



Vanessa Soto Nellis

Shareholder

Contact

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Practice Groups

- Family Law
- Divorce or Dissolution of Marriage
- Modifications of Spousal and Child Support
- Restraining Orders
- Visitation and Custody
- Cohabitation Agreements and Litigation
- Family Law Mediation
- Paternity
- Same Sex Relationships
- Division of Property
- Grandparents' Rights
- Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements
- Spousal and Child Support

Biography

Vanessa Soto Nellis is a Certified Specialist in Family Law as designated by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, the Chair of our Family Law Practice Group, and a Shareholder at our firm.

She prides herself on bringing “calm to crisis” in family law matters, by focusing clients on the big picture, even in high conflict divorce and child custody situations.

Representing individuals in all aspects of family law in Southern California, Ms. Nellis counsels and litigates for Firm clients in dissolution (or divorce) matters, spousal support, child support, visitation rights, cohabitation, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and other family law matters.

Ms. Nellis represents:

- Business Owners in a variety of industries

- Corporate Executives earning complex benefits or compensation packages
- Doctors and other Health Care Professionals
- Entertainment Industry Artists and Executives
- Financial Planners & Accountants
- Professional Athletes
- Real Estate Professionals

As a divorce and family law attorney, Ms. Nellis' experience encompasses all aspects of marriage dissolutions, including: division of assets, complex tax situations, modifications to child custody and visitation agreements, and mediated divorces.

Ms. Nellis educates clients as to the various aspects of family law that affect their cases, whether those aspects involve negotiating prenuptial or postnuptial agreements, the ramifications of a spouse's refusal to cooperate, or the potential for financial and emotional well-being when engaging in family law mediation.

She believes it is important to educate professionals from different industries on family law matters since there are so many misconceptions. For this reason, Ms. Nellis and a colleague formed a networking group aimed at bringing professionals from different industries together to educate one another.

Ms. Nellis was designated one of the *Best Lawyers in America* in Family Law in 2024 by *Best Lawyers Magazine*, and a *Southern California Super Lawyer* (2018-present) and *Rising Star* (2007-12 and 2015-17) by *Super Lawyers Magazine*. The publication also named her one of Southern California's *Up-and-Coming 50 Women Attorneys*, as well as one of the *Up-and-Coming 100*.

Before practicing family law in California, Ms. Nellis received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2000, graduating *Cum Laude*. She earned her law degree in 2003 at the University of Southern California Law School.

Ms. Nellis is a member of the State Bar of California, San Fernando Valley Bar Association (SFVBA), SFVBA Family Law Executive Committee, Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the Ventura County Bar Association. She co-founded *Women To Women*, a professional network here in Los Angeles.

Publications & Speaking

- Co-Author: [Stress-free Holidays: A Primer for Attorneys and Their Clients](#) - Valley Lawyer,

December 2017

- Quoted, [Expert Witnesses: Who They Are and How to Vet Them](#) - Valley Lawyer, August 2017
- Author, [Cookie Cutter Forms: Why Online Divorce Services Just Won't Cut It](#) - Lawyers.com, June 2012
- Co-Author [Family Law Mediation: Achieving Wellness in an Uncertain Economy](#) - Valley Lawyer, January 2010
- Author, [A 'No-Fault' State Beats the Blame Game](#) - The Signal, Santa Clarita Valley, March 2009
- Co-Author, [Before Second Marriage, Know All This](#) - San Fernando Valley Business Journal, June 2005

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

- Co-Presenter: [Your Business: Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation](#) - Lewitt Hackman MCLE accredited Seminar Series, September, 2017
- Co-Presenter: [Smooth Sailing or Rough Seas? Successfully Navigating the Legal and Financial Waters of a Subsequent Marriage](#) - Lewitt Hackman MCLE accredited Seminar Series, 2014
- Co-Presenter: [Marriage, Divorce & Cohabitation: Common Misconceptions](#) - MCLE accredited Seminar Series, July 2012
- Co-Presenter: [Family Law: The Impact on Your Business](#) - MCLE accredited Seminar Series, 2011
- Co-Presenter: [Immigration Generally and its Impact on Employment and Family Law](#) - MCLE accredited Seminar Series, 2008
- *Woman to Woman: Everything You Wanted to Know About Prenuptial Agreements But Never Asked* - W2W Professional Networking, March 2008
- *All You Want to Know About Prenuptial, Postnuptial, and Co-Habitation Agreements* - MCLE accredited Seminar Series, May 2007
- *Family Law Fundamentals* - MCLE accredited Seminar Series, February 2006

Memberships

- State Bar of California
- San Fernando Valley Bar Association
 - SFVBA Family Law Executive Committee

- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Ventura County Bar Association
- [Women to Women Professional Network](#)

Awards

- **Best Lawyers: Family Law** by *Best Lawyers Magazine*, 2024
- **AV Rating 5.0 Preeminent**, by Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review (Highest rating awarded by peers of the bar and judiciary for legal ability and ethics)
- **Southern California Super Lawyer**, *Super Lawyers Magazine*
- **Rising Stars: Up-and-Coming 100 / Up-and-Coming 50 Women of Southern California**, *Super Lawyers Magazine*
- **Southern California Rising Star**, *Super Lawyers Magazine*
- **Top Women Attorneys in Southern California**, *Los Angeles Magazine*
- **Top Attorneys**, *Pasadena Magazine*
- **Top Female Attorneys in Southern California**, *Los Angeles Magazine*
- **2020 Leaders in Law** Nominee, *Los Angeles Business Journal*

Education

University of Southern California Law School

- Juris Doctor (2003)
- Public Interest Law Foundation Grant
- Los Angeles County Bar Association Pro Bono Award

University of California, Los Angeles Bachelor of Arts, Psychology (2000)

- *Cum Laude* graduate
- Dean's List