



Top: Hal Bartholomew (circa 1985).

Bottom: Diane Wasznicky (circa 1985).

BARTHOLOMEW & WASZNICKY, LLP: A 20 YEAR MARRIAGE OF ENTREPRENEURS

It was the beginning of a beautiful marriage for two divorce attorneys in 1985 that continues to outlast many a happy couple! A brief trip down memory lane seems an appropriate acknowledgement of this historic occasion.

In October 1985, Hal Bartholomew was the managing partner at the law firm Desmond, Miller, Desmond & Bartholomew. As managing partner, Hal hired Diane Wasznicky as an associate. Prior to joining the firm, Diane was an associate with the law firm of Ann Taylor Garrett for four years.

Hal and Diane decided to form an alliance and launched their own law firm in 1989. Located at 4th and J Streets in the historical California Fruit Building (circa 1914), the law firm's offices were in one of the first high-rise structures of Sacramento's emerging skyline. The firm became known as Bartholomew & Wasznicky.

A Look At The Original Team...

Hal Bartholomew, a native of Elk Grove,

Calif., received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Davis. Active in both the legal and business communities, Hal is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers as well as the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and is certified by the State Bar of California as a Family Law Specialist.

A native of Massachusetts, Diane Wasznicky moved to California in 1977 to attend law school at the University of California, Davis where she received her Juris Doctor. She is certified by the State Bar of California as a Family Law Specialist and serves as Judge Pro Tem in the Family Law Department of the Sacramento County Superior Court. Her numerous professional affiliations include co-founder and facilitator of the Sacramento Custody Discussion Group for attorneys,

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THE LEGAL CORNER

CP Cal Celebrates Growing Legal Field

The first ever statewide conference for the growing legal field of Collaborative Practice was held earlier this Spring in Sonoma. Over 170 collaborative professionals met for the three day conference celebrating California's leadership role in the area of Collaborative Practice.

Collaborative Practice is a process where both spouses and their attorneys commit themselves to resolving differences in a respectful manner. It relies

on a commitment of trust, honesty, cooperation and integrity with the goal of providing the future well-being of the family. Informal discussions and conferences attended by spouses and their attorneys work towards settlement of all issues. The process is economical and works to minimize emotional consequences and the often costly and lengthy litigation process.

The Collaborative Practice con-

ference was led by Chairman, Hal Bartholomew, managing partner of Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP. It was also an opportunity to expand knowledge and services among these professionals from practice groups located in Arizona, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and throughout California. Included among the participants was Stu Webb of Minnesota—credited with originating

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Bartholomew & Wasznicky has grown from a small firm of five to a staff of six attorneys and twelve support staff.



From left to right: Michelle Whisenand, Carolyn Haehn, Pat Weaver, Hal Bartholomew and Diane Wasznicky

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Bartholomew & Wasznicky, LLP: A 20 Year Marriage Of Entrepreneurs

judges and mental health professionals.

Carolyn Haehn began her career as a legal secretary in 1978, initially working for Hal Bartholomew. As Hal's paralegal, Carolyn holds the special distinction of being the law firm's first employee with the most tenure.

Michelle Whisenand was initially hired as a paralegal shortly after the hire of Diane Wasznicky. Currently she is the senior supervising paralegal and provides leadership to the paralegal/secretarial staff. She also provides administrative support services to the partners. Michelle, Hal and Diane are also co-authors of the law firm's consumer guidebook "*Child Custody – A Practical Guide for Parents.*"

Mary Molinaro, a California native and Woodland resident, joined Bartholomew & Wasznicky in 1992 and is currently of counsel.

Lindy Newlin joined the firm in 1998 as a paralegal.

In 1999, the firm's relocation next to the suburban "Fabulous Forties," at 4740 Folsom Boulevard, was an easy decision as continued growth had exceeded the available space. What began as a two-lawyer, three-staff team had tripled since the firm's inception. The firm's current home includes ample space for the team of six attorneys and 12 support staff with room to grow.

In the current business climate of acquisitions, mergers and separations, it's reassuring to know that this firm's longevity didn't leave any room for complacency to set in, but found a way to thrive! 🍷

THE LEGAL CORNER

Collaborative Practice is a process where both spouses and their attorneys commit themselves to resolving differences in an acceptable manner.

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CP Cal Celebrates Growing Legal Field Cont.

the Collaborative Law concept and is affectionately referred to as the "godfather" of Collaborative Practice.

Inspiring workshops and panel presenters added to the topic energy and momentum of the conference. Co-sponsored by the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, Sharon Ellison served as a featured presenter. Author of *Taking The War Out Of Words: The Art of Powerful Non-Defensive Communication*, she provided significant support on the power of communication to achieving a collaborative arrangement among spouses and partners. Ms. Ellison will also appear in Sacramento later this Fall for the annual Fall Symposium sponsored by Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP. Liz Ferris, a marketing and communications specialist, provided some insight regarding the brand development and public

awareness campaign for the practice of Collaborative Divorce.

With a successful inaugural conference completed, plans for a 2007 conference are underway for Pasadena, CA, May 4-6, 2007.

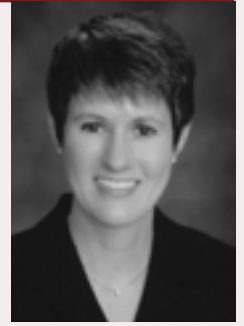
Following the inaugural conference, a constitutional convention was held to formally establish CP Cal, delegates and officers. Elected as one co-chair representing Northern California, was Hal Bartholomew. 🍷





TEAM SOLUTIONS

MICHELLE HAHN From Engineer To Family Law Career



Michelle Hahn didn't fight the law, but nonetheless, it won.

Formerly a data storage expert, Michelle's skilled high-tech engineering background took her to places including the Silicon Valley, Japan and Singapore. For nearly a decade, her data management consulting business helped several high-tech start-ups "out of the garage" in the Silicon Valley. But she felt that her ability and desire to resolve complex issues could be transferred to the world of law and order. She decided to enroll in law school and has never felt more in her element.

With an emphasis on Family Law, Michelle has worked extensively with low-income clients in the Community Legal Services Clinic and collaborated with faculty at the McGeorge School of Law to ensure the latest changes in Family Law legislation were incorporated into the curriculum. She later became an associate for a local Sacramento Family Law attorney.

But she is most excited about her new career at Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP. "Coming from a small firm environment, here I have a fantastic opportunity to expand my education," said Hahn. "I have an interest in Minor's Counsel, Collabor-

ative Practice, and legislative affairs related to Family Law. I can learn all of these skills here."

Taking a page from the law firm's commitment to professional and community service, Michelle is an active member of several legal industry organizations including the State Bar of California, Sacramento County Bar Association, American Bar Association, as well as the Family Law Sections of each. She is also a member of the Sacramento Area Custody Discussion Group and the Women Lawyers of Sacramento. 🍷

PROFILE: Family Law Facilitators "Unbundle" To Help Consumers Through The Legal System

In the early 1990s, a trend towards self-representation was the turning point for the creation of a new breed of Family Law attorneys called Family Law Facilitators. The thought at the time was that a Family Law Facilitator could help the family court in each county deal with the growing Pro Per (self-representation) ranks. In a recent report to the legislature, the Judicial Council of California indicated that 80% of the parties in Family Law cases are self-represented.

Each superior court maintains an office of the Family Law Facilitator. In Sacramento County, the Family Law Facilitator is the sole attorney in the office and supervises a staff of five paralegals and four deputy clerks.

Family Law has always been a recurrent practice with a constantly evolving body of law changing the way business is conducted. Due to the complexities within Family Law and the recent trend towards self-representation, Family Law Facilitators are venturing into a new frontier by offering limited scope representation or unbundling.

The practical definition of limited scope legal assistance is a relationship between an attorney and a person seeking legal services in which it is agreed that the scope of the legal services will be limited to the defined tasks that the person asks the attorney to perform. Unbundling has the ultimate goal of helping increase the availability of legal assistance for persons with low and moderate income. With the growth of self-representation in Family Law court, more Family Law attorneys are being recruited to provide limited legal resources to people of moderate means.

From a consumer perspective, limited scope representation increases access to the courts and legal assistance because more individuals will receive some legal assistance in situations where, because of a lack of resources, they would receive no legal help. From a court's perspective, limited assistance clarifies the presentation of issues and helps reduce errors and continuances, demand on court personnel, and court congestion. The growing market for unbundled legal services will undoubtedly pave the way for smoother solutions in Family Law cases. 🍷

Men And Marriage— The Preferred Choice!*

A recent survey by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention involved more than 12,000 men and women ages 15 to 44 in a study to provide the government's first comprehensive glimpse into the male psyche:

Prefer marriage to single life:

66% of men

51% of women

Prefer family time to a successful career:

76% of men

72% of women

Intend to have children:

55% of men

46% of women

Among fathers in their first marriage, 90% live with their kids and are actively involved in their lives and care.

Of the men surveyed, more than 90% of married men would marry the same woman if given the chance to do it over again.

* Source: Centers For Disease Control and Prevention as published in *The Sacramento Bee*

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THE DIVORCE COURSE: 6:30 – 9:00 P.M.

*Learning Exchange Course Taught By
Hal Bartholomew*

- Wednesday, October 4, 2006
- Tuesday, October 17, 2006

CHILD CUSTODY: 6:00 – 8:30 P.M.

*Learning Exchange Course Taught By
Diane Wasznicky*

- Tuesday, October 10, 2006
- Tuesday, November 14, 2006

4740 Folsom Blvd.
Registration: **(916) 929-9200**

DAY LONG DIVORCE/TAX COURSE FOR CPAs AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

*Course Instructors: Hal Bartholomew and
Beverly Brautigam, CPA*

- Tuesday, September 19, 2006
San Francisco Peninsula
- Tuesday, October 24, 2006
Las Vegas, NV

- Monday, November 20, 2006
Beverly Hills

For Course Locations & Registration
Information: **(916) 455-5200**

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