

## Law Firm Partners Recognized in Sacramento *Super Lawyers* 2009

Produced for the first time in Sacramento as a stand alone publication, *Super Lawyers Sacramento 2009* will be published this Fall and focus on the best legal talent in the Sacramento region. Local Family Law attorneys Hal Bartholomew and Diane Wasznicky of Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP have been selected for inclusion in the annual listing of *Super Lawyers Sacramento* edition.

The multiphase process to be nominated for inclusion in the publication includes a statewide survey of lawyers, independent research to identify outstanding lawyers and evaluation of the candidates based on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Each area of legal practice is reviewed by a blue ribbon panel of experts. The rigorous nomination process also included researchers independent review of national and local periodicals, databases and meetings with law firms. Candidates were evaluated

based upon a variety of professional factors and expertise. Those with the highest point totals from the nomination and qualitative evaluation process were put before peer evaluation panels prepared in each practice area for a second, detailed evaluation of all candidates. Final selections were made after all vetting occurred and were categorized by law firm size and highest point totals from each category. Only a small percentage of total lawyers in the Sacramento area are listed in *Super Lawyers*.

Since 2003, *Super Lawyers* has expanded nationally and is now in all 50 states. No other legal publisher identifies candidates by using a multi-step evaluation process that includes a system of checks and balances for each candidate. The result is a diverse and comprehensive listing of outstanding lawyers that is a useful tool for consumers of legal services or in-house lawyers looking to retain local counsel in a distant jurisdiction.



*“A publication specifically about Sacramento attorneys speaks well of the talent in the area,” stated Hal Bartholomew, Managing Partner, Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP. “We are pleased to be included in this year’s publication.”*

For further details about the Family Law practice of Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP, call (916) 455-5200 or visit *DivorceWithRespect.com*. For information about the *Super Lawyers Sacramento 2009*, visit *superlawyers.com*.

## ASK A LAWYER

*Each newsletter, this article will address questions about the process of divorce and/or separation. Answers are prepared by family law attorneys of Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP. If you are interested in providing a question for the column, visit [www.DivorceWithRespect.com](http://www.DivorceWithRespect.com) to submit a question. While all questioners will remain anonymous, please include your contact information in case there is a need for clarification.*

### What if we try divorce mediation and it doesn't work? Do we have to go to court, or are there other options?

It can be distressing when you participate in divorce mediation with the best of intentions and it doesn't work out. Fortunately, there is another method of settling cases without the necessity of going to court—collaborative practice. The collaborative practice model involves spouses and their attorneys signing an agreement that they will resolve their issues out-of-court. This allows parties to negotiate without the fear of a contentious court battle. It also avoids the posturing that may occur when dealing with divorce issues in a litigation setting. The goal of collaborative divorce is to solve problems jointly in a respectful manner.

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## Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP Team with The Effort to Produce **Family Law Workshop Series for Mental Health Professionals**

Earlier this Spring, Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP joined forces with the non-profit organization, The Effort, to produce “A Mental Health Professional’s Guide To Family Law—a series of four workshops for mental health professionals who come in contact with adults and/or clients contemplating separation or divorce. Often mental health professionals do not have the necessary training or information to be able to direct their clients to resources that can assist them during this difficult time. The workshop series breaks down the various stages of separation and divorce and better prepares mental health professionals for this type of crisis.

“There are a variety of experts and resources available in the community and we want to make sure that mental health professionals have access to all the available tools to assist their clients,” stated Hal Bartholomew.

The workshop series, taught by legal professionals of the Bartholomew & Wasznicky law firm, covered divorce, child custody, child support and mediation as well as collaborative practice—alternatives to the divorce court/trial system.



The Effort, Inc. partnered with the law firm for the workshop series that fell in line with the organization’s mission. The Effort, Inc. has served the greater Sacramento area for over 50 years providing primary medical care, alcohol, drug and mental health services for adults and families. The Effort offers over 19 programs located at six sites throughout Sacramento County—providing a valuable and positive family lifeline.

The Effort and the law firm will team up again later this year to present the workshop series once again to



mental health professionals. Continuing education credits are provided for MFTs and LCSWs, as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences as well as the ethics requirement that must be met by mental health professionals every two years.

For further information about the upcoming Family Law Workshops for mental health professionals, call: (916) 452-5500 or [www.Divorce-WithRespect.com](http://www.Divorce-WithRespect.com). 🍷



*Spouses choosing to follow the collaborative model are signing on with a team of professionals that are committed to navigating the parties through the difficult elements of divorce.*

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Spouses choosing to follow the collaborative model are signing on with a team of professionals that are committed to navigating the parties through the difficult elements of divorce. These professionals include a collaborative lawyer as well as a divorce coach, financial specialist and child specialist. The spouses, with the help of their attorneys, will each select a divorce coach; an experienced mental health professional dedicated to guiding the spouse through the stresses of divorce.

A financial specialist works jointly with the parties to determine the family finances including the assets, debts and incomes in addition to providing assistance with analyzing financial options for the future.

The child specialist ensures that children of divorce are heard. This individual is skilled in understanding children and may meet with your children privately to discuss their concerns and help them understand the dynamics of divorce. The child specialist is a mouthpiece for the children and will share the children’s hopes and concerns in a constructive manner so that these issues can be considered when planning for their future.

## HAL BARTHOLOMEW Becomes President of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Northern California

After years of service with many of the organization's events, Hal Bartholomew will be named this Fall as President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Northern California Chapter (AAML). The mission of the organization is to encourage study, improve the practice, as well as elevate the standards and advance the cause of matrimonial law that preserves the welfare of the family and society.

In addition to furthering its mission through education and outreach, the AAML Northern California Chapter produces an annual symposium with proceeds that benefit the AAML Foundation. The Foundation annually supports Bay Area Family Law projects that focus on children, the family and crisis prevention services. 🍷



## TOP 11 TIPS for Separated/Separating Couples

In this day and age of valuable tips and “Top 10” lists, Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP have developed lists as well to help clients experiencing the challenges in Family Law.

- 1 Respect the other person's differences.
- 2 Focus on the present and future, not the past.
- 3 Change the things you can and accept those things that you cannot change, including the other person's opinions and behavior.
- 4 If there are children, focus on what is in their best interest and do not use the children as pawns to “get back” at the other parent.
- 5 Focus on the benefits that will come as a result of cooperation through the divorce; likewise, think about the possible detriments in *not* cooperating through the divorce.
- 6 Be open and honest in fully disclosing all assets, liabilities, income and expenses to the other person... it's the law.
- 7 Be *positive* and *creative* in problem-solving and realize that there is usually more than one answer to a particular dilemma.
- 8 Remain open to suggestions offered by the other person in resolving disputes.
- 9 Focus on solutions that are acceptable, finding common ground to alleviate both your and the other person's concerns.
- 10 Realize that you can only control one person... you.
- 11 Be flexible and willing to compromise.

## Odds & Ends

“A good divorce takes a lot of work, but a bad divorce takes the rest of your life.”

—Anonymous

### Age at Marriage for Those Who Divorce in America

AGE	WOMEN	MEN
Under 20 years old	27.6%	11.7%
20-24 years old	36.6%	38.8%
25-29 years old	16.4%	22.3%
30-34 years old	8.5%	11.6%
35-39 years old	5.1%	6.5%

Provided by [divorcerate.org](http://divorcerate.org)

Divorce and annulment rates have dropped since peaking in 1981. Roughly one in five adults have divorced at least once.

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# CALENDAR

**THE DIVORCE COURSE**

Thursday, Sept. 24 • 6:30–8:30 PM

Wednesday, Nov. 11 • 6:30–8:30 PM

*Learning Exchange Course  
taught by Hal Bartholomew*

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

**COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, Sept. 29 • 6:30–8:30 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 24 • 6:30–8:30 PM

*Learning Exchange Course  
taught by Hal Bartholomew*

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

**UNBUNDLING A DIVORCE**

Tuesday, Oct. 13 • 6:30–8:30 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 17 • 6:30–8:30 PM

*Learning Exchange Course taught by  
Raquelle Vernon and Bryan Ginter*

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

**TAX CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE FOR  
THE COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL**

Friday, Nov. 13 • Sacramento

Friday, Dec. 11 • San Jose

*Sponsored by the  
California CPA Education Foundation*

Registration: (800) 922-5272

For more information about the calendar of events, newsletter articles or Family Law,  
visit [www.DivorceWithRespect.com](http://www.DivorceWithRespect.com) or call (916) 455-5200.