



Panelist Biographies

Dr. Peter Jaffe

Peter Jaffe is a professor at the University of Western Ontario in Canada and the academic director of the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women & Children. He received his undergraduate training from McGill University in Montreal and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Western Ontario. Jaffe is also director emeritus for the Centre for Children and Families at the Justice System, a children's mental health centre in London, Ontario. The co-author of nine books, and dozens of articles related to children, families and the justice system, Jaffe was recently appointed as chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. Jaffe has received several awards for his work including the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada for his dedication and contributions to the community and to all fellow Canadians. He also received the Award of Merit from the Ontario Psychological Foundation for his contribution to research and clinical practice in the prevention of family violence.

Dr. Isolina Ricci

An internationally known family expert, Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., is a licensed marriage and family therapist and professional mediator. She received her doctorate from Stanford University and is a Rockefeller Bellagio scholar. Her book, *Mom's House, Dad's House: The Complete Guide for Parents Who Are Separated, Divorced or Remarried* has been printed forty-four times and inspired two generations of parents and families with the message that strength and dignity can remain regardless of whether parents are together, separated, divorced or remarried. In her new book, *Mom's House, Dad's House for Kids: Feeling at Home in One Home or Two*, she speaks directly to older children and their parents suggesting ways they can use their challenges to grow stronger and wiser. Ricci's extensive work as a licensed marriage and family therapist, mediator, and educator is well known in clinical and legal circles. In the 1970s, she was a pioneer in custody mediation as she originated the "Parenting Agreement" now known as "Parenting Plans." An experienced researcher, writer, and speaker, Ricci has appeared on numerous radio and television shows.

Ernest Sanchez

Ernest A. Sanchez is a licensed clinical social worker who received his Master's degree from the University of Southern California. He is a Senior Family Mediator within Family Court Services at the Los Angeles County Superior Court. He joined the court in 1985 and has mediated over 8500 child custody disputes. Sanchez has worked as a consultant and presenter for the California Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Center for Families, Children and the Courts, on a variety of subjects and has been on a number of AOC statewide training committees for the coordination of training in California. He has also been a presenter for the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts since 1989, has provided training for judicial officers, and has been active in the development and implementation of several special projects for the Court. The Association

of Family and Conciliation Courts awarded Mr. Sanchez the Joseph Drown Award for outstanding services to children in February 2006. His publications include co-authorship of several articles appearing in *Family Court Review*, *Family and Conciliation Courts Review* and *Social Service Review*.

Andrew Schepard

Andrew Schepard is a Professor of Law at Hofstra University and the Director of the Center for Children, Families and the Law. A graduate of Harvard Law School, where he served as articles editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, Schepard is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. His special interests are in family law, civil litigation, alternative dispute resolution and developing simulation-based skills programs for law students and practicing lawyers. Schepard has received numerous awards from the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts for his work with families and children in conflict. He is the editor of *Family Court Review* and author of *Children, Courts and Custody: Interdisciplinary Models for Divorcing Families*. Schepard was the reporter for the *Model Standards of Practice for Family and Divorce Mediation*, approved by the ABA, and the reporter for the ABA's Leadership Summit on Unified Family Courts. Schepard founded the Law and Children column for the *New York Law Journal*, and the Parent Education and Custody Effectiveness program, a model court-affiliated education program for divorcing and separating parents.

Marjorie Slabach

Marjorie Slabach is a Family Court Commissioner in San Francisco, California where she hears divorce and custody cases. As a practicing judge, Slabach is responsible for setting child and spousal support payments in divorce cases. Hers is the only civil courtroom in San Francisco equipped with a metal detector at the door to ensure that none of the heated arguments between family members will ever be resolved with weapons. A graduate of the University of California's Boalt Hall School of Law, Slabach had a successful family law practice in Santa Rosa, California before being named San Francisco's child support commissioner in 1997.

Richard Warshak

Dr. Richard A. Warshak is a consulting psychologist in private practice and a clinical professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He is an internationally recognized authority on divorce, and his studies are cited often in courtrooms and legislatures. The author of *Divorce Poison*, Warshak's work has been featured in worldwide media including the *Today Show*, CNN, *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, the *London Sunday Telegraph*, and *Time*. The author of the critically acclaimed *The Custody Revolution*, he lives and works with his wife in Dallas, Texas.

Dave Iverson

Host and Producer

Dave Iverson is an Emmy Award-winning producer, writer, and host with numerous PBS productions to his credit. During his lengthy career in public television and radio, Iverson has received more than sixty broadcast awards for his work including a 1999 national Emmy for the documentary *The 30-Second Candidate*. For five years, Iverson served as executive director of the Best Practices in Journalism project, a training initiative to encourage better local broadcast coverage of politics, funded by PBS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and The Pew Charitable Trusts. Iverson currently hosts television specials and a Friday morning call-in radio program for public station KQED in San Francisco.