

Marlis Bruns, M.A., ABVE-D

Stevenson and Bruns
Vocational Consultants
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Education

MA, Counseling Psychology, with honors, Golden Gate University, 2002
BA, California State University, Chico, 1993
Certificate, Collaborative Law, Collaborative Legal Practice Institute, 2002
Assessment Approaches in Career Development, John F. Kennedy University, Summer 2003

Professional Experience

Vocational Evaluator
Stevenson and Bruns
2001 — Present

Marlis evaluates individuals for the purpose of assessing future employability and wage earning capacity in conformity with California Family Code, Section 4320. She has qualified and testified as a court expert in Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano and Sacramento Counties as well as out-of-state jurisdictions. She is qualified to administer and interpret vocational test instruments and has performed in-depth research and statistical analysis for re-entry and professional workers in numerous industries, including information technology, education, social services, architecture/ engineering, graphic and fine arts, medical sciences, and professional services. She is knowledgeable about availability, duration and costs associated with the training and rehabilitation programs in the Bay Area.

Marlis conducts diagnostic interviews to understand an individual's background, education and work experience. She interprets vocational test results to identify transferable work skills, aptitudes, values and interests and has experience reporting conclusions supported by documented data, primary and secondary research, including minimum qualifications, earnings averages, and, when applicable, timeframe estimates to reach stated objectives.

Corporate and Non-Profit Experience

Marlis has nine years of experience in management and staff positions in the corporate and non-profit sectors. Her job functions included recruitment, fundraising, marketing, training, business development and control of annual budgets exceeding 1.2 million. Marlis applies her knowledge of work culture, hiring practices, and interviewing strategies to help individuals identify a broad selection of career options and make realistic career choices.

Associations and Affiliations

American Board of Vocational Experts, Diplomat
Bay Area Vocational Experts, Founding Member and Co-author: *Vocational Evaluation: Standards of Practice in California Law*
National Career Development Association
California Career Development Association
Alameda County Bar Association, Family Law Section
Contra Costa County Bar Association, Family Law Section

Presentations

American Board of Vocational Experts, Panel Member, 2003

Topic: Practice Management Techniques in a Marital Dissolution Case

Bar Association of San Francisco/ Family Law Section, Speaker, 2003

Topic: The Use and Misuse of Vocational Evaluations in a Spousal Support Motion

Contra Costa County Bar Association/ Family Law Section, Speaker, 2004

Topic: How to Use a Vocational Evaluation in a Down Economy

American Board of Vocational Experts, Moderator/ Speaker, 2004

Topic: Vocational Evaluation: Standards of Practice in California Family Law

Collaborative Law Association of Contra Costa County, Speaker, 2005

Topic: Overview of the Vocational Evaluation Process in a Collaborative Dissolution

Contra Costa County Bar Association/ Family Law Section, Speaker, 2005

Topic: Identifying and Dealing with Bias in a Vocational Evaluation

American Board of Vocational Experts, Speaker, 2005

Topic: Marketing your Forensic Practice

Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, 2007

Topic: Best Practices: Effective Advocacy with a Vocational Evaluation

Alameda County Family Lawyers Association, 2007

Topic: An Overview of a More Effective — and Trackable — Seek Work Order

American Board of Vocational Experts, 2007

Topic: Interactive Report Writing for Different Forensic Venues

State Bar of California Section Education Institute, 2009

Topic: Imputing Income for Spousal and Child Support Motions

Public Radio Segment: KALW Your Legal Rights, hosted by Chuck Finney, 2009

Topic: "Manimony"

Contra Costa County Bar Association Family Law Section/ Mentoring and Networking Group, 2010

Topic: An Overview of Vocational Evaluations in Marital Dissolution

Contra Costa County Bar Association Family Law Section, 2011

Co-presenter with Commissioner James Libbey

Topic: Unemployed Parties and Seek Work Orders

American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers Mentoring Group, 2012

Topic: Vocational Evaluations and Family Law: An Overview

Contra Costa County Bar Association Family Law Section, 2012

Co-presenter with Commissioner Josanna Berkow

Topic: The Impact of the Current Labor Market on Vocational Evaluations

Contra Costa County Bar Association Family Law Section, 2013

Topic: Seek Work Orders and Other Vocational Evaluation Issues

California State Bar Association Webinar Presenter, 2013

Topic: Rising to the Challenge: Earning Capacity Assessment in Today's Job Market

San Mateo County Bar Association, 2013

Topic: The Realities and Practicalities of the Current Economy and Vocational Evaluations

Marlis Bruns, Vocational Evaluator

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California State Bar Association Co-Presenter, 2013

Topic: Imputing Income for Child and Spousal Support in Today's Job Market

Alameda County Bar Association Family Law Section, 2014

Co-presenter with Judge Alice Vilardi

Topic: The Impact of the Current Labor Market on Imputing Income and Seeking Work

American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers, Contra Costa County, 2015

Presenter – Mentoring Group

Topic: Overview of Vocational Evaluations

American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers, 40th Annual Northern California Symposium, 2016

Presenter with Alexandra Mussallem, Attorney, and Marjorie Slabach, Family Law Judge (Retired)

Topic: Three Perspectives on the Imputation of Income

American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers, San Mateo County, 2016

Presenter - Mentoring Group

Topic: Introduction to Vocational Evaluations and the Assessment of Earning Capacity

Association of Certified Family Law Specialists, Contra Costa County, 2018

Presenter with Joseph H. Wolch, Esq. and Commissioner Glen Oleon (Retired)

Topic: Understanding and Exploring Aspects of Income Imputation

American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers, 2019

Presenter-Mentoring Group

Topic: Overview of the Vocational Evaluation Process

Contra Costa County Bar Association Family Law Section, 2020

Topic: Coronavirus & Earning Capacity: Vocational Evaluations in the Covid-19 Marketplace

Alameda County Bar Association Family Law Section, 2022

Topic: BIAS is a Four-letter Word

San Mateo County Bar Association Family Law Section, 2022

Topic: BIAS is a Four-letter Word

California Lawyers Association Family Law Section, 2022

Facts and Fallacies: A Look at the Post-Covid Job Market

Contra Costa Bar Association Family Law Section, 2022

Facts and Fallacies: A Look at the Post-Covid Job Market

American Bar Association Family Law Spring CLE Conference, 2023

Topic: Tips and Tricks for Winning a Maintenance Case in the Post-Covid Era