

## Stephanie Bamberger Joins Family Law Practice

Stephanie Bamberger spent her childhood in North Carolina, California and Virginia while her father served in the United States Marine Corps. But she was always interested in returning to the warm weather region of California—a nice change of pace from the harsh winter weather of the East!

Stephanie received her A.A. degree from Brevard College in North Carolina and her B.A. degree in English at Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Growing up, she observed the great enjoyment her father had as a lawyer in general practice. Bitten by the law bug, she returned to California and moved to Sacramento to attend law school and received her Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1999.

While in law school, Stephanie served on the Governing Board of Community Legal Services, the on-campus legal clinic at McGeorge. After graduation, she worked for an attorney doing probate, then joined WEAVE as the

Staff Attorney in 2001, becoming the Managing Attorney in 2005. She was responsible for the legal management of many challenging issues associated with domestic violence.

*"I loved my work at WEAVE. While it could be hard, I had wonderful co-workers whom I respected. I will miss working with them every day."*

Stephanie was also invited to and attended the FBI Sacramento Citizens' Academy in 2005. "It was a fascinating experience and provided some great knowledge," she states. She currently serves as President of the FBI Sacramento Citizens' Academy Alumni Association that now includes approximately 120 members.

A member of the California Bar, Stephanie is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of California. She is a member of the State Bar of California and its Family Law Section, the Sacra-



mento County Bar Association and its Family Law Section as well as the Los Angeles County Bar Association, among other organizations.

As a member of the Family Law firm of Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP, Stephanie will be focused on clients in the field of family law—familiar territory to her in her career path. "I'm enjoying my time here at the firm," says Stephanie. "The staff is terrific and the caseload is interesting as well." 🍷



## Healthy Living News

### Is True Love A Fairy Tale? Part 1

Although the numbers tell all: half of the marriages in this country will eventually end in divorce, this means the other half live happily ever after. "Most people do not get divorced because they fall out of love; most people get divorced because they grow dissatisfied and disconnected from their relationships," says Alex Lluch, sex and relationship expert and author of "Simple Principles for a Happy and Healthy Marriage." "When there is work to be done on the relationship, they are either too tired or unwilling to try. Being married is not easy. Like getting anything you want in life, it takes work, dedication, and negotiation.

### Keys To Success

Going into a marriage and anticipating happily ever after, experts say, boils down to thinking of yourself as a team. "Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that you are each one-half of a team, working toward common goals such as harmony,

# ASK A LAWYER



## Odds & Ends

“Childhood is a short season.”  
—Helen Hayes



**State with Lowest Divorce Rate**  
**Massachusetts**  
(2.4 per 1,000 population)

**State with Highest Divorce Rate**  
**Nevada**  
(9.1 per 1,000 population)

**Median Age at First Divorce**  
**Males: 30.5**  
**Female: 29**

**Median Age at Second Divorce**  
**Males: 39.3**  
**Female: 37**

**Median Number of Years People**  
**Wait to Remarry After First Divorce**  
**Males: 3.3**  
**Female: 3.1**

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

*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.*

### **Does a partial representation agreement need to be in writing?**

The better practice is to have a written fee agreement. The agreement should be very specific about what the attorney's duties are, the client's duties are, etc.

### **Are there any other terms for “partial representation”?**

Yes, partial representation is also commonly referred to as “unbundling” or “limited scope representation.”

### **How can partial representation be of use to me in my family law case?**

Since the attorney is not hired for full representation, it is likely you will spend less in attorney's fees. For example, if a client limited the attorney's involvement to consulting and as a lawyer scrivener (also sometimes referred to as “ghostwriting”), the client would not be paying for court appearance fees of the lawyer, which can be substantial due to preparation time, travel time, negotiation time and appearance time. While there is no guarantee what partial representation would cost, limited representation may allow you to prioritize and minimize your financial outlay to the attorney. This allows assistance to you in the areas where you feel most vulnerable.

### **When I contract for partial representation, is the attorney my “attorney of record”?**

Maybe. If you hire the attorney only for consulting and/or document preparation (i.e., as a “scrivener” or “ghostwriter”), the attorney does not become your attorney of record. If the attorney is required to make a court appearance pursuant to a partial representation contract, then the attorney does become your attorney of record.

### **The attorney has now performed all work contracted under the partial representation agreement. is the attorney still required to help me in the future and how does the attorney withdraw?**

It is up to the attorney and the client to agree on any continuation or expansion of services once the prior contracted service is completed. Any such continuation or expansion should be in writing, as was done with the initial agreement.

When the attorney was hired under a partial representation agreement where the attorney never became the “attorney of record,” the attorney need not file anything formal to be relieved from further duties. Once the contracted duties are fulfilled, the professional relationship is terminated with nothing more needed (although, it is good practice for the attorney to at least send a closing letter). However, when the attorney has become the “attorney of record,” a formal withdrawal by the attorney is necessary (see California Rules of Court, Rules 5.70 and 5.71). Formal withdrawal can either be done by filing a Substitution of Attorney-Civil (form MC-050) or if the client does not sign the Substitution of Attorney, the attorney may file an Application to Be Relieved as Counsel Upon Completion of Limited Scope Representation (form FL-955).

### **Where can I learn more about partial representation?**

Contact Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP to learn about what unbundling options are available to you for your family law matter. You may also purchase the book *A Client's Guide to Limited Legal Services* by Sue M. Talia (1997 San Ramon: Nexus Publishing), which is recognized as the seminal work on partial representation.

## Healthy Living News *Continued from page 1*

happiness and healthy communication,” says Lluch. “If you can imagine a football team, they can never score a touchdown if all the players are doing their own thing, running in different directions. Being happily married means knowing when to work together, when to compromise and when having a disagreement (if done right) can actually strengthen your union.”

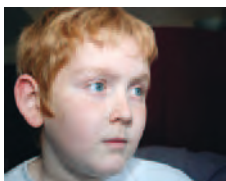
### Can a Marriage Be Divorce-Proof?

Not all marriages are destined to fail. One of the keys to achieving the realistic fairy tale is keeping your expectations in check. The goal in every marriage should be to have solid and realistic expectations, says Lluch. Having low expectations is not productive—when a person has low expectations they tend to underestimate their partner and disrespect themselves. Having overly high expectations, however, can set you up for failure. If you expect something of someone that they haven’t promised, or have no way of delivering, you’re setting yourself up for disappointment.

### Warning Signs of Dating

If you’re wondering if a doomed marriage shows red flags early on in the dating process, you’re right. According to Dr. Leslie Seppinni, a licensed marriage family therapist and clinical psychologist practicing in Beverly Hills, “People tell us who they are as soon as we meet them.” Whether or not we’re open to seeing it is a whole other story. “People overlook all the red flags,” she says. For instance, if someone is cheap in the beginning, they’ll also be cheap in the end, says Seppinni.

*by Vicki Salemi. Part 2 of Healthy Living News: Is True Love A Fairy Tale? will be featured in the next quarterly edition of the newsletter.*



### Now Available: A Parent’s Guide for Talking About Divorce and Separation

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers has produced a booklet designed to help parents assist their children through the difficult family transition of separation and divorce. Often, problems within a family face heightened awareness during the holidays and post-holiday. The guide will help parents prepare their children and adolescents for what is about to happen. Parents don’t tend to plan ahead for this important discussion and even fewer do this planning together.

Whether separation, divorce or the end of a brief or long term relationship, the guide will provide ideas about what children need to hear, how to prepare for and talk to children about separation and how to handle emotions. It will provide insight to less helpful and sometimes damaging comments to children that emerge from parental angers and disappointments.

The guide is divided into nine, easy-to-read, sections with topics outlined for quick reference as well. The goal of the guide is to make discussions with children about separation easier for parents and more helpful and meaningful for them. It will also increase childrens’ and adolescents’ ability to deal successfully with the stress and disruptions of separation.

If you are interested in a copy of the guide entitled “What Should We Tell The Children,” contact Hal Bartholomew, Bartholomew & Wasznicky LLP, (916) 455-5200 or [Hal@DivorceWithRespect.com](mailto:Hal@DivorceWithRespect.com).



## TOP 11 PARENTING TIPS for Separated/Separating Couples

- 1 Develop a co-parenting style that avoids conflict with the other parent.
- 2 Never involve your children in parental disagreements.
- 3 Don’t let your emotions about the other person control the decisions you make regarding your children.
- 4 Treat your children as children, not as adults. For example: Avoid giving them information related to custody or finances. Avoid depending on them to fill your emotional needs.
- 5 Never say bad or hurtful things about the other parent in front of your children.
- 6 Do not ask your children to find out about the other parent’s life, which may involve them violating the other parent’s trust.
- 7 Never pass messages or things to one another through your children; instead, speak directly with the other parent regarding the needs of the children and other co-parenting issues.
- 8 Correct any misconceptions the child has about your relationship with the other parent.
- 9 Recognize and respect the wide range of feelings that your child has regarding your relationship with the other parent.
- 10 Put in place a consistent set of rules for both houses.
- 11 Recognize that it may be important for your child to have a relationship with the other parent’s family in addition to your own family.



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A Parent's Guide to  
Talking About Divorce  
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Top 11 Parenting Tips  
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# CALENDAR

## THE DIVORCE COURSE

Wednesday, Jan. 6 • 6:30–8:30 PM

*Learning Exchange Course  
taught by Hal Bartholomew*

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

## COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, Jan. 13 • 6:30–8:30 PM

*Learning Exchange Course  
taught by Hal Bartholomew*

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

## TAX CONSEQUENCES OF DIVORCE FOR THE COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONAL

Wednesday, Jan. 20 • Beverly Hills

*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.