

About the Authors

GARY C. SEISER

Gary C. Seiser is one of California's leading authorities on juvenile dependency law and practice. He was certified in 2006 as a Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) in the first group of California attorneys certified as CWLS by the National Association of Counsel for Children, which is accredited by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization. In 2010 he received the L. Michael Clark Civility and Professionalism Award from the County Counsels' Association of California, Child Welfare Study Section: *"For exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism and civility in advocating for social workers, social services agencies, children, and families at the trial, appellate, and legislative levels."* An experienced trial and appellate attorney, he has more than sixty-five published appellate decisions. Mr. Seiser's writing in this treatise has been cited by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the California Supreme Court, and numerous California appellate courts. His published work also includes articles for the American Bar Association Child Law Practice and a chapter in *The Handbook of Juvenile Forensic Psychology* (Jossey-Bass, 2002). A former Commissioner of the Riverside County Superior Court assigned to the Juvenile Court and a former prosecutor, Mr. Seiser also served as a member of the SB 1195 Task Force, which rewrote much of California's dependency law through Senate Bill 243 [Stats. 1987, ch. 1485]. Mr. Seiser has served as a consultant on the Judicial Benchguides for dependency hearings published by the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER). He has also served as faculty for CJER, the California Judges Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the ABA Center on Children and the Law, and the National Association of Counsel for Children. After working for 28 years in the dependency system, in 2012 he retired as a supervising deputy with the Juvenile Dependency Division of the San Diego County Office of County Counsel.

HON. KURT KUMLI

Kurt Kumli was a California Superior Court Judge for the County of Santa Clara until his passing in 2014, the county's Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, a former Commissioner on the State Commission on Juvenile Justice, and an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law. He was a juvenile law curriculum advisor for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) and served as one of CJER's primary faculty members for all matters relating to juvenile law and policy. He was instrumental in creating specialized delinquency courts for drug offenders, family violence and restorative justice, was the co-creator of the country's first juvenile mental health court, and implemented Santa Clara's juvenile deferred entry of judgment (DEJ) process, which now accounts for nearly 30% of all first-time court referrals in that county. A nationally recognized expert on juvenile law and policy, Judge Kumli taught delinquency law and policy classes throughout the United States. The National Institute of Justice chose Judge Kumli as a recipient of a John B. Pickett Fellowship at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government for Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program. Judge Kumli had been a member of the California Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, an advisory board member for the Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice, the Juvenile Law Chair for the Task Force for Criminal Justice Collaboration on Mental Health Issues, and a faculty member and technical advisor for the California District Attorney's Association where he chaired its Juvenile Justice Committee. He published numerous articles on gang prosecution, juvenile justice reform, juvenile mental health court and California's adult court certification (Fitness) process.