

ATTORNEY FRANCES Z. CALAFIORE

Fran Calafiore is an attorney, mediator and collaborative counsel whose private practice focuses on non-adversarial dispute resolution. A mediator with over 40 years of experience, Attorney Calafiore has been involved in both court-annexed and private sector ADR not only as a practitioner, but as a trainer and advocate. Prior to private practice, she was a Deputy Director in the Court Operations Division of the Connecticut Judicial Branch with leadership roles in a variety of areas including implementing and expanding ADR programs.

Attorney Calafiore is a Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Life Fellow and a recipient of the John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award. She has long been active in professional associations within which she has held many leadership positions including: the *Connecticut Bar Association* Past Chair and Executive Board member of the ADR Section, co-chair of the Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution and The Courts, Executive Committee member of the Women and The Law Section, Past Chair of the Limited Scope Representation Study Committee and member of the Family Law Section; the *Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce*- Past President and Board member; the *National Association of Counsel for Children*; the *Collaborative Divorce Lawyers Association*- Founding member and President; the *Association for Conflict Resolution, New England* chapter- former Board member; and the *International Academy of Collaborative Professionals*.

A contributing author to *The Mediation Practice Book: Critical Tools, Techniques and Forms*, Attorney Calafiore also co-authored *The Connecticut Courts Seeking Justice* and *Collaborative Law- A New ADR Model for Family Law Cases*, as well as numerous other articles on ADR. A former adjunct at the University of Connecticut School of Law, Attorney Calafiore is a frequent lecturer and presenter to professional audiences, as well as to law students and the public, and was featured by the Connecticut Law Tribune as a contributing writer on mediation and ADR.

Attorney Calafiore has served as a Special Master in Federal District Court, in Superior Court and in the Early Intervention Child Custody mediation program, as well as being a certified mediator for the U.S. Postal Service REDRESS Program.

A Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude graduate of Williams College, Attorney Calafiore received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law where she graduated with honors and was ranked first in her class.

Attorney Calafiore serves clients throughout Connecticut.

HON. ELIZABETH A. BOZZUTO

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Bozzuto is a superior court judge first appointed by Governor John G. Rowland in 2000. In 2018, she was appointed by Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson, as the Deputy Chief Court Administrator for the Judicial Branch.

Prior to her appointment as the Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Judge Bozzuto was a trial court judge for 18 years, serving most of those years in family court. From 2013-2018 she was the Chief Administrative Judge for the Family Division. As the Chief Administrative Judge for the Family Division, Judge Bozzuto led the Judicial Branch's re-engineering of the Connecticut family court. Through this effort, the Judicial Branch successfully restructured the family court process and diversified its services, all with the goal of reducing time spent in court, reducing cost and reducing conflict for litigants.

In addition to her judicial responsibilities, Judge Bozzuto has served on numerous committees and commissions including the Executive Committee of the Superior Court, the Judicial Review Council, the State Marshal Commission, Judges Advisory Committee on e-filing and the Commission on Minimum Continuing Legal Education.

Judge Bozzuto received a B.A. from Manhattanville College in 1985. She was awarded a *juris doctorate* from Western New England College, School of Law in 1988. In 1991 she received a certificate from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. Judge Bozzuto was admitted to the State of Connecticut Bar in 1988; the U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut in 1989; and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit in 1992. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Bozzuto was a partner at the law firm of Secor, Cassidy and McPartland, P.C. As a practicing attorney, Judge Bozzuto specialized in civil litigation, with an emphasis on insurance defense litigation and family law.

MARCIA LEBOWITZ

The Children's Divorce Center was established 40 years ago, November 1979, by founding director Marcia Lebowitz MSW to help children and parents with the difficult changes that often accompany divorce. She is a licensed, board certified, pediatric social-worker who holds an MSW degree from Simmons College School of Social Work. She is an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law, where she teaches a course titled "Divorce and the Divorcing Family" and she is the author of

[*I Think Divorce Stinks.*](#)

In addition to her one-on-one work with children and parents at the Children's Divorce Center, Marcia writes and lectures extensively on the impact of divorce on children.

She has presented educational programs about children and divorce for the American Bar Association, the state of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Harvard Law School, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Yale Medical School, Brown University, and the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

Her work at the Children's Divorce Center has been featured on National Public Radio, ABC World News Tonight, local and national television talk shows, and in The New York Times.

HON. MICHAEL A. ALBIS

Judge Michael A. Albis graduated from Yale University with a *B.A.* in 1975 and earned his *Juris Doctor* from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1978. He was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in October 1978.

Judge Albis was nominated to become a Judge of the Superior Court by Governor Dannel P. Malloy on January 24, 2013, and the General Assembly approved his nomination on March 6, 2013.

Prior to Judge Albis' appointment to the bench he was engaged in the private practice of law for thirty-five years, most recently as a principal in the firm of Hilcoff & Albis, LLC, in East Haven. He also served as the Judge of Probate for the District of East Haven from 1999 to 2011. He was a member of the adjunct faculty of Quinnipiac University from 2000 to 2012.

Judge Albis' first judicial assignment in April 2013 was to the Geographic Area court of the New Britain Judicial District, hearing criminal matters. In September of that year, he was assigned to the Hartford Judicial District-Family Division. After serving for three years in the Hartford Family Division, Judge Albis was assigned to the Middlesex Judicial District in Middletown in September 2016. Since then he has acted as the Presiding Judge of the Middlesex District's Family Division.

Judge Albis currently serves as the Chief Administrative Judge for the Family Division of the Superior Court, having been appointed to that position in September 2018 by the Hon. Patrick L. Carroll III, the Chief Court Administrator.

JOSEPH DiTUNNO

Joseph DiTunno is the Deputy Director for the Judicial Branch of Connecticut. He oversees Family Services as part of the Court Support Services Division. Joe also served as a Program Manager and was responsible for the oversight of the domestic violence contracted services, the Parent Education Program and the Fatherhood Initiative. From 1993-2004, Mr. DiTunno was a Family Relations Counselor. As part of this responsibility, he conducted custody evaluations and mediations for parents with child related disputes in the Family Civil Court and within the adult criminal court domestic violence intakes and assessments. Joe holds a Master's Degree in Psychology from the University of Hartford.

WENDY F. HABELOW, PH.D.

Owner and Clinical Psychologist, Beacon Behavioral Services LLC

Dr. Habelow completed her clinical internship at Yale University in 1990 and received her Ph.D. in 1991 from Michigan State University. She provides individual psychotherapy to children, adolescents and adults, as well as couples' therapy and family therapy. Her areas of expertise include treating depression and anxiety including OCD, stress management for all ages, life transition management, work and career issues, overeating and body image issues.

Dr. Habelow also has expertise in working with individuals and families going through separation and divorce. She has served as a Special Master to both the Hartford and Middletown Family Courts and provides expert consultation to attorneys, judges and family court professionals. She works as a Collaborative Coach on interdisciplinary teams, provides co-parent education, works as a co-parent counselor to help parents create and/or adjust parent plans as well as establish effective communication strategies, and is both a certified Mediator and Collaborative Divorce Professional. She has appeared on NBC CT Chanel 30 and most recently was a panelist for Colin McEnroe's Freshly Squeezed series.

Dr. Habelow is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Connecticut Psychological Association, the Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce, the Connecticut Collaborative Divorce Group, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals and is listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers. She has been interviewed by NBC Connecticut News for expert advice on many behavioral health topics and has written articles on various topics including how to talk to children about divorce.

Dr. Habelow works in the West Hartford office. Her email address is whabelow@beaconbehavioral.com

DEBORAH NOONAN

Deborah Noonan, JD is an experienced family law attorney who limits her practice to divorce mediation and Collaborative Divorce. As a mediator and collaborative attorney, Deborah works with clients to assist them in working out a settlement agreement in a cooperative problem solving process that places great emphasis on reducing conflict, keeping children the focus, and empowering the parties to control the outcome of their divorce.

Deborah serves as a Special Master for Superior Court family matters, serves as a Guardian ad Litem, is a current board member and former co-president of the Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce, and acts as co-chair of the Collaborative Attorneys of Fairfield County. Deborah is a member of International Association of Collaborative Professionals, Advanced Practitioner member of Academy of Professional Mediators, and member of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Deborah holds a Bachelor's Degree from Boston University and earned her Juris Doctorate from Boston University School of Law.

Attorney Noonan's office is located in Norwalk. Her email address is noonandeborah@msn.com.

JENNIFER LUISE CHAMPAGNE, MA

Jennifer Luise Champagne, MA, is a licensed professional counselor whose career has been devoted to the emotional and parenting issues of divorce. Over the past 30 years, she has focused her work with parents as they address the changing needs of their family; coaching parents as they share the decision to divorce with their children, creating parenting plans for the time of separation, and addressing communication challenges that impact parents and their children. Ms. Champagne has received extensive training in mediation and collaborative divorce, as well as in co-parenting and parenting coordination. Each family presents its own needs during the time of separation and working with parents to identify goals and interests help structure each process accordingly. Ms. Champagne brings substantial training and experience in child development and divorce to her work as families transition and move forward.

Ms. Champagne began her career as a Family Relations counselor in Bridgeport Superior Court. After spending 10 years within the court system, she created the Family Mediation Center operated out of Birmingham Group Health Services Umbrella program. The program offered mediation, collaborative divorce and coparenting services. In addition to her work with divorce and separation, she also was clinical supervisor for the staff at the Umbrella domestic violence program and later spent several years in the role of Assistant Director for the Umbrella. Recognizing that she wished to focus all her energy and time with families that were separating and divorcing, Ms. Champagne ended her work with the Umbrella and opened her private practice in 2012. She currently has offices in Shelton and Branford.

In addition to her affiliations with the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals and Association of Family and Conciliations Courts, Ms. Champagne is an active member of the Connecticut Council for Non-adversarial Divorce serving as current Vice President on the board of directors. She is a member of three collaborative pods; the Collaborative Divorce Professionals of Fairfield County, Divorce Solutions of Ct and the Collaborative Divorce Team of CT. Ms. Champagne has devoted her career to the area of divorce and children, with the goal of helping families move forward and minimizing conflict and negative outcomes.

BRENDAN HOLT

Attorney Holt graduated from the Quinnipiac University School of Law with a concentration in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Civil Advocacy in 2006.

After six months as a community mediator in the Waterbury and Bridgeport G.A. courts, he spent 7 years as a State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Family Relations Counselor in the New Haven Superior Court. In this role Attorney Holt mediated, facilitated and evaluated hundreds of contested financial, property and child custody disputes as well as serving as a Special Masters. As a Family Relations Counselor he underwent extensive training in the areas of child psychological development, mediation, parenting plan development, custody evaluations and domestic violence risk assessment amongst others. In addition, Attorney Holt has also received training in non-defensive communication, facilitation of deliberative dialogue and collaborative divorce.

After nearly four years working in the area of insurance policy holder defense, at times representing large corporations in the mediation of multimillion-dollar, multiparty liability payment scenarios, Attorney Holt returned to his family law “roots” and founded his own firm, Holt Law LLC, based in Woodbridge. His new practice is focused primarily on helping families navigate the complicated overlap of emotional and legal issues confronting them both during and after divorce in a less adversarial manner, via mediation, collaborative family law, parenting coordination, and broader dispute resolution pursuits.

Attorney Holt has also received certification from the Connecticut Judicial Branch to serve as a guardian ad litem, is an active member of the Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce (CCND), including two collaborative pods; Divorce Solutions of CT and the Collaborative Divorce Professionals of Fairfield County Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP), the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), is a board member for the Connecticut Mediation Association and a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, serving on its Legislative Liaison Committee. He is also an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law, where he currently supervises the CHRO Mediation Externship program and most recently taught Divorce and the Divorcing Family.

ROBERT E. EMERY, PH.D.

Robert Emery, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Children, Families, and the Law at the University of Virginia. He has authored over 150 scientific publications, and several books on divorce, including most recently, ***Two Homes, One Childhood: A Parenting Plan to Last a Lifetime***, a guide for parents and professionals on individualizing joint custody schedules to meet children's and families' changing developmental needs. His 2004 book for parents, ***The Truth about Children and Divorce***, is still in print and offers emotional and practical guidance to parents in the middle of divorce. ***Renegotiating Family Relationships*** (2012, 2nd Ed) is written for professionals as a guide to the divorce process, as well as an introduction to mediation. Dr. Emery maintains a practice as a clinical psychologist, divorce mediator, and parenting coordinator. He is the father of five children.

PETER SALEM

Executive Director, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Peter Salem, M.A., is executive director of the Association of Family of Conciliation Courts (AFCC) an interdisciplinary and international association of more than 5,000 members worldwide. He served as AFCC associate director from 1994-2002. He was a Distinguished Fellow of the William T. Grant Foundation (2009-2012), working with the Arizona State University Prevention Research Center to better integrate research into practice and policy in family law and dispute resolution. He has served as an adjunct professor of law at Marquette University (1998-2008) and director and mediator for Mediation and Family Court Services in Rock County, Wisconsin (1989-1994).

Salem is co-editor of *Divorce Mediation: Models Techniques and Applications* (Guilford, 2004), author of numerous journal articles, and he has written and produced several training and educational videotapes. His work has been recognized with awards including the John M. Haynes Distinguished Mediator Award (Association of Conflict Resolution) the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts President's Award the Wisconsin Association of Mediators Distinguished Service Award and an Award of Excellence (team award) for AFCC's Domestic Violence and Family Courts Project.

Salem's recent work has focused on organizational collaborations to improve family law and dispute resolution processes and systems addressing controversial issues including shared parenting and young children, differentiation and intimate partner violence, Family Law Education Reform Project, and differentiated case management in family courts.

Salem has a bachelor's degree in political science from McGill University and a master's in media and communication management from Emerson College.

MARSHA KLINE PRUETT, PH.D., M.S.L., ABPP

Marsha Kline Pruett is the Maconda Brown O'Connor Professor at Smith College School for Social Work. She has twenty-five years of clinical experience, with expertise in couples counseling, father involvement and coparenting consultation, legal case development for attorneys, mediation, and the design and evaluation of model ADR programs that help solve disputes within and outside of the legal system. She is a past President of the AFCC Board of Directors and the Social Science Editor of the *Family Court Review*. She has written extensively for academic and lay audiences, including *Your Divorce Advisor: A Psychologist and Attorney Lead You Through the Legal and Emotional Landscape of Divorce* (2000, Fireside) and *Partnership Parenting* (2009, Perseus). Her research on a model continuum of effective and cost-efficient co-parenting services in the Connecticut courts, father involvement, and parenting plans for young children earned her the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts' Stanley Cohen Award for Distinguished Research. In collaborative ventures with colleagues, she has designed a grid for decision-making about young children and overnights and a step-up template for increasing parenting time across the age spectrum which are used extensively throughout North America and abroad. She is also embarking on a Coparenting Research Library to which parents and legal professionals will have access to social science research pertaining to family law, along with the ability to get critiques and syntheses of the literature on a regularly updated basis. Currently she is evaluating a widely used online coparenting program. She is an Advisory Committee member and consultant for the *Honoring Families Initiative* of the Colorado-based Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System. In addition to academic venues, she disseminates her work through speaking engagements and consultation to mental health professionals, attorneys, judges, and court personnel.

GERARD I. ADELMAN

gerard.adelman@jud.ct.gov

Legal Experience:

- Judicial Trial Referee (JTR) June 2016 to the present.
- Judge of the Superior Court, Judicial Branch of Connecticut 2009-June 2016.
- Presiding Judge Family, Judicial District of Fairfield, 2014 to 2016.
- Assigned to the Regional Family Trial Docket 2011 to 2014 and 2018 to the present. Presiding Judge for the 2013-2014 Judicial term.
- Assigned to Hartford Family Court 2016 to 2018.
- Principal in Weigand, Mahon & Adelman, Attorneys at Law, P.C, 1985-2009. Associate to the firm, 1982-1985.
- Admitted to the Connecticut Bar, November 1, 1982.
- Admitted to the Federal District Court (Connecticut), December, 1982.

Publication, Seminars and Educational Activities:

- Education Committee, Judicial Branch 2013 to 2016.
- Multiple presentations to Connecticut judges on a variety of family law related issues at the Connecticut Judges Institute, June 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- Presentations to Judicial Branch GAL training class, spring 2013 and spring 2018.
- Principal author of library of proposed orders for family law judges to be used in the Connecticut Judicial Branch e-filing system, 2011-2012.
- Panel member-New GAL legislation, Quinnipiac Law School, March 2015.
- Panel member of seminar "What Judges Want To Know In Family Cases", Hartford, CT, 2011, 2013 and 2015.
- Panel member at CBA seminar: The Ins and Outs of Custody Evaluation Reports, October 29, 2013.
- Panel member on child custody issues, AAML-CT Chapter seminar, spring 2012.
- Adjunct professor, Quinnipiac Law School 2014 to the present.
- Supervising judge for Quinnipiac Law School Externs 2011 to the present.
- Multiple public speaking events on behalf of the Judicial Branch, 2010 to the present.

Education:

- Ohio State University, BA *cum laude* awarded June 1970. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, OSU Chapter, May 1970.
- Southern Connecticut State University, MA in history awarded May 1977.
- University of Connecticut School of Law, JD with honors awarded May 1982

Civic Activities:

- Member, Board of Directors, Bradley Home, Meriden, CT 2002-2009, 2010-2014.
- Legal counsel, YWCA Family Center, Meriden, CT, 1992-2006.
- Member-Rotary Club of Meriden since 1983. President 1990-1991. Made Paul Harris Fellow June 1991.

Non-Legal Employment:

- Teacher, Dodd Middle School, Cheshire, CT, 1970-1982.

LISA GRESHAM, CDFA®

*“Realizing a successful divorce involves
being educated about your options
and realistic about your expectations.”*

Lisa Gresham is a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst and founder of Equitable Divorce Solutions, LLC. Ms. Gresham has over 30 years of financial and investment experience. Since 2003, she has focused her practice solely on the complex financial issues specific to divorce. Blending professional knowledge with personal experience, she works with her clients to develop options and design a settlement that will help them to disentangle and move toward financial independence and stability, after divorce. As a financial professional, Ms. Gresham’s services include lifestyle and needs analysis, asset valuation, pension analysis and valuation, cash flow analysis and projected net worth and settlement negotiation and evaluation. She focuses on budgeting, evaluating tax and cash flow implications with possible settlement scenarios and short and long term projections in order to help her clients meet their financial needs.

In her mediation practice and when acting as a financial neutral in a Collaborative Divorce, Ms. Gresham draws on her extensive interpersonal communication training and skills to help her clients identify their interests, moving away from positions, in order to find workable options for the family as a whole.

Ms. Gresham is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, Institute for Divorce Financial Analysts, National Association of Divorce Professionals, Divorce Solutions of Connecticut, Family Law Section of the American Bar Association and Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce, where she served on the Board of Directors of CCND for many years.

In addition to her practice, Ms. Gresham is one of four partners of the CT Family Mediation Training Group, an organization providing divorce mediation training for attorneys, financial and mental health professionals. She also teaches public educational seminars on the financial aspects of divorce.

In 2015 and 2016, Ms. Gresham was presented with an award from CCND, in recognition of her dedication and commitment to the organization and the promotion of non-adversarial divorce.

BETH M. KARASSIK, PH.D.

Dr. Beth M. Karassik is a licensed psychologist with broad-based experience spanning 30 years in clinical and forensic psychology and neuropsychology. Her training affords her a deep understanding of what drives, motivates and sustains human behavior. Dr. Karassik, a Collaborative Divorce professional and mediator, is a respected pediatric neuropsychologist with Comprehensive Neuropsychological Services, P.C. Her background in neuropsychology gives her insight into how the brain affects emotions and decision-making during difficult times like divorce. After her own divorce, she became involved in Collaborative Practice, bringing a deep appreciation of the impact of divorce on couples and families.

Dr. Karassik received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Emory University in 1989. She completed her post-doctoral neuropsychology training in California at St. Jude Hospital and Rehabilitation Center and at NeuroCare. Dr. Karassik consults with physicians, attorneys, and educators regarding differential diagnosis, educational planning and treatment recommendations for children and adults with a broad range of neuropsychological, learning, emotional, and behavioral disorders. She provides expert testimony in depositions and in court. Dr. Karassik also provides outpatient psychological and neuropsychological services to both children and adults. In her Collaborative Divorce practice, she works with divorcing families as a Divorce Coach and Child Specialist. With colleagues, she developed a model for containing the cost, conflict and duration of the divorce process.

Dr. Karassik is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Connecticut Psychological Association, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP), and both a Board member and co-Chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce (CCND). She is affiliated with the Collaborative Divorce Team of Connecticut (CDTC) and Divorce Solutions of Connecticut (DSC), for which she is also co-President. Dr. Karassik is committed to supporting children, adults and families going through divorce to create futures that align with their dreams and serve their best interests.

CHARLES A. PILLSBURY

Charles A. Pillsbury (“Charlie”) has served since 2013, as Co-Director, Center on Dispute Resolution, and as a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence in Dispute Resolution at Quinnipiac University School of Law. He also is Treasurer of the Connecticut Bar Association ADR Section and a Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Sustaining Life Fellow.

He is a graduate of Boston University School of Law and Yale University. From 1989-2009, Charlie was the Executive Director of Community Mediation, Inc., in New Haven. Before joining Community Mediation in 1989, Charlie practiced law for 14 years in the New Haven area.