

Family Law Faculty Biographies Current as of 2022



Judge Susan M. Breall - *Superior Court Judge, San Francisco Superior Court, San Francisco, California; appointed 2001*

Judge Breall is a judge in the Superior Court of San Francisco. As part of her juvenile delinquency assignment, she became the founder of the first Girls Court in San Francisco. Moreover, she is a member of the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery Task Force. She is a speaker at the International Human Trafficking Summit, a national expert faculty on human trafficking for the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Rights 4 Girls, and the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition to her anti-trafficking work, she is the former Chief of the Criminal Division of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for all crimes of violence against women, children, elderly and intimate partners.



Judge Julie Breslow – *Magistrate Judge, Superior Court for the District of Columbia*

Julie Breslow has served as a Magistrate Judge on the Superior Court for the District of Columbia since 2002. She has been assigned to Family Court for her entire tenure, and presides over a docket of child abuse and neglect cases, as well as domestic relations matters, domestic violence matters, and child support matters. She presides over all cases in D.C. foster care involving unaccompanied refugee minors and unaccompanied alien children, as well as all child custody matters where a parent or loved one has filed a custody action with a Motion for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for a child.

Prior to joining the Superior Court, from 1999 to 2002, she served as the Chief of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. From 1998 to 1999 Julie Breslow served as an Attorney Advisor for the United States Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys. From 1995 to 1998, she served as the Director of the Court Services Unit, for the General Receiver at the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency. In 1995, Julie Breslow worked as an associate at Freer and McGarry P.C. (no longer operational) in Washington, D.C. From 1990 to 1995, she served as Assistant Corporation Counsel at the Office of the Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia (now the Attorney General's Office) in the Child Abuse and Neglect, Juvenile Delinquency, and Child Support/Paternity Enforcement sections. Julie Breslow began her career serving as a law clerk to Administrative Law Judge Edward Terhune Miller in Washington, D.C. from 1989 to 1990. She received her J.D. from Albany Law School in 1989 and her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Union College in 1987.



Judge (Ret.) Rosemary Collins – *Judge (Retired), 17th Judicial Circuit Court, Winnebago County, Rockford, Illinois; appointed 1989*

Judge Collins was the Presiding Judge of the Domestic Violence Coordinated Courts Division, the Presiding Judge of the Family Law Division, and carried a full time felony trial calendar as a Circuit Court Judge. She became the first woman judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in 1989. Judge Collins is the chairperson of the 17th Judicial Circuit’s Family Violence Coordinating Council, and serves as President of the Board of Directors for Children’s Safe Harbor. In 1998, she spearheaded the opening of the Domestic Violence Assistance Center in the courthouse, which advocates for victims of domestic violence throughout the order of protection process.



Judge Katherine Essrig - *Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, County of Hillsborough*

Judge Katherine Essrig has resided as a Circuit Judge since 1997. Prior, she served as a County Court Judge for five years. She is an active member of judicial organizations including, the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, Florida Association of Women Lawyers and Family Law Section, Hillsborough County. Judge Essrig was admitted to practice in 1981.



Judge Ramona Gonzalez – *Former President of National Council of Juvenile and Family Courts Judges (2019), Circuit Judge of La Crosse County, Wisconsin*

Judge Gonzalez is the presiding judge in La Crosse County, Wisconsin; she was first elected as a circuit judge in 1995. She is an expert on family law issues, specializing in particular on national and international matters relating to child abduction and domestic violence. Judge Gonzalez has extensive experience with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. She is a member of the Board of Trustees and a national trainer on domestic violence issues for the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), a member of the NCJFCJ Family Violence and Domestic Relations Department Advisory Committee, and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Interpretation Technical Assistance and Resource Center at the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic

Violence.



Judge Lora J. Livingston - *Local Administrative Judge (Chief Judge), 261st District Court, Travis County, Austin, Texas*

Judge Livingston became the first African-American woman to serve on a district court in Travis County, Texas in 1999. Since 2011, she has served as the Local Administrative Judge (Chief Judge) for the Travis County Courts. As the Local Administrative Judge (Chief Judge), Judge Livingston is responsible for implementing and executing the local rules of administration and supervising the expeditious movement of court caseloads for all of Travis County. Judge Livingston has been active in local, state and national bar association activities and has served on the boards of the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, Texas Access to Justice Commission, the National Center on Women and Family Law, the National Association of IOLTA Programs, the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, and the Board of the Texas Center for the Judiciary.



Leslye E. Orloff –*Director of the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP) and Adjunct Professor at American University Washington College of Law*

Ms. Orloff is an Adjunct Professor and Director of the National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law. Ms. Orloff’s 34-year career includes working collaboratively with experts across the country to develop and implement immigration relief, public benefits access and family law protections for immigrant women, children and survivors. She was involved in drafting the Protection for Immigrant Victims of Violence Against Women of the Violence Against Women Acts of 1994, 2000, 2005, and 2013, the Trafficking Victims Protection Acts of 2000 and 2008, legal services access for battered immigrants in 1997 and 2005 and welfare access for battered immigrants in 1996. She is a co-founder and co-chair of the National Network to End Violence Against immigrant Women (1992-2011).



Aisha Rahman – *Attorney at The Baig Firm*

Aisha launched her legal career at Legal Aid of East Tennessee, serving indigent survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in family law matters and remained there for two years. During her tenure at Legal Aid, Tennessee introduced an anti-Shariah bill and Aisha worked with various community organizations to educate the legislature on the xenophobic, illegal tenor of the bill. This advocacy led to Aisha being recruited to join KARAMAH’s team. For six years, Aisha served as KARAMAH’s Executive Director and Director of Family Law. During these years, Aisha conducted national trainings with lawyers, judges, and advocates on family law. Aisha joined the Baig Firm as Of Counsel in 2017. With nearly a decade of legal experience, Aisha is handling complex family law matters at TBF including divorce, custody, child support, Islamic marriage contracts, and other related matters.



Veronica Tobar Thronson – *Clinical Professor at Michigan State University College of Law*

Veronica is a Clinical Professor of Law & Director of the Law Clinic and the Immigration Law Clinic at MSU where she teaches Domestic Violence Law and Immigration and Nationality Law. Currently, she is a core faculty member of the Michigan State University Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence and the MSU Center for Gender in Global Context, a board member of the State of Michigan Committee for Refugee Resettlement, and serves on the Access to Justice Initiative of the State Bar of Michigan.



Judge Mary F. Weir – *16th Judicial Circuit Court, Jackson County, Kansas City, Missouri*

Judge Weir was appointed as an Associate Circuit in 2013. Prior to her appointment, she began working in 2001 as a contract attorney with Hope House, Inc., and provided legal representation to victims of domestic violence and their children. She also represented juveniles and their parents in cases heard before the Jackson County Family Court through her work as "of counsel" with the Raith Law Firm. Judge Weir served as an Assistant Missouri Public Defender from 1998 until 2001. She was also a law clerk to the Honorable Christine Sill-Rogers of Division 31 from 1995 until 1998. She has taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School as an Adjunct Professor since 2004.



Commissioner Loretta M. Young - *Family Court, New Castle County, Delaware*

Commissioner Young graduated from the University of Delaware with Bachelors in Psychology and earned her Doctorate in Law from Widener. She has worked on all sides of the bench and is a former criminal prosecutor as well as defense attorney. She joined the Family Court as a Master and was appointed by Gov. Carper to her present position as a Commissioner. She presides over the juvenile mental health court in both New Castle and Kent County, juvenile criminal matters, criminal and civil domestic violence hearings, and conducts guardianship hearings in Kent and Sussex counties.

She is the Former chair of the Women and the Law Section of Delaware State Bar Association Human Trafficking Project; Former Co-Chair Delaware Human Trafficking Council; Former Chair Delaware Trafficking Council Juvenile Anti-Trafficking Subcommittee; Current Family Court Representative on Delaware Inter-Agency Coordinating Council; teaches Human Trafficking at Wilmington University and sits on Wilmington University's Ad Hoc Human Trafficking Advisory Board.