

DEBORAH DENTLER

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510 S. Marengo Ave.
Pasadena
California 91101

1998 – present **Private legal practice & non-profit consulting**

- Specializing in appointed and private appeals for parents, caregivers and children in the Second, First, and Sixth Districts of California Court of Appeal; part-time solo practice in areas of foster care adoption, kinship caregiver/foster parent advising, law & motion, writ proceedings in juvenile dependency-related cases. Admitted to practice in all California courts (state and federal).
- Grant-writer/consultant for non-profit educational, labor & governmental organizations. Representative clients: ChildSHARE; Armenian Educational Foundation; SEIU (Homecare); Desi Geestman Foundation; Board of Regents of Prelacy Armenian Schools; Neighborhood Legal Services (naturalized citizenship education project); One Stop Immigration Center.
- Co-founder & board member, Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting, Inc. (“LAPP”) (2003-2005)
LAPP, a non-profit headquartered in San Mateo, CA, was the brainchild of Deborah Dentler and Regina Deihl (formerly staff attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts), both of whom were foster and adoptive parents. LAPP was instrumental in the enactment of new state statutes pertaining to foster care and adoption, and in the provision of legal information for foster families.

1991–2007 **Teaching & Presenting**

- Adjunct instructor of social science, American history, gender courses, and community volunteerism courses, Glendale Community College (1991-99).
- Adjunct professor, Glendale University College of Law (1990) course taught: Administrative Law.
- Trainer/presenter at numerous training programs and conferences for foster parents and social workers, including: Co-presenter, annual conferences of North American Council for Adoptable Children (2009, 2013); Inner Circle Foster Family Agency (Van Nuys); Delta College (Stockton); Grossmont College (San Diego); North American Council on Adoptable Children (Minn. 2004); ChildSHARE, Inc.’s adoption parent support group program (2007).

1986-1989 **Senior Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles** (responsible for supervising two staff attorneys and one paralegal; specialized in slum housing litigation and housing code enforcement-related legal cases.)

1985 **Director of Impact Litigation, Bet Tzedek Legal Services (Los Angeles)**

1980-1984 **Private practice of law (business & tort litigation) (Los Angeles)**

Education

J.D., U.C.L.A. School of Law (1979)

Master of Liberal Arts in history, Boston University (1976)

Bachelor of Arts, history Boston University (1974) (magna cum laude)

Civic and Professional Activities

- KIND (Kids In Need of Defense) Pro bono volunteer, representing refugee immigrant children in Los Angeles asylum, guardianship and immigration proceedings in Los Angeles (2016 to present)
- KidSave “Weekend Miracles Los Angeles” program (volunteer) (2015 to present)
- Board member (past), Glendale Building & Fire Board of Appeals
- Member of the Board of Directors, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California representing City of Los Angeles (2002-2006). Record of leadership in areas of public stewardship, water education, water conservation, and environmental protection.
- Commissioner and two-term Chair, City of Glendale Historic Preservation Commission. (2nd term ended Aug. 2006)
- Legislative advocacy and bill drafting experience: AB1242 (“Human Right to Water”), sponsored by UULM and passed both houses of the CA legislature in 2009, vetoed by the governor. Drafted & proposed Senate Bill 591, “Caregiver Information Act,” carried by State Senator Jack Scott. The bill amended Welfare & Institutions Code provisions pertaining to rights of caregivers, and improved foster parents’ and pre-adoptive families’ access to information and to the courts. In 2003-5, also Dentler helped draft and co-sponsor other bills in the area of foster parenting and adoption, including SB 358 and SB 218, both signed into law in 2005.
- Voter Protection volunteer attorney, Nevada 2012 & 2008 Change to Win (Obama Campaign); Out-of-State Travel Coordinator, CA 2008 (Obama for America); graduate of “Camp Obama” Los Angeles Aug. 2008).
- Volunteer Settlement Officer, and Judge Pro Tem, Glendale Superior Court (1999-2001); Volunteer attorney, Barrister’s Domestic Violence Project (1997-98).
- Recipient of Commendation for “Outstanding Contributions to Delivery of Pro Bono Legal Services” from State Bar Board of Governors (1989).

Memberships and Affiliations (partial list): Citizens Climate Change Lobby (Pasadena Chapter); Co-Founder, Coalition for a Better Glendale (anti-gunshow advocacy group, 2014); Sandy Hook Promise (member); Former Executive Board Member, California Appellate Defense Counsel (elected 2008); member, State Bar of California; Member, California Permanency Project for Youth’s Child Welfare/ Courts Partnership Workgroup; Awardee, AdoptUSKids Adoption Support Mini-Grantee (2004); co-founder (1991) of City of Glendale’s first non-profit foundation to raise private funds for a public elementary school (Glenoaks Elementary School Foundation); past vice-president, Glendale American Association of University Women; past president and

vice-president, Glendale Historical Society; “Measure K” (school bond) volunteer, Glendale; delegate, 1996 Democratic National Convention (Chicago).

Personal: Married to Anthony Segall, General Counsel to Writer’s Guild of America and partner in the Pasadena law firm of Rothner Segall & Greenstone. They live in Pasadena CA (Los Angeles County) and Carpinteria CA (Santa Barbara County) and have three adult children: Jordan Dentler Segall (associate, Munger Tolles & Olsen and joint PhD Sociology /JD candidate, Stanford U. and former law clerk, 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals); Lucas Dentler Segall (composer/sound designer, Brooklyn NY); Samantha Segall, adopted from foster care at age 13. Daughter-in-law Alexis Casillas is an attorney specializing in advocacy for families of special needs children. Deborah’s father, Robert A. Dentler (deceased), was a leading urban sociologist who served as court-appointed expert appointed by the federal court in Boston to assist with desegregation of public schools, and also an amateur poet. Deborah established and sustains the Dentler Poetry Prize at Northwestern University (IL) in his honor.