

# WALZER MELCHER<sub>LLP</sub>

eNews & Updates: Spring 2016

CALIFORNIA FAMILY LAW SPECIALISTS

>>> Call: 818.591.3700

## FIRM NEWS

### ■ Tracking Social Media in Divorce & Child Custody Cases

Evidence acquired from a witness' social media can make or break a family law case. Our firm uses X1Social Discovery™ investigative software to track and collect potentially relevant information from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

■ **Peter M. Walzer** authored at letter on behalf of the Southern California chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers to State Senator John Moorlach in support of legislation to revise the California Family Code relating to the date of separation. This legislation abrogates the holding in *Marriage of Davis* (2015) 61 Cal.4th 846 which holds that to be separated the parties must live "separate and apart" which in most cases means living in separate households. Peter and Chris serve on the Chapter's "Davis" committee. They have been working on this legislation to address the Davis the decision.

## FIRM ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ **Chris Melcher** will be teaching at the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 2nd Annual Family Law Trial Basics Seminar, The Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel (Costa Mesa) on April 15, 2016. Chris, Peter, Leena, Jennie, and Steve will lead a "hands-on" break-out sessions at the Loyola Law School "courtroom" on April 23, 2016. To apply, please immediately email Chapter administrator, Ann Murray, at [annwmurray@msn.com](mailto:annwmurray@msn.com). The applications process will close in midMarch.

■ **Walzer Melcher** is pleased to announce **Edward M. Lyman** recently joined the firm. Ed is a graduate of the University of Florida, Levin College of Law, and the University of Miami. He brings extensive experience in civil litigation to the practice of family law.

■ **Walzer Melcher** associate **Ed Lyman** will be attending the 2016 American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Institute for Family Law Associates on June 21, 2016.

■ **Jennifer M. Riemer** was recently appointed to the ABA Family Law Section CLE committee, and attended her first planning meeting in January. She also serves on the ABA Editorial Board for the Family Advocate, and chairs the Child Support Committee for the ABA Family Law Section. Jennie recently joined the Executive Committee for the International Law Section of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. She continues to serve on the Family Law Executive Committee for the Beverly Hills Bar.

■ **Walzer Melcher** associate **Steve Yoda** will be attending the National Family Law Trial Institute on May 21, 2016.



Peter M. Walzer



Steven K. Yoda



Leena S. Hingnikar



Jennifer M. Riemer



Edward M. Lyman



Christopher C. Melcher

## — Meet Our Attorneys: Then & Now —



FROM LEFT: Peter M. Walzer, Steve Yoda, Leena Hingnikar, Jennifer Riemer, Ed Lyman and Chris Melcher

## CELEBRITIES IN THE NEWS

### Yolanda Foster Officially Files for Divorce from David Foster

[http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/01/12/yolanda-foster-files-divorce-david-foster?adid=TMZ\\_Search\\_Results](http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/01/12/yolanda-foster-files-divorce-david-foster?adid=TMZ_Search_Results)

### Mariah & James Oops... Neither of Us are Divorced

[http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/01/23/mariah-carey-james-packer-not-divorced-nick-cannon?adid=TMZ\\_Search\\_Results](http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/01/23/mariah-carey-james-packer-not-divorced-nick-cannon?adid=TMZ_Search_Results)

### Hilary Duff, Mike Comrie: Divorce Final... Rich Property Split

[http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/02/02/hilary-duff-mike-comrie-divorce-final-property?adid=TMZ\\_Search\\_Results](http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/02/02/hilary-duff-mike-comrie-divorce-final-property?adid=TMZ_Search_Results)

### Hilary Duff, Mike Comrie... Divorced, But Still Good Parents

[http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/02/05/hilary-duff-mike-comrie-divorced-son-hawaii-photo?adid=TMZ\\_Search\\_Results](http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/02/05/hilary-duff-mike-comrie-divorced-son-hawaii-photo?adid=TMZ_Search_Results)

### Ciara Sues Future: Calling Me a Bad Mom Will Cost You \$15M!

<http://www.t TMZ.com/2016/02/08/ciara-sues-future-defamation-slander/>

## — EXCLUSIVELY FAMILY LAW —

*The Los Angeles divorce firm of WALZER MELCHER LLP is committed to resolving cases by settlement. When that cannot be achieved, we provide strong and effective representation in court. We limit our practice to divorce cases in Los Angeles County or Ventura County trial courts, the preparation of premarital agreements and postmarital agreements under California law, and appeals of family law cases in the state. We are experts in the law, know how to handle a case efficiently, and care about our clients.*

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5941 Variel Avenue ■ Woodland Hills, CA 91367 ■ 818.591.3700 ■ [www.walzermelcher.com](http://www.walzermelcher.com)

## SEMINARS

### ✓ February 17, 2016

*Securing Fees with a Family Law Attorney's Real Property Lien*  
Leena S. Hingnikar & Jennifer M. Riemer  
Continuing Education of the Bar Livestream

### ✓ February 25, 2016

*Walking in the Footsteps of International Shoe;  
Jurisdiction in Family Law Cases*  
Jennifer M. Riemer  
Los Angeles Paralegal Association—  
San Fernando & Family Law Sections

### ✓ April 1, 2016

*Don't Worry, It's Only Temporary*  
Christopher C. Melcher & Drew Hunt, CPA  
ACFLS Spring Seminar | Rancho Mirage, CA

### ✓ April 15, 2016

*Second Annual Family Law Trial Basics Seminar*  
Christopher C. Melcher (LA Chair), Saul Gelbart (OC Chair),  
Sandra Mayberry (SD Chair), Garrett Dailey (Moderator),  
Justice Sheila Sonenshine (Ret.), Jim Schaefer, CPA,  
Emily Edelman & Greg Herring (Dean)  
AAML Southern California | Costa Mesa, CA

### ✓ April 22, 2016

*Crossover Issues In Estate Planning & Family Law*  
Peter M. Walzer & Eric Tokuyama  
State Bar of California—Trust & Estates Section  
Spring Education Conference | Costa Mesa, CA

### ✓ April 23, 2016

*Second Annual Family Law Trial Basics Seminar—Mock Trial*  
Christopher C. Melcher, Peter M. Walzer,  
Leena S. Hingnikar, Steve Yoda, and others  
AAML Southern California | Los Angeles, CA

### ✓ April 26, 2016

*Bias: The Enemy of Persuasion*  
Christopher C. Melcher  
ACFLS Bay Area Chapter | Oakland, CA

### ✓ June 1, 2016

*Anatomy of a Marital Agreement—  
Premarital and Postmarital Agreements Dissected*  
Peter M. Walzer  
Sonoma County Bar Association  
Fountaingrove Inn, 101 Fountain Grove Pkwy | Santa Rosa, CA

### ✓ June 4, 2016

*Date of Separation Strategy After Marriage of Davis*  
Peter M. Walzer & Wendy Lascher  
Signing On The Dotted Line  
Southwestern University School of Law | Los Angeles, CA

### ✓ June 13, 2016

*Family Law Taxes Made Easy*  
Christopher C. Melcher & Hon. Lon F. Hurwitz  
ACFLS Orange County Chapter | Costa Mesa, CA

### ✓ July 15-16, 2016

*Family Law Advanced Series—Expert Witnesses*  
Christopher C. Melcher  
Sonoma County Bar Association | Sonoma, CA

### ✓ October 21, 2016

*Move A-Ways*  
Christopher C. Melcher  
Sacramento Bar Association | Sacramento, CA

## PRO BONO LOW BONO

■ **IN APPELLATE NEWS**, **Chris Melcher** and **Steve Yoda** have been working on an appeal on behalf of a retired U.S. Navy veteran, which they hope might eventually be heard by the United States Supreme Court. The appeal relates to the division of Combat Related Special Compensation (“CRSC”), a special form of federal disability pay to veterans suffering from combat-related injuries, and touches upon complicated issues of federalism. The appeal will be heard before the 3rd Appellate District of the California Court of Appeal and arises out of Sacramento County.

■ **IN PRO BONO NEWS**, **Peter Walzer** and **Steve Yoda** have been assisting Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Los Angeles (“AAAJ-LA”), the nation’s largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans, with the defense of a marriage annulment case. In that case, the heirs of decedent husband maintain that his marriage in China to Chinese wife was fraudulent and therefore void. Wife maintains the marriage was valid, and Peter and Steve have been supporting her defense.



**Walzer Melcher Gives Back**—This month our firm had the pleasure of sponsoring “A Gift From the Cosmos” a food and clothing drive for Los Angeles homeless on Skid Row.



Walzer Melcher partner and associates take a break from the Southern California Chapter of the Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Trial Advocacy Institute on January 15, 2016, to perform at Plush Karaoke. <http://www.plushkaraoke.com>



— Notice —

The information in this newsletter is published to inform our clients and friends about current issues of importance in the field of family law. This newsletter does not contain legal advice. This communication is an advertisement as defined by *The Rules of Professional Conduct* and *California Business & Professions Code*. The attorneys at WALZER MELCHER LLP are licensed to practice in the State of California only. This communication does not create an attorney-client relationship.

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