

As a California Certified Family Law Specialist and Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, NEIL FORESTER brings the highest levels of professionalism and expertise to a spectrum of family law issues, including:

- + Characterization and valuation of property
- + Allocation of debt and assets
- + Child and spousal support calculation and modification
- + Breach of fiduciary duty claims
- + Valuation and disposition of family-owned businesses
- + Marriage and domestic partner dissolution
- + Relocation and move-away cases
- + Child custody and parenting coordination
- + Pet parenting plans
- + International child custody disputes and Hague Convention
- + Attorneys' fees and costs
- + Utilization of forensic accounting and other related financial experts
- + Domestic Violence Restraining Orders and DVTROs
- + Prenuptial, post marital, and cohabitation agreements

EDUCATION

Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Caruso Law

Certificate in Dispute Resolution, January 2023

LLM in Dispute Resolution, concentration in Mediation, expected Spring 2024

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

JD, *with Distinction*, 2004

- + Anthony M. Kennedy Fellow (member of the first Fellowship class, and recipient of full tuition scholarship for all three years)
- + Chief Articles Editor, *McGeorge Law Review*, 2003-2004
- + Author, *The Elephant in the Locker Room: Does the NFL Discriminate in the Hiring of Head Coaches* (34 McGeorge L. Rev. 877)

California State University, Sacramento

Bachelor of Arts, English, *Summa Cum Laude*, 2001

NEIL M. E. FORESTER, CFLS

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by appointment 5170 Golden Foothill Pkwy, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 by video Zoom/Teams
Certified Family Law Specialist, The State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization
Certified Arbitrator & Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS

- + California Bar License #232395
- + Certified Family Law Specialist (CFLS), State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, 2012-present
- + Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 2019-present
- + Certified Arbitrator, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 2020-present
- + Pro Bono Award Recipient, Placer County Bar Association, 2019
- + Hero of Human Services Award, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, 2014
- + Best of the Bar, *Sacramento Business Journal*, 2014-2016, 2017-2018
- + Top Lawyers, *Sacramento Magazine*, 2015-2022
- + Northern California Super Lawyers, 2017-2022
- + Sacramento Top 25, Northern California Super Lawyers, 2020-2021
- + Member, Association of Certified Family Law Specialists
- + Member, Sacramento & Placer County Bar Associations
- + Member, Academy of Professional Family Mediators

IN THE COMMUNITY

From 2011 to 2022, Neil served on the Board of Directors for WEAVE, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation that operates as the primary provider of crisis intervention services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Sacramento County. He was one of the chief architects of WEAVE Legal, the redesigned legal services program which ensures that victims have access to free and discounted legal assistance. During a two-year period as Supervising Attorney, he oversaw various staff attorneys in their casework, including developing case strategy, discovery plans, settlement negotiations, and trial preparation. Additionally, he developed a training program for new legal volunteers designed to demystify California's Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Order application process for lawyers new to the field, and also provided detailed DVRO trial instruction from first hearing to the evidentiary phase.

Neil first became involved with WEAVE in 2006, when he joined the Facilities Committee to oversee the development of a new safe house. As a member of the Executive Committee, he provided leadership to the 20-person Board of Directors including guiding WEAVE's strategic direction for survivor-centered trauma-informed programs; sustaining funding diversity for the \$8 million budget; and ensuring staff and volunteers reflect the diversity and needs of the community while working to build a community that does not tolerate violence. Their programs benefit survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking with the services they need to be safe and thrive.

- + WEAVE: Director (2011-2022); Board Chair (2017 – 2019); Immediate Past President (2019 - 2022); Executive Committee (2014-2018); Legal Committee Chair (2013-2021); Event Planning Committee, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes (2017-2021); Facilities Committee for New Safe House Project (2006-2011)
- + Group Leader, ProVisors Sacramento (2022-present)

- + McGeorge School of Law Adjunct Professor, Spring Semester Family Law Trial Skills Class (2014-2016)
- + McGeorge School of Law Alumni Mentor Network
- + Placer County Superior Court: Selected by Placer County Family Law Bench to work as Attorney Mediator for self-represented litigants with support and/or financial issues on court's "pro per" calendar (2012-2015)
- + NorCal Boxer Rescue Board of Directors & Pro Bono Legal Counsel (2015-present)
- + UC Davis School of Law - Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic Interim Director and Supervising Attorney (2014)
- + Mira Loma High School Speech and Debate Team, Head Coach (2007-2011)

WORK HISTORY

Immediately following law school, Neil joined Sacramento's largest firm, Downey Brand LLP, as an associate attorney in the Family Law Practice Group. He held that position for nearly 8 years before joining Goyette & Associates in 2012 to launch its Family Law Division. From 2015 to mid 2020 Neil served as managing shareholder for a 6-attorney family law boutique before launching his solo practice in the wake of the pandemic.

OUTSIDE THE OFFICE

Neil and his wife Jennifer are long-time residents of El Dorado Hills, California, where they live with two Boxer dogs. Outside of the office, Neil can usually be found in the backyard smoking ribs, on the course searching for his ball, at the pub cheering on the Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, planning the next foodie getaway, concentrating on his daily NYT crossword, or listening to the latest true crime podcast.