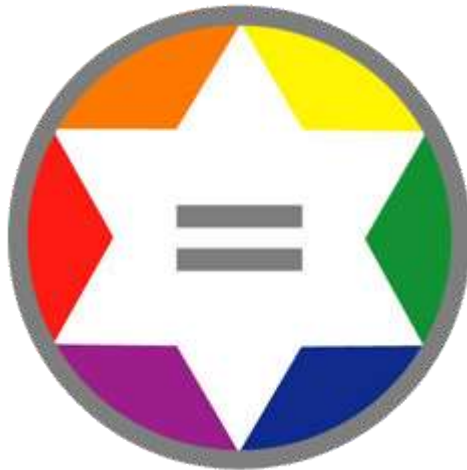


LGBT FAMILY LAW STUDY TOUR TO ISRAEL PARTICIPANT BIOS

*Tel Aviv & Jerusalem
February 15-22, 2015*



*Trip co-coordinators:
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Ben Aguilar

<http://benaguilarlaw.com>

Attorney Ben Aguilar is the owner and founder of the Law Offices of Ben Aguilar in downtown San Diego. His law practice focuses on Family Law and Immigration Law cases.

Prior to starting his solo practice, Mr. Aguilar worked for the Spanish Justice Department in Barcelona, Spain where he helped victims of domestic violence. He also clerked at the Center for International Protection in Moscow, Russia helping provide legal aid to Russian nationals who were victims of human-rights violations. During this clerkship, Mr. Aguilar became proficient in filing complaints before the European Court of Human Rights. Mr. Aguilar clerked at the American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego and Imperial Counties for two years where he assisted in the prosecution of *Franco Gonzalez v. Holder*, a class action case that secured the right to appointed legal representation for individuals with mental illnesses who are locked in immigration detention facilities and facing the possibility of deportation.

Mr. Aguilar currently serves on the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and was recently elected to the San Diego County Bar Association New Lawyers' Division. Mr. Aguilar also serves on the board of directors of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association (SDLRLA) and he is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the Tom Homann LGBT Law Association. Mr. Aguilar was recently recognized by San Diego Magazine as one of the Latinos Making a Difference in the City of San Diego for his volunteer work with victims of domestic violence through the Family Justice Center and his commitment to volunteer work on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border. Mr. Aguilar was also a finalist in the 2013 San Diego Young Attorneys and a semi-finalist in the 2013 San Diego Daily Transcript Top Attorneys in both Family Law and Immigration Law.

Previously, Mr. Aguilar served on the Board of Directors for the Coalition for Reproductive Choice and the Board of Directors for Visionaries in Philanthropy (Meals-On-Wheels San Diego). Mr. Aguilar has also served as the American Bar Association's 9th Circuit Lieutenant Governor of Communications and as a member of the National Advisory Committee for Equal Justice Works.

Mr. Aguilar received his J.D from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2011 and his B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Education from the University of California, Irvine in 2007.

Joseph Bell

<http://bellslaw.com>

A California lawyer for more than 34 years, Joseph Bell's primary area of practice is family and juvenile dependency law though he also handles general civil disputes and environmental land use problems. His practice is limited to Sierra Foothill counties, primarily Nevada County.

Mr. Bell was first certified as a family law specialist by the State Bar of California on March 18, 1995 and he maintains that certification currently. He has handled hundreds of dissolution of

marriage, dissolution of domestic partnership, custody, visitation and support matters, as well as juvenile dependency, guardianship and adoption matters. Though he is an experienced litigator, he emphasizes preventative family law services including:

- living together, domestic partnership and pre-marital agreements
- remedial action to effect reconciliations
- alternate dispute resolution, including mediation and arbitration of personal disputes
- collaborative negotiation with other professionals to settle disputes.

He is trained to serve as mediator, arbitrator and pro tem judge in family law and civil matters. He has substantial experience in personal injury/tort actions arising out of personal relations. He has also litigated employment disputes including wrongful termination and harassment claims, as well as land use/environmental law issues.

As a former member of the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California, and as a Board member and Past President of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists (ACFLS) Mr. Bell has written articles on legal issues for the California Bar Journal and other digital and legal media and spoken on legal topics to community and bar groups. Early in his Nevada County career he was a founder of several non-profit organizations including the Lawyer Referral Service, South Yuba River Citizens League and the Sierra Nevada Group, Sierra Club. He also held every office in the Nevada County Bar Association and presently serves as Member at Large of its Executive Committee. He has regularly been a presenter at the annual Nevada County Superior Court Family Law Update.

He is a former State Bar Trustees Vice-President and Chair of the Board Committee on Courts and Legislation as well as liaison to the California Judges Association Family Law Committee and the State Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee. He is an active member of the national Association of Family and Conciliation Courts as well as the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Mr. Bell was a member of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee for the Judicial Council of California, a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children and is an active volunteer member of Gold Country Kiwanis International service club. He regularly provides pro bono advice, information and representation to litigants without resources and community non-profit organizations. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mr. Bell was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia and he continues to be an active member of Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Associations. For more information, visit www.bellslaw.com

Martha Ertman

Martha Ertman has made a career out of combining things that most people think don't go together. On the personal front, she's one of three parents – all gay – raising one beloved boy. That boy lights Shabbat candles on Friday nights and attends church on Sundays because Martha's Unitarian and her wife is Jewish. As Carole & Hanan Sibel Research Professor at the University of Maryland Law School, she spends each school year teaching courses about contracts and commercial law and the summers on her front porch, writing academic articles

about the surprisingly prominent – and positive -- role that contracts play in family life. But her most ambitious effort is bringing all of these disparate elements together into a format meant to translate these truths for readers outside law school. Martha's book *Love's Promises: How Formal & Informal Contracts Shape All Kinds of Families* (Beacon Press 2015) starts with a memoir about finding family in her 40s with the help of both contracts and mini-contracts she calls "deals," then describes how all kinds of people also use agreements to cobble together families through reproductive technologies, adoption, cohabitation, and marriage. Written in an accessible, irreverent style that braids memoir with legal stories to show the heart of family contracts, *Love's Promises* provides both inspiration and a blueprint for people forming uncommon families.

A 12-minute video of Martha reading an excerpt of the memoir part of the book is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEnFoPgSBrU>.

Wendy E. Hartmann

<http://wehlaw.com>

Wendy E. Hartmann was born in Brooklyn, New York and received her B.S. in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Oswego. She received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of LaVerne College of Law and her LL.M in Taxation from Golden Gate University School of Law. Ms. Hartmann is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, United States District Court for the Central District of California, and the United States Tax Court. Ms. Hartmann is certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization as a Certified Specialist Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law, and has been selected for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015 as one of the top attorneys in Southern California.

Prior to receiving her J.D. and LL.M degrees, she practiced for more than twenty years in the areas of taxation, accounting, estate planning, business management and development, and human resources, as well as serving for several years as a Vice President at a nationwide human resource consulting firm. Ms. Hartmann now specializes in the areas of estate planning, trust administration, probate, taxation, adoption and family formation, with a large portion of her practice devoted to advising the LGBT community. She is a frequent lecturer in the areas of estate taxation as well as the evolving laws affecting the LGBT community.

Amira Hasenbush

Amira Hasenbush is the Jim Kepner Law and Policy Fellow at the Williams Institute, a research center housed at UCLA School of Law dedicated to conducting rigorous, independent research on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy. Her current work focuses on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, legal needs of people living with HIV and transgender parenting. Amira graduated second in her class from UCLA School of Law and holds an M.P.H. from UCLA School of Public Health. She has taught an undergraduate seminar on the intersection of individual constitutional rights and public health law, and she has interned at the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights and the New York State Office of the Attorney General's Environmental Protection Bureau.

Prior to her graduate studies, Amira worked as an asthma health educator in the Oakland Unified School District and spent nine months living in Israel. She intends to practice family formation law with a focus on LGBT families.

Frederick Hertz (Trip Co-Coordinator)

<http://www.frederickhertz.com> or <http://samesexlaw.com>

Frederick Hertz graduated from Berkeley Law School in 1981, clerked with the Minnesota Supreme Court, and subsequently received a Master's Degree in Urban Geography from the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Hertz currently practices real estate and non-traditional family law in Oakland, California, with a practice focusing on the formation of property co-ownership and premarital agreements and the resolution of property and financial disputes between families, spouses and domestic partners, business partners, friends, and unmarried couples, both same-sex and opposite-sex. He provides transaction and negotiation counsel and also serves as a mediator and arbitrator in these areas.

Mr. Hertz writes and speaks nationally on the laws affecting unmarried couples. He is the author of *Legal Affairs: Essential Advice for Same-Sex Couples* (Owl Books 1998), the co-author of two Nolo Press books: *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* and *Living Together: A Legal Guide for Unmarried Couples*, and author of the Nolo Press book *Making it Legal: A Guide to Same-Sex Marriage, Domestic Partnerships & Civil Unions*. He is also the author of the American Bar Association treatise *Counseling Unmarried Couples: A Guide to Effective Representation*.

Mr. Hertz has appeared as a panelist for the California Continuing Education, Rutter Group, The California CPA Foundation, California State Bar, and Bar Association of San Francisco and American Bar Association programs. He has also appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, the Today Show, All Things Considered, and Talk of the Nation, and is often quoted in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Advocate, and other national publications.

Laura Kessler

Laura Kessler is a professor of law at the University of Utah and teaches courses and seminars on family law, employment discrimination, civil procedure, and gender and the law. Her research focuses on the legal regulation of the family, sex, and work; she is particularly interested in the legal regulation of non-normative families and the law's role in gender-based economic inequality. Kessler's publications include a recent article about sterilization abuse titled *A Sordid Case: Stump v. Sparkman, Judicial Immunity, and the Other Side of Reproductive Rights* (forthcoming in the *Maryland Law Review*); *Transgressive Caregiving* (*Florida State Law Review*, 2005), which examines family caregiving as a form of political resistance; and *Community Parenting* (*Washington University Journal of Law and Public Policy*, 2007), which argues that the law should under certain circumstances recognize that a child has more than two legal parents. Recently, Kessler submitted an amicus brief on behalf of family law professors nationwide in support of plaintiffs-appellees in *Kitchen v. Herbert*, 755 F.3d 1193 (10th Cir. 2014), challenging the constitutionality of Utah's ban on same-sex marriage. Prior to joining the

Utah law faculty, Professor Kessler clerked for the Hon. Ronald L. Ellis in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, litigated class-action civil rights cases for the ACLU of Maryland, and served as a teaching fellow at Columbia Law School. Kessler lives in Salt Lake City with her husband, Matthew Weinstein, a long-time pro-Israel, pro-peace activist, and their 11-year old daughter, Rachel.

Linda M. Scaparotti

<http://www.scaplaw.com>

Attorney Linda M. Scaparotti has been practicing law in the San Francisco Bay Area for 34 years, specializing in estate planning and family law issues for same sex clients. She is dedicated to providing the legal information and documentation needed to protect our diverse relationships, families and resources. Attorney Scaparotti has worked with over 2000 couples and individuals, as well as writing and lecturing extensively on legal issues affecting LGBT people. Formerly, in her litigation practice, she developed and implemented the very first civil tort cause of action for sexual abuse. Additionally, Attorney Scaparotti donates over 500 hours a year to community organizations, and has fought tirelessly for the right of same sex couples to marry. Her board activities include: National Board of Directors, the Human Rights Campaign, including Chair, Political Action Committee; Brain Trust, National Center for Lesbian Rights; Education Committee, Horizons Foundation; Past Board of Directors, Equality California; Past Chair of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom; Past President of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers' Association; Past Board of Directors, Consumer Attorneys of California; Past Human Rights Commissioner, City of Oakland.

Debra Schoenberg

<http://www.sflg.com>

Debra Schoenberg's long and distinguished career has been exclusively dedicated to the practice of family law. More than 25 years ago, she established Schoenberg and Associates, a successful practice which evolved into the Schoenberg Family Law Group, P.C.. Her firm has gained vast experience and expertise in this highly sensitive and complex area of practice, and Ms. Schoenberg has established a professional reputation for thoroughness, strategic thinking, keen attention to detail, loyalty, and dedication to client service.

Today Ms. Schoenberg handles cases that range from complex financial issues and extensive marital estates, to high-conflict custody matters. Adept at negotiating resolutions as well as aggressively pursuing litigated outcomes, she also handles straightforward family law cases, pre- and post-marital agreements, and marital settlements. Ms. Schoenberg has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to fairness and equity, and because of her vast experience she is able to capture the perfect balance of compassionate sensitivity, and the aggressive assertion of a client's rights.

Long recognized as a leading family law attorney, Ms. Schoenberg is a frequent lecturer in family law. In recognition of her work she was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a Board Certified Family Law Trial Specialist by the National Board

of Trial Advocacy. She is also a Certified Family Law Specialist by the State of California Board of Legal Specialization. As the result of an extensive and confidential review by members of the Bar, she has been repeatedly listed in the Directory of Super Lawyers. The San Francisco Business Times named Debra Schoenberg to their 2013 and 2014 lists of 100 Top Women Owned Businesses and their 2014 list of the 100 Fastest-Growing Private Companies in the Bay Area. Additionally, Ms. Schoenberg was selected by peer recognition and professional achievement as one of the Top Women Attorneys in Northern California. The firm has also been repeatedly selected as one of the top three family law firms in the Bay Area. Ms. Schoenberg is a member of the California, New York, and Vermont Bar Associations. She is the author of a book entitled "Divorce in California."

Elizabeth F. Schwartz (Trip Co-Coordinator)

<http://www.sobelaw.com>

Elizabeth Schwartz has been practicing law since 1997 and is one of Miami's best known advocates for the legal rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. While her South Beach-based firm equally works with straight and gay clients in matters of family law, estate planning and probate, she has made a name for herself representing the LGBT community, with a focus on family formation (adoption, insemination, surrogacy). Elizabeth is a fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and serves as an adoption intermediary helping make forever families of all kinds. In addition, Elizabeth is a fellow of the American Academy of Assisted Reproduction Attorneys, assisting intended parents, gestational carriers and egg and sperm donors with their legal needs. Also a certified family mediator and a member of the Collaborative Family Law Institute, she treats the law as a therapeutic profession, facilitating relationship dissolution with minimal investment of emotional and financial resources.

Elizabeth is currently serving as pro bono counsel on the pending case challenging Florida's marriage ban brought by NCLR (the National Center for Lesbian Rights) on behalf of six same-sex couples seeking the right to marry and the Equality Florida Institute (Pareto v. Ruvin). She also served as pro bono counsel in several cases that helped overturn Florida's bigoted 1977 ban forbidding gays and lesbians from adopting children.

A Miami Beach native, Elizabeth received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993 and her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the University of Miami in 1997.

Elizabeth serves on the national board of SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders). She is a member of the National Family Law Advisory Council of NCLR, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. An active member of her synagogue, Temple Israel of Greater Miami, Elizabeth serves on their Narot Endowment Fund board. Elizabeth is also a founding member of the Aqua Foundation for Women, raising money by and for South Florida's lesbian community.

A lefty and a Scorpio, Elizabeth lives with her wife, journalist Lydia Martin, in downtown Miami's urban core.

Cheryl Sena

<http://senafamilylaw.com>

Cheryl Sena is a Family Law Specialist, Certified by The State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. She assists her same sex and opposite sex clients during the difficult process of dissolving their marriages, registered domestic partnerships and/or non-marital relationships. She approaches each case with the sensitivity needed to navigate through the process which can include child custody, child and spousal/partner support and property issues. While not adverse to litigation, she prefers to work in alternative dispute resolution modalities. She is a member of the San Francisco Collaborative Law Group and active in formulating new approaches and ideas that can best serve her large LGBT client base. She is also trained as a mediator and has served as a private judge.

Ms. Sena grew up in a Jewish household in Brooklyn, New York, the older of 2 children. Her mother and father worked in the garment district. She attended James Madison High School, graduating in 1967 then went to Brooklyn College for a year and a half. She was greatly influenced by the anti-war movement, became an activist, dropped out of college and participated in “movement work”. At some point she attended UCLA then dropped out again to be a more effective community organizer, working in the feminist and gay movements. She attended Richmond College, a part of CUNY that was specifically designed for students that had completed 2 years and were politically active. She graduated from Richmond College in 1974 with a B.A. in film and theater and was invited to participate in a commune outside of Ithaca, New York. She remained there for several years before relocating to a cottage down the road. She worked at Cornell University in the communication arts department. While at a photography workshop, she met an attorney doing “movement work” and decided that she wanted to do the same.

Ms. Sena graduated from Hastings College of Law in 1984 and was admitted to the State Bar of California in December 1984. She worked for a small firm doing women’s health litigation before beginning her law partnership with Carole Cullum. She began her own practice in January 2007 as “Sena Family Law”.

In addition to her legal expertise, she is an avid dancer, photographer, scuba diver and world traveler. She is also the co-mother of a 23 year old adopted Native American daughter. Ms. Sena, her daughter, Cole the dog and Ginger the cat reside in San Francisco, CA.

Susan Silber

<http://www.sp-law.com/>

Susan Silber has dedicated her legal career of over 30 years to advancing the rights of all families, with a focus on same-sex families. Susan founded the law firm of Silber, Perlman, Sigman & Tilev, PA, located in Takoma Park, Maryland. The firm represents clients in Maryland, DC, and Virginia. Susan represents clients in employment law and all aspects of family law, including guardianships, adoptions, separation agreements, divorce, custody, dissolutions and prenuptial agreements. She uses collaborative and mediation as well as traditional approaches. Susan has assisted hundreds of people to cooperatively form their

families (e.g., sperm donor agreements, surrogacy, second parent adoptions, living together contracts, powers of attorney, medical directives, and parenting agreements).

Susan is a member of the National Family Law Advisory Council of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and a past president of the Maryland LGBT Bar Association.

Susan frequently has been recognized by her peers: “Superlawyer” for Maryland and the District of Columbia, Lifetime Achievement Award from GAYLAW, and national recognition by Children of Lesbian and Gays (COLAGE). She also is active in Bet Mishpachah, an LGBT synagogue.

Susan is also the city attorney for two Maryland municipalities and is past-president of the Maryland Municipal Attorneys Association.

Susan attended State University of New York University at Buffalo Law School (1976) and the University of Michigan, B.A. (1971).

Susan has two adult children – Danielle (31 years old, lives in NYC, works for International Rescue Committee) and Avi (26 years old, a high school biology and chemistry teacher in Montgomery County, Maryland), who have two Moms and four gay Dads.

Bill Singer

<http://www.singerfedun.com>

Bill Singer, a New Jersey attorney for 42 years, concentrates his practice on the creation and protection of non-traditional families. Bill founded and directs the LGBT Family Law Institute (FLI), a network of attorneys from the U.S. and abroad, who specialize in LGBT family law.

The National LGBT Bar Association named Bill as the inaugural winner of its Leading Practitioner Award in 2013. Bill has also received the Bill of Rights Award from the American Civil Liberties Union – New Jersey, the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Presidential Award from the New Jersey Association for Justice, Inc. In 2014, Bill was named an “Angel in Adoption” by the U.S. Congress. That same year, he was named a SuperLawyer by New Jersey Superlawyers Magazine.

He received a degree in history with distinction from Rutgers College and his Juris Doctorate degree from the Columbia University School of Law.

Bill is exceedingly happily married to Raoul Daniel Luna. They have a daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

Charlie Spiegel

<http://www.charlesspiegellaw.com>

Charlie Spiegel's San Francisco practice includes divorce and custody mediation, adoption and real estate matters. Charlie served as Co-Chair of the National Board of Lambda Legal, and was a founding Executive Director of Our Family, the bay area's LGBT family organization. He also served on the Board of Directors for KidsTurn and Collaborative Practice California. Charlie has had 20 years of wide experience in real estate since graduating New York University School of Law with honors. He received a Fammy award from San Francisco's Jewish Family & Children's Services in 2009 for his advocacy for families. He has lived and raised his family in the SF Bay Area since just before the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.