



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SOLANO

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Press Release

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Fairfield, California – The Superior Court of California, County of Solano, is pleased to announce that Christine N. Carlson, Staff Attorney in the Family Law and Probate Division, has been certified as a specialist in Family Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. According to State Bar statistics, there are over 150,000 lawyers actively practicing law in California, and of this number, approximately 1,100 are Certified Family Law Specialists (CFLS).

The State Bar of California program for certifying legal specialists is a Supreme Court approved method of certifying attorneys as specialists in eight specialty areas of law: Appellate; Criminal; Estate Planning, Trust and Probate; Family; Immigration and Nationality; Personal and Small Business Bankruptcy; Taxation; and Workers' Compensation. Attorneys are certified through a process which includes successful passage of a written examination, completion of specific tasks in the specialty area, attendance at a prescribed number of approved education programs, and peer review. Certification is for a five-year period, during which time specialists must continue to meet task, education, and peer review requirements similar to those for certification.

"Ms. Carlson is an invaluable asset to the court, providing excellent legal research and procedural assistance to the bench," commented Assistant Presiding Judge D. Scott Daniels. "Her certification as a Family Law Specialist is a great honor for her, and enhances the ability of the court to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of Solano County. Our court is fortunate to have Ms. Carlson on its staff."

"The Family Law and Probate Division of the Solano County Superior Court was fortunate to be able to create a Staff Attorney position dedicated solely to this Division, in 2006. We were even more fortunate to find Christine Carlson to fill the position," said the Honorable Michael Mattice, the 2006-2007 Supervising Judge of the Division. "Christine is dedicated to the field of family law, as her recent specialist certification demonstrates. She is also a published author in the field. Ms. Carlson quickly established herself as an essential part of the process of giving effective judicial services to our many litigants, most of whom do not have attorneys."

"I was thrilled to accept the attorney position with the Superior Court of Solano County in April 2007," stated Ms. Carlson. "My experience at the Court has proven to be an incredibly positive one. It would not be possible to work with more supportive and approachable judicial officers or with more congenial colleagues and staff, all of whom supported and encouraged me while I worked toward my certification. I am pleased that Solano County now has the distinction of being one of the few counties in the state to have a CFLS as a trial court staff research attorney."

Ms. Carlson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Davis, where she graduated "With Highest Honors." She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law, where she received the distinguished Herman Wildman Social Justice Writing Award. In 2003, her award-winning research paper on teenage dating violence in middle and high schools, was published in the Harvard Women's Law Journal. After passing the Bar, Ms. Carlson became an associate with Bartholomew, Wasznicky & Molinaro, LLP. In April 2007, she was hired as Staff Attorney for the Court's Family Law and Probate Division.