is listed in Martindale-Hubbell's Preeminent Family Law Attorneys.

Bob has a long history of involvement in various community organizations. He received the 2008 Gator Award from the University of Florida Hillel, he is a Past Chair of Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. and he is on the Board of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. He is the 2012 recipient of the Stu Webb Distinguished Service Award in Recognition of Exceptional Leadership and Devoted Service to the Collaborative Family Law Institute. Bob can be reached at (305) 448-1555 and at www.merlinlaw.com.

ROSEMARIE S. ROTH, ESQUIRE has practiced in the area of Family Law for the past 30 years and has specialized in Collaborative Family Law since 2000. She founded the Collaborative Family Law Institute in 1999 and served as president for ten years. Thereafter, Rosemarie became the founding president of the Collaborative Family Law Council of Florida in 2010 and served in that capacity until 2015. Her law practice focuses on Collaborative Family Law and the traditional model and includes divorce; post judgment issues, paternity and domestic partnership agreements as well as pre and post nuptial agreements.

Rosemarie is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator, a trainer in Collaborative Law and was an adjunct professor co teaching the first Collaborative Law workshop at the University Of Miami School Of Law. Rosemarie received her Bachelor of Education from the University of Miami and her Juris Doctor from Nova University Center for the Study of Law. She is a member of the Florida Bar and the Bar's Family Law Section and has served as a chair or member of the Mediation and Arbitration Committee, Rules and Forms Committee and the Legislation Committee. She is a member of the Academy of Collaborative Professionals. She has lectured on Collaborative Law at the University of Miami School of Law and with the Florida Collaborative Trainers, LLC, where she is a principal, trains attorneys, mental health and financial professionals in the Collaborative Process throughout Florida and extended her trainings to New England. Her presentations have included Florida Bar CLE seminars, the Florida Chapter of AFCC, the Florida Psychological Association and various professional and civic organizations.

Rosemarie has also trained law students and attorneys in Collaborative Law at the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, Florida and incoming members of the Collaborative Family Law Institute. She has appeared on NBC 6, Miami, Florida and on WLRN, the local Miami NPR affiliate, discussing Collaborative Law. Her passion for the Collaborative process is infectious and has resulted in practitioners throughout Florida establishing nine other practice groups. Rosemarie co-authored the chapter on Collaborative Law in the Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education handbook, Dissolution of Marriage. She can be contacted by-email at rlsroth@aol.com or at her office at (305) 596-7303, website: www.rothfamilylaw.com and www.floridacollaborativetrainers.com.

LANA M. STERN, PH.D is a Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Parent Coordinator, Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator. Dr. Stern has been in private practice in the Coral Gables, Florida area for the past 30 years. She is a member of the American Psychological Association, Florida and Dade County Psychological Associations, International and Florida Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the International Academy of

Collaborative Professionals and serves on the IACP Trainers Network and Development Committee. She has been a member of the Collaborative Family Law Institute of Miami for the past 9 years and is a past Vice President. She serves on the CFLI Board, Mental Health, Membership and Mentoring committees. She is the Miami-Dade delegate representing Mental Health Professionals on the Collaborative Family Law Council of Florida, is presently serving on the Board of that organization and on the Advisory Board of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court Parenting Coordinators.

Dr. Stern has served as an educator, counselor, and trainer in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. She worked for Drake, Beam, Morin, an outplacement corporation, as a career consultant and corporate trainer. She has expertise in treating depression, anxiety disorders, trauma, child sexual abuse and works with couples/divorce counseling, individuals, adults and adolescents. She taught the divorce education course for divorcing parents as part of a private group “Positive Transitions”. She was an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University for 6 years, supervising Master’s level, Mental Health and School Counselors during their Practicum and Internship and co-taught the first Collaborative Law Workshop at the University of Miami School of Law in the Spring of 2012. She received the FPA “Outstanding Contribution to Psychology in the Public Interest” award and DCPA “Certificate of Commendation” award in 1993 for her work in the area of Child Sexual Abuse.

Dr. Stern has lectured statewide on the role of the neutral mental health professional in the Collaborative Law Process for the Florida Psychological Association, Miami-Dade Psychological Association and the Financial Professionals’ Association, and during basic trainings at the University of Miami School of Law, the University of Florida Levin College of Law in Gainesville and the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville. She has presented multiple 2-day basic and 1-day advanced trainings to attorneys, mental health professionals and financial professionals in Miami, Tampa, Gainesville, Boca Raton and New Hampshire. She has worked extensively in Collaborative family law cases as the MHP/Facilitator. She co-authored the chapter on “Collaborative Law” in The Florida Bar CLE book Dissolution of Marriage. Dr. Stern co-founded “Florida Collaborative Trainers” an interdisciplinary training group – “Fitting the Pieces Together” in 2011. The Florida Collaborative Trainers presented at the IACP Forum in Texas in 2013 and again in Vancouver, BC in 2014. Dr. Stern can be reached at lmsternphd@aol.com, www.drnanamstern.com and www.floridacollaborativetrainers.com

