

## SARAH M. NISSEL

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW  
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### EMPLOYMENT

- Pepperdine University School of Law** Malibu, CA  
*Director*, Faith & Family Law Mediation Clinic, Adjunct Professor of Law, August 2018 to present
- Jewish Divorce Assistance Center of Los Angeles** Los Angeles, CA  
*Executive Director*, January 2015 – Present  
Provide live resources to clients navigating dual civil and Jewish divorce processes; mediate all aspects of complex divorce agreements, including multiple custody arrangements; conduct outreach to and educational workshops within numerous and varied Jewish communities across Los Angeles
- Bird, Marella, Boxer, Wolpert, Nessim, Dooks & Lincenberg, PC** Los Angeles, CA  
*Associate*, September 2011 – December 2015
- Center on the Administration of Criminal Law, NYU Law School** New York, NY  
*Associate*, October 2009 – September 2011
- Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand, Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C.** New York, NY  
*Associate*, October 2008 – September 2009, *Summer Associate*, Summer 2007

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### EDUCATION

- New York University School of Law** New York, NY  
*Juris Doctor*, May 2008  
Honors: Dean's Scholar  
Activities: United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, Legal Intern; Ramaz High School Mock Trial, Assistant Coach; Innocence Project, Legal Intern; The Honorable Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis, United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Legal Intern
- Yale University** New Haven, CT  
*B.A. Literature* (with distinction), May 2003  
Thesis: "Narrativizing the Wound: Psychoanalysis and Trauma in William Faulkner's *Absalom! Absalom!* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*"

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### PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- Orthodox Union Women's Initiative Lay Leadership Summit** Woodcliff Lake, NJ  
*Invited Speaker*, "The Chuppah [Jewish Wedding Canopy] as the Starting Line, Not the Finish Line," May 20, 2019
- The Frum Therapy Network of Los Angeles** Beverly Hills, CA  
*Speaker*, "The Benefits of Wraparound Services for Orthodox Jewish Divorcing Couples," June 14, 2015
- Young Israel of North Beverly Hills** Beverly Hills, CA  
*Speaker*, "Destigmatizing Jewish Divorce in the Face of Rising Jewish Divorce Rates," December 15, 2017
- Orthodox Union West Coast Conference** Los Angeles, CA  
*Speaker*, "Family Matters I" (Legal Division), December 08, 2016  
*Speaker*, "Family Matters II" (Women Lay Leadership Division), December 11, 2016
- Bereavement and Crisis Response** Beverly Hills, CA  
*Panelist*, "OHHEL Presents Rising from Divorce" (Panel Discussion with Dr. Norman Blumenthal), October 25, 2015
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**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

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**Pepperdine University School of Law**

**Malibu, CA**

**□ Faith & Family Mediation Clinic**

This Clinic's practice is at the intersection of California family law, interfaith and intercultural work, Jewish law and practice, and alternative dispute resolution and mediation. Using case law and clinical experience covering all aspects of negotiating and filing California state divorce settlement agreements, students learn to draft proposed settlement agreements and prepare and file divorce papers, including parenting arrangements, child support, asset division, spousal maintenance, and agreement clauses relating to religious practices. Students also learn how to effectuate Jewish divorce decrees and will observe Jewish divorce ceremonies in religious courts. Students observe and participate in real-life formal mediation under the supervision of the professor of the course.

**□ Divorce & Family Mediation**

This advanced course explores conflicts that arise in the context of families, with emphasis on negotiating and mediating issues surrounding marital separation and divorce. Relevant emotional concerns, such as feelings of betrayal and loss, are examined, along with techniques for addressing them. Special considerations surrounding high conflict families, domestic violence, spousal or child abuse, and “move-aways”, as well as ethical issues related to power differentials, court-mandated mediation, collaborative law and mediator certification, are also covered.

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**CHARITABLE  
ACTIVITIES**

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**Board Member, Chai Lifeline**

**Board Member, Maimonides Academy**

**Volunteer, Tomchei Shabbos**

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**FELLOWSHIPS,  
GRANTS, AND  
AWARDS**

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**Cutting Edge Grant Recipient, Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, August 2019 - 2022**

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**PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERSHIPS**

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**State Bar of California**

**State Bar of New York**

**District Court for the Southern District of New York**

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**LANGUAGES**

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**English (native); Spanish (fluent); Hebrew (conversational fluency)**

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