

# Terri Breer, Attorney & Mediator

## Curriculum Vitae and Resume

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Attorney and Mediator, Terri Breer, provides innovative flat fee mediation programs for family law matters and mediation training for family mediators with her online and in person training programs. Her lengthy career has been focused almost exclusively on keeping families out of court by providing and promoting consensual dispute resolution for all family law matters.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### Legal Services:

Ms. Breer was admitted to the California Bar in 1985 and has legal experience as a civil litigator, mediator and collaborative attorney handling divorce, family law, real estate, and business matters. Although she has conducted civil trials involving business, real estate and family law disputes, her practice has been primarily devoted to mediation of family law disputes and other forms of alternative dispute resolution including collaborative divorce methods.

Ms. Breer owned and operated a solo law practice, Breer Law Offices for the majority of her 40 years as a licensed attorney along with working four years as an Associate Counsel for a real estate developer and three years as an Associate Attorney in business, real estate and civil litigation immediately following law school. Her private practice was established first in 1988 as a civil litigation firm focusing on family law, real, and business matters.

In 2014, Ms. Breer ceased providing services in family litigation matters and focused her practice exclusively on mediation, collaborative law and limited scope representation for pro per litigants in uncontested family law matters.

#### Mediation and Collaborative Divorce:

In 1994 Ms. Breer was trained as a mediator and began mediating divorce and other family law matters. She has mediated hundreds of family law disputes, including divorce, custody, property division, pre-marital agreements, domestic partnerships, and surrogacy arrangements. In 2004 she added Collaborative Divorce as an area of practice and was a founding member of Orange County's collaborative practice group, Collaborative Divorce Solutions. She has provided legal services as a collaborative attorney in Collaborative Divorce cases, collaborating with financial planners, child specialists and divorce coaches

Ms. Breer is a leader in family mediation and collaborative divorce organizations and her contributions have been recognized by the dispute resolution community. She was Chair of OCBA – Alternative Dispute Resolution Section in 2014. She has served as Board Member of the Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA) for two three-year terms from 2015 to 2021. She received the SCMA President's Award in 2019 and led SCMA's Orange County Professional Development Group for two years. She chaired the SCMA Family Mediation Institute (FMI) in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. In 2023 she was honored to receive the prestigious SCMA "Forrest ("Woody") Mosten Award for Excellence and Innovation in Family Law Mediation."

Ms. Breer has written several articles on Alternative Dispute Resolution and the need for change in the current family law adversarial system.

## **NEW DAY DIVORCE CENTER, INC.**

Ms. Breer founded New Day Divorce Center, Inc. in 2021 to provide Mediation Services and Mediation Training for attorneys, therapists, Certified Divorce Financial Analysts (CDFA's), financial and real estate professionals, Legal Document Assistants (LDA's) and mediators. Her training curriculum focuses on instructing new and experienced mediators on the essentials required to deliver the highest standard of care for divorcing couples and their families. New Day Divorce Center, Inc. is an approved State Bar of California MCLE Multiple Activity Provider and provides MCLE credit for its training activities where Ms. Breer is the principal trainer. Training programs offered include:

- 5-Step System for California Divorce
- Mediating the Division of Marital Property
- Mastering the Marital Balance Sheet
- Mediating the Determination of Child & Spousal Support
- Divorce 101 and Drafting Settlements
- Mediating Parenting Plans that Work for Children & Co-Parents
- Mediating Disposition of Family Residence & Retirement Assets

Ms. Breer continues to provide mediation services in family law matters based on her 5-Step System for California Divorce and her innovative Flat Fee Divorce Mediation Programs that she has provided divorcing couples for over three decades.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Breer's professional activities, both past and present, include hosting various networking and educational opportunities for divorce professionals, including South Coast Collaborative Professionals Luncheons and Mixers from 2006 to 2016, and The Attorney Therapist Breakfast Club that was founded in 2017 and meets monthly in Orange County. She has also moderated four online programs for professionals in 2023 entitled "Dialog for Family Law System Reform." Her focus with these professional groups is to bring together professionals nationwide who share her commitment and passion to help families resolve divorce and family disputes cooperatively and outside of the adversarial court system.

## **PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Counsel, Lewis Homes Management Corp., Upland, CA	1997 –2001
Associate Attorney, Hart, King and Coldren, Santa Ana, CA	1986-1987
Associate Attorney, Alvarado, Rus & McClellan, Orange, CA	1984-1986

## **EDUCATION TRAININGS**

B.S., International Relations, University of Southern California 1981

J.D. Pepperdine University School of Law 1985

Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law,  
Domestic Dispute Resolution - Family Law Mediation 40-hour Training 1993

Collaborative Divorce Training – The Basics of Collaborative Divorce 2004

High Conflict Institute - Hi Conflict Personalities Basic Training in 2007, San Diego  
High Conflict Institute - Hi Conflict Personalities Advanced Training 2008, San Diego  
Domestic Violence Training Orange County Public Law Program 2009  
Hi Conflict Diversion Program Training – 2009  
Advanced Conflict Resolution Strategies – American Institute of Mediation AIM - 2010  
New Ways for Families, Basic Training - High Conflict Institute 2010  
Saddleback Church Family Counseling Training - 2017

On-going participation in Continuing Education of the Bar and other professional programs, conferences, seminars and workshops from 1985 to the present including industry wide conferences presented by the Association of Divorce Financial Planners (ADFP), Association of Professional Family Mediators (APFM), Association of Family Conciliation Courts (AFCC), American Bar Association (ABA), Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA), Family Mediation Institute (FMI) and statewide County Bar Associations.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Easton vs. Strassburger, A Red Flag for California Real Estate Brokers”  
Beverly Hills Bar Journal, December 1985 Winter Edition.

Contributing Author, “Obtaining Possession to Real Property”, The Law of Distressed Real Estate, Clark Boardman Publications (1985).

“Treating the Divorce Client – a Dual Approach to Marital Dissolutions”  
Orange County Lawyer, June 1995

“Has the Family Law System Reached a Tipping Point?” Orange County Lawyer, March 2009

“Family Law Mediation – Expanding the Frontiers of Alternative Dispute Resolution” – Special Feature,  
Orange County Lawyer, January 2010

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Admitted to State Bar of California 1985  
Admitted Central District of California 1986  
Orange County Bar Association – ADR Section Board Member and 2014 Chair of the Section  
Orange County Bar Association - Real Estate, Family Law, and Elder Law Section Member  
Financial Women International – Orange County Chapter  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP)  
Member Academy of Professional Family Mediators (APFM)  
Member of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)  
Orange County Collaborative Divorce Solutions – Founding Member  
Founder South Coast Collaborative Professionals (SCCP) Networking Group  
Citizen’s Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA ) – Board Member  
Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA) - Board Member 2015 to 2021  
Chair of the SCMA Family Mediation Institute 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022  
SCMA Orange County Professional Development Group (PDG)

Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) – Council on Aging  
California Bar Association Approved MCLE Multiple Activity Provider

### **COLLABORATIVE DIVORCE EVENT PARTICIPATION**

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum, Boston 2004  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum, Atlanta 2005  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum, San Diego 2006  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum, Washington D.C. 2010  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum, San Francisco 2011  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum, San Antonio 2013  
International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Forum, Chicago 2019  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State-wide Conference of Collaborative Practice in Oakland California 2007  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual State-wide Conference of Collaborative Practice in Pasadena, 2008  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference of Collaborative Practice in Long Beach 2009  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference of Collaborative Practice in Rancho Bernardo 2010

### **SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (CALA) – San Diego Annual Convention Presentation on Frivolous Lawsuits  
2005

Divorce Recovery Workshop at St. Andrews Church in Newport Beach - Co-Parenting and Avoiding Child  
Alienation in Custody Disputes March 2006

University of California, Irvine (UCI) Extension, Women's Opportunity Center, "A Series on Women and  
Divorce" Fall 2006 Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce – "Cooperative Divorce Methods" February 2007

Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce – "Team Mediation" April 2007

University of California, Irvine (UCI) Extension, Women's Opportunity Center – "Women and Divorce,  
Seven Levels of Separation in Divorce" Spring 2007,

University of California, Irvine (UCI) Extension, Women's Opportunity Center - "Financial Divorce Issues"  
Summer 2007

Panel Presentation - ADR Section of the Orange County Bar - "Collaborative Divorce" June 2008

Panel Presenter – South Coast Collaborative Professionals Luncheon "Divorce Mediation" 2009

Panel Presenter – South Coast Collaborative Professionals Luncheon "Divorce and the Family Residence"  
2010

Presenter – 6<sup>th</sup> Statewide Conference of Collaborative Practice "Retirement Assets and the Collaborative  
Process" April 2011

Orange County Bar Association – ADR Section "Family Law Mediation and Collaborative Divorce Practice"  
May 21, 2012

Orange County Mediation Conference – "Transformative Mediation – Changing the Conflict Interaction"  
March 14, 2014

On-line webcast CLE Attorney Credits – "Family Law Mediation & Collaborative Divorce" – April 2014

Orange County Bar Association – ADR Section Meeting – “Keeping Families Out of Court – Private Judgment, Mediation and Collaborative Divorce” June 16, 2014

Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA) – “Mediating Disputes Involving Families and Special Relationships-Expanding the Frontiers of Dispute Resolution” August 8, 2014

2014 Annual Meeting of the State Bar of California, San Diego California  
“Ethics and Settlement: Successful Negotiations and Mediation in Your Practice” September 11-14, 2014

St. Bonaventure Divorce Support Group – Guest Speaker on Divorce Mediation September 25, 2014

SCMA Family Law Mediation Program – “Ethical Pickles in Family Law” June 18, 2015

Orange County Bar Association – Elder Law Section Meeting – “Collaborative Law and Mediation – New Frontiers for Probate and Elder Law Disputes” September 25, 2015

Orange County Bar Association – ADR Section Meeting – “More ADR to Civil and Family Courts” – May 22, 2017

Academy of Professional Family Mediators (APFM) Catalyst 2018 Annual Conference – “Mediator Mishaps: Avoid the Nightmares and Sleep Easy” October 25, 2018

Collaborative Divorce Solutions – “Marketing Collaborative Awareness to the Public” March 21, 2019

Los Angeles Bar Association, Family Law Symposium – “Unbundling Legal Services Panel” Co-presented with Forrest “Woody” Mosten, and Elizabeth Scully, May 4, 2019.

SCMA Family Mediation Institute 2019 – “Asking the Right Questions in Divorce Mediation” June 8, 2019

Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA) Fall Conference Workshop – “Establishing Trust – The Cornerstone for Mediation Success” November 2, 2019.

Chapman Law School, “Family Law Mediation and Collaborative Practice February 3, 2020

SCMA Family Mediation Institute 2020 – “Early Dispute Resolution of Family Law Matters – Israel Leads the Way with its New Reforms” February 20, 2020

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) – CA Conference 2022 – “Israel’s Recent Family Law Reforms – Leading the Way in Meeting the Needs of Children and Families in Conflict” February 12, 2022

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) – AFCC 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference – “Intro to Personality and Co-Parenting Typologies as a Conflict Resolution Tool” June 3, 2023

Orange County Bar Association – ADR Section June Meeting Webinar – “Can Israel’s Mandator Dispute Resolution Reform Work in the US?” June 26, 2023

California State University Dominguez Hills – Marital and Family Mediation - “Asking the Right Questions in Divorce Mediation” June 26, 2023 - Online

ABA Early Dispute Resolution Meeting – Are We Ready for Early Dispute Resolution in Family Law Matters? December 5, 2023 - Online

Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA) Master Class – “Legal Information vs. Legal Advice – Where Do You Draw the Line?” February 28, 2024 - Online

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution 2024 Spring Conference – Co-Presenter, “Can Israel’s Early Dispute Resolution Reform Work in the US? April 10, 2024

ABA Section of Dispute Resolution 2024 Spring Conference – Panelist, “Mediation 2024: Strategies for Riding the Waves with Parties in Today’s Shifting ‘Current’ ” April 11, 2024

SCMA Family Mediation Institute 2024 – “The Power of Mediation to Transform Conflict and Preserve Familial Relationships – April 20, 2024

Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) – ADR Section – “Establishing Trust – Cornerstone for Mediation Success” – July 22, 2024

Guest Lecturer, UCLA Mediation Clinic, October 2, 2024, providing instruction on the topic “Legal Information vs. Legal Advice.”

### **CURRENT AND PAST VOLUNTEER & OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Orange County Costa Mesa Rotary  
Costa Mesa Community Redevelopment Action Committee  
Laura’s House – Volunteer Legal Clinic  
Human Options – Volunteer Legal Clinic  
South Coast Collaborative Professionals - Founder  
Attorney Therapist Breakfast Club – Founder  
Dialog for Family Law System Reform

For fun Ms. Breer enjoys playing in No Limit Hold Em Poker tournaments and plays regularly in the World Poker Tour and The World Series of Poker tournaments, Ladies International Poker Series and the Nevada State Ladies Poker Championship.