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Main Line Family Law Center at Forefront of Making Divorce Healthier

Event Provides Forum to Remove Shame, Blame and Fear Associated with Divorce

November 15th, 2016, Blue Bell, PA - Main Line Family Law Center, a divorce mediation firm devoted to helping clients separate or divorce without retaining their own lawyers or going to court, partnered with several firms and community organizations in the region to hold the first-ever [Make Divorce Healthier Symposium](#). Held at Normandy Farm Conference Center, the sold-out event attracted over 130 professionals to collaborate around shifting divorce culture and making the divorce process more respectful, mindful and affordable for all involved. The event was organized by Professionals Committed to Respectful Divorce, a meetup group founded by Main Line Family Law Center in 2013.

Sharon Pastore, co-founder of Main Line Family Law Center, served as chair and originally conceived of the event. "After 3 years of informal breakfast meetups, our members felt that it was time to bring more professionals from the region into the conversation," she says. "We needed to build on the success of our bi-monthly meetups, and move our grassroots effort to a larger scale."

Dialogue centered primarily around the need to reduce the number of cases that end up litigating in court as well as how to support the growing number of couples attempting to save time and money by going through the process without retaining lawyers. The mediation process was consistently discussed as one of the best solutions in these situations.

"Times have changed, but divorce laws are lagging behind. Clients are more savvy and empowered buyers, and they can get a lot of information online," says Pastore. "Problem is, combine that with celebrity divorce war stories in the media, and the process for divorce remains hugely confusing. Not only that, but more and more, both spouses are involved in handling the finances and raising children."

In spite of the DIY mentality of the day, Pastore asserts that people must still place enormous amount of trust in professionals for guidance. "It is our responsibility to do everything we can, individually and collectively, to offer better information, less expensive options, and build our own networks and bridges of support to help those experiencing divorce."

A platinum sponsor, Main Line Family Law Center also played a vital role in the Symposium program:

Cris Pastore, co-founder and managing attorney-mediator, co-led the breakout session, "What are my Rights and Entitlements? Powerful Ways to Shift Mindsets in Divorce" with therapist Shelby Riley, LMFT, and long-standing board member of [Pennsylvania Association for Marriage and Family Therapists](#).

"I was so glad that this important community event was so well attended and enjoyed by the participants," says Pastore. "We have received nothing but rave reviews thus far. I was so proud that our firm could have such a prominent role in its success, and we are already looking forward to the next one."


Sandi Sherr, the Center's parenting mediator, also led a roundtable discussion on how to tell the kids, in conjunction with one of the Center's [Divorce Support Network's therapists, Larry Schwab](#).

"As a parenting mediator, my focus is the welfare of children," says Sherr. "The turnout and enthusiastic reception of the diverse crowd at today's event showed me that healthy divorce is on lots of people's minds. The symposium also evidenced the growing community of like-minded divorce professionals who individually and together will be difference makers."

Lenore Myers, the Center's other mediator and also a custody conciliator for Montgomery County Family Court, adds, "Clearly the number and enthusiasm of those that came to the event show that people are definitely looking to do divorce in a healthier way."

Both Pastore and Sherr served on the Symposium's program committee.

Other program highlights featured keynote speaker Dr. William J. Doherty, educator, researcher, therapist and founder of the [Discernment Counseling](#) methodology, The conference also featured breakout sessions, round table discussions, networking and a speaker panel comprised of divorce industry experts, such as Judge Kelly Wall of Montgomery County, and the founder of collaborative law model, Stu Webb.

About Main Line Family Law Center - Founded in 2011 by husband and wife team, Cris and Sharon Pastore, [Main Line Family Law Center](#) has assisted hundreds of couples to achieve a healthy, fair divorce without having to retain lawyers or appear in court. Using the My Healthy Divorce  Mediation process and a divorce support network of vetted professionals, their mission

is to enable any spouse to mediate, if they choose. The Center serves the Main Line and Philadelphia area.