

Meet Our Attorneys

ANNABEL MURRAY



is an experienced child advocate who has been licensed as an attorney in Hawaii since 1993. Annabel's practice focused on the representation of abused and neglected children until 1997, when she helped to create and manage Na Keiki Law Center, a project of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. Annabel's goal is to help parents overcome conflict in order to minimize the trauma their children experience during divorce and separation.

STACY FUKUHARA-BARCLAY



has been a licensed attorney since 1997. Though she started in corporate law, she soon transitioned to child advocacy. She is an experienced Guardian Ad Litem, Custody Evaluator, Consultant, and Mediator. Stacy's goal is to help parents and caregivers minimize conflict so that they can focus on their children's best interest. She believes that most parents want to act in their children's best interest and will do so if given the information and support.

Benefits of a Best Interest Facilitator

PEACE. Our goal is child-centered conflict resolution. It is undisputed that children benefit immensely when parents can cooperate and communicate effectively.

CHILD-CENTERED. All facilitators are trained child advocates and focus on the children's best interest. Parents' attorneys are concerned with parents' rights. We are concerned with the children's well-being.

COST-EFFECTIVE. Instead of each side having to retain their own attorneys, custody evaluator, experts and mediator, parents share in the cost of many of our services. Parents can use their extra savings to pay for their children's education, a home, or a vacation.

FASTER. The courts are crowded. A contested custody case could take over a year before trial. Facilitated custody settlements usually take far less time. Parents should be spending the extra time with their children, pursuing other interests, or just taking care of themselves.

HEALTHY. Parents learn to work through problems. At the same time, their children will learn through the parents' actions how to overcome conflict and challenges.

NEW BEGINNINGS. Once the break up is resolved, parents will have fresh new energy and closure so they can focus on their career, education, relationships, hobbies, and a social life.



A Family Law Center Focusing on the Needs of Hawaii's Children



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We believe that parental conflict is hard on children and parents. We also believe that most divorcing and separating parents want to make decisions that are in their children's best interests: They do not want to fight indefinitely over the custody of their children, nor do they want to spend thousands of dollars on Family Court litigation. They just need advice and support in making the best decisions possible for their children.

THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, LLLC is a law firm that focuses on the legal and best interest needs of children in Hawaii.

The founding attorneys, Annabel Murray and Stacy Fukuhara-Barclay have a combined total of over 30 years of experience as child advocates, custody evaluators, mediators and in family court. Sadly, we've witnessed the devastating and long term effects Family Court litigation has on children. We know that most of these parents had good intentions and given the choice, many would have chosen child-centered alternatives, which not only yield better outcomes for children, but are much more cost-effective and faster than traditional litigation. In 2005, we opened CLC to work with these such families.

CLC works on cases that involve children, including custody, paternity, abuse, guardianships, adoptions, and conservatorships. The vast majority of our cases are custody disputes. In those cases, we work with divorcing and separating parents to provide on-going support from a "best interest of the child" perspective. We work with parents to create a child centered co-parenting plan, facilitate the implementation of the plan, and "fine tune" the plan to insure the plan is working for each family member.

Our Services

CLC works on cases that involve children, including custody, paternity, abuse, guardianships, adoptions, child support and conservatorships. We represent both adults and children.

Best Interest Facilitator

A Best Interest Facilitator works with parents to create a custody arrangement that focuses on their children's best interests. We help parents stay focused on the present and future by collaborating with the family to work through disagreements and create a custody plan that meets their children's unique needs and circumstances.

Child Custody Consultant

A Child Custody Consultant is a member of one parent's legal team who works with the parent and his/her attorney to create and advocate for a child-centered custody arrangement in such a way that a custody evaluator or judge would understand and appreciate.

Parenting Coordinator

A Parenting Coordinator works with parents to implement the terms of the decree or paternity order and to close up any "loopholes" that have created problems. PC's help parents resolve conflict as it occurs in the co-parenting relationship to prevent small issues (for example, pick-ups and drop-offs, extra-curricular activities, educational) from snowballing into major conflicts. Issues are resolved quickly and inexpensively.

Custody Evaluator

Custody Evaluators are appointed by the court to investigate and make recommendations regarding custody/visitation arrangements that are in the best interests of children involved in custody disputes.

Guardian Ad Litem

GAL's are appointed by the court to represent and advocate for the best interests of the children and are appropriate in cases where there is on-going high conflict litigation that includes significant medical, educational and/or mental health issues affecting the children.

Attorneys for Older Children

Attorneys represent the legal interests of older children when the court or the parties believe that the children have an independent legal position that should be advocated to the court.

Attorneys for Adults

Sometimes litigation is unavoidable. We represent parents or other caregivers in guardianships, adoptions, conservatorships, paternity, custody and child support.