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In the unlikely event that a family lawyer somewhere in the English-speaking world yearns to become a collaborative lawyer *but is entirely unable to attend a training*, the book to buy is *Collaborative Family Law: Another Way to Resolve Family Disputes*, by Richard W. Shields, Judith P. Ryan, and Victoria L. Smith. This is a very ambitious book. It would be no exaggeration to say that the authors aim in one 326-page volume to cover the entire range of knowledge relevant to collaborative family law theory and practice that was available to us at the end of 2003. And they do a pretty good job of achieving that aim. Inevitably, some subjects are covered in depth, while others receive only brief mention, but on the whole, if you have never attended a training in mediation, collaborative law or collaborative divorce, and want to get a good sense of the universe of learning that needs to be mastered before you can regard yourself as a skilled collaborative practitioner, this book will do it. Or, if you have a colleague who just doesn't "get it" about collaborative practice, you could make a gift of this book, accompanied by the suggestion that your friend pay particular attention to the carefully laid out comparisons of "the adversarial way" and "the collaborative way" of handling each stage of a divorce representation that appear throughout the first half of the book.

More experienced practitioners, too, will find this volume valuable, both as a reference tool and as a source of practical tips from three very seasoned and thoughtful collaborative lawyers. This is not a book for casual skimming or light reading, however. It is densely reasoned, carefully phrased, and thorough. Many readers may want to take it a chapter at a time, reading at a measured pace and taking time to think about and absorb the mass of material offered on each subject. Other strategies for accessing the wealth of information in this volume include browsing the excellent index, and checking out the key point outlines that are presented in sidebar format at the end of each chapter.

The authors are three family law attorneys from Ontario, Canada who have come to collaborative family law from a strong background in mediation. Additionally, Rick Shields (who will soon add a Ph.D. in adult education to his M.A. in conflict resolution and his L.L.M. degree in alternate dispute resolution) brings to the volume an informed perspective about pedagogy that makes the material particularly well organized and accessible in structure, while Judith Ryan brings the perspective of dual qualifications as both a lawyer and a social worker. While no book, this one included, can substitute for a good, hands-on experiential training, this book can offer something of value to practitioners at every level. The authors have done a particularly good job of integrating their substantial collective knowledge about effective family law mediation techniques into a "how to do it" format geared specifically for collaborative legal practice. This one belongs on every shelf.

Pauline H. Tesler practices family law in Mill Valley and San Francisco, California, where she has been a state-certified specialist in family law since 1984. A graduate of Harvard University and the University of Wisconsin Law School and fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, she has been a pioneer in speaking, writing and training about Collaborative Practice in the United States, Canada and Europe. She is a founder of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals and co-editor of this publication. Ms. Tesler speaks frequently about Collaborative Practice and trains and mentors lawyers in how to achieve the "paradigm shift" involved in effective collaborative legal practice. Her book Collaborative Law, Achieving Effective Resolution in Divorce without Litigation has been published by the American Bar Association.