

Professional Experience

2007 - present **Private Practice – Legal Advisor**

Providing consulting services to business owners with planning and management; providing strategic advice to attorneys regarding their litigation; counseling individuals on how to successfully deal with their legal problems.

1987 - present **Spectrum Institute A Los Angeles, CA**

Executive Director of this nonprofit corporation. Have supervised staff, interns, and volunteers on educational projects, policy studies, and court cases promoting respect for human diversity, including the projects noted below.

2012 - present *Disability and Guardianship Project*

Focuses on systemic reforms to guardianship proceedings, especially the right to access to justice under the Americans with Disabilities Act, including having a properly trained attorney who adheres to ADA-compliant performance standards. Legal director of this project.

1995 - present *Disability and Abuse Project*

Focuses on abuse of people with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Seeks to reduce such abuse, improve system response, and seek justice for victims. Legal consultant to this project.

2005 - 2006 *Emancipation Project*

Focused on protecting the rights of juveniles confined in private residential facilities. Promoted government regulation of businesses which abduct and transport minors and government regulation of so-called "therapeutic boarding schools," which purport to provide educational and therapeutic services.

1999 - 2009 *Unmarried America*

Focused on the legal, political, and economic, needs of 100 million unmarried workers, consumers, and taxpayers. Sought to end marital status discrimination in the workplace, marketplace, and public policies.

1987 - 1999 *Family Diversity Project*

Promoted corporate and government use of broad and inclusive definitions of family. Worked with media to in order to gain support for changes in public policies and corporate practices to end discrimination on the basis of marital status and family structure.

1974 - 1999 **Law Office of Thomas F. Coleman**

Represented defendants in several trials and dozens of appeals. Lobbied administrative agencies to implement legal reforms. Provided consulting services for public policy studies initiated by officials in California.

Education

Juris Doctor Loyola University of Los Angeles, School of Law • Cum Laude • 1973
 Detroit College of Law • top student in first year class • 1970

Bachelor of Arts Wayne State University • Monteith College • Detroit, Michigan • 1970

Abilities and Skills

Government Affairs

Lengthy track record of successfully working with administrative agencies, executive officials, and legislators at the federal, state, and local levels of government. Achieved goals and objectives through letters, memos, policy reports, private meetings, and public presentations.

Media Relations

Have developed excellent skills in dealing with print and broadcast media to reach intended audiences for the purpose of gaining support for specific goals. Planned, conducted, and participated in several press conferences. Have appeared on live national television programs and on many live radio shows. Have worked successfully with journalists and reporters, having been quoted in hundreds of magazine and newspaper stories.

Writing and Editing

Have decades of experience in using and developing my writing skills. Have written letters, memos, legal briefs, newspaper commentaries, law review articles, executive orders, proclamations, and public policy reports. Have written a weekly column for a website blog. Have been the publisher and editor of a legal periodical and the editor of an association's newsletter. Have also created, edited, and updated websites.

Appellate Litigation

Have represented clients in successful litigation in the United States Supreme Court and state supreme courts in Alaska, California, Georgia, Michigan, and New York. Have also represented dozens of clients in the California Court of Appeal.

Volunteer Coordinator

Coordinated the activities of dozens of volunteers in several projects. The Personal Privacy Commission involved 25 commissioners and 50 public hearing witnesses. The Family Diversity Task Force involved 37 members, 12 interns, and 40 witnesses. Some 20 members, seven interns, and 20 witnesses participated in the Consumer Task Force on Marital Status Discrimination.

Nonprofit Sector

Directed the staff and volunteers of Spectrum Institute and its projects from 1987 to 2014. Have also worked closely and cooperatively with dozens of other nonprofit educational and advocacy organizations.

Special Projects

2000 - 2001 *Stop the Stigma Campaign*

Directed the activities of this campaign sponsored by the American Association for Single People. The goal was to have legislators repeal laws that referred to children born to unmarried parents as “bastards” or “illegitimate children” and to have judges stop using similar terms. The project did outreach to judicial associations, attorneys general, and legislators. Laws were reformed in Delaware, Illinois, and Maine. The heads of various judges associations responded favorably and shared our information with their members.

1993 - 1994 *Insurance Commissioner's Anti-Discrimination Task Force*

Served as a member of this 30-member Task Force which was convened by the Insurance Commissioner of California. Chaired the Marital Status Discrimination Workgroup. Author of its Final Report

1989 - 1990 *Consumer Task Force on Marital Status Discrimination*

Served as Chairperson of this 12-member Task Force which was convened by the City Attorney of Los Angeles. Conducted hearings and issued a report recommending ways in which government and businesses could end marital status discrimination against unmarried consumers in housing, credit, discounts, and other business transactions. Author of its Final Report.

1987 - 1989 *Joint Select Task Force on the Changing Family*

Served as a member of this 20-member Task Force which was convened by the California Legislature. Chaired the Couples Workgroup. Conducted hearings and issued a variety of reports recommending legislation to improve the quality of life for California families, regardless of their structures or regardless of the marital status and sexual orientation of the adults who headed up the state's households. Author of the Report of the Couples Workgroup.

1986 - 1988 *Los Angeles City Task Force on Family Diversity*

Served as Primary Consultant to this 38-member Task Force which was convened by the Los Angeles City Council. Conducted hearings and extensive research to determine how the city could improve the quality of life for the diverse and varied families of its constituents. Author of its Final Report.

1985 - 1989 *University of Southern California Law Center*

Taught the first law school class in the nation focusing on the rights of domestic partners. Dozens of students took the class and also served as interns for the Task Force on Family Diversity, the Task Force on the Changing Family, and the Consumer Task Force on Marital Status Discrimination.

1983 - 1989 *Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence*

Served as a member of this 16-member Commission which was convened by the Attorney General of California. Conducted hearings and issued a variety of reports on how hate crimes and other forms of bias-related violence could be reduced.

1981 - 1982 *California Commission on Personal Privacy*

Served as Executive Director of this 25-member Commission which was convened by the Governor and Legislature of California. Conducted public hearings and issued a report recommending ways in which the state could better protect the personal privacy rights of its residents. Author of its Final Report.