

Claudia Silbar Named Judicial Officer of the Year

Orange County, Calif.--Judge Claudia Silbar has been named Judicial Officer of the Year by the Southern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) for her outstanding contributions to the field of family law - both locally and statewide, according to attorney Peter Walzer, spokesperson for the group.

In 1962, the AAML was founded by a small group of nationally-known matrimonial lawyers to improve the practice of law and the administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law. Today, the Academy is recognized as the pre-eminent family law association in America with more than 1,500 Fellows. The Southern California organization is comprised of the area's top 90 matrimonial attorneys.

Judge Silbar received her *juris doctorate* from the University Of Louisville School Of Law in 1984. Previous to joining the Orange County District Attorney's office, she served as Jefferson County's Assistant Commonwealth Attorney, as a trial attorney for the Commodities Future Trading Commission, and as an Assistant United States Attorney for the United States Attorney Office.

In the Orange County District Attorney's Office, Judge Silbar supervised the Gang Unit in addition to lending her expertise to the Homicide Unit and the Sexual Assault Unit. In 2007, Judge Silbar was named Orange County Judge of the Year.

"Judge Silbar has earned the respect of both bench and bar for her commitment to family law. She responds favorably to the demands of a difficult calendar and works hard to know and apply the law," noted Walzer. "A former deputy district attorney with significant trial experience, Judge Silbar maintains high standards for lawyers and expects them to be prepared on substantive law, evidence, presentation and tactics. She has lectured many times to the family law section of the Orange County Bar and has participated in the AAML Institute. She is highly regarded by her peers and the lawyers who appear in court." Last year's recipient of the award was Judge Francisco Firmat for Orange County.