

Focusing on Collaborative Practitioners*

These People are Making a Difference

The editors of The Collaborative Roadmap recognize the following five Collaborative professionals who received the most nominations in our recent search to find those who are making a difference in collaborative law in their communities in 2009. Five individuals from Texas were chosen. All five are CLI-TX members and have been nominated by their peers as “Exceptional Collaborative Practitioners” and individuals who are making a

difference in his or her Collaborative Law community.



Carla M. Calabrese has been nominated by her Dallas-area peers for her commitment to the Collaborative process. Her colleagues report that she not only “talks the talk, but she walks

the walk!” She is continually brainstorming to create new ideas, tips and hints to streamline the work with her collaborative teammates. Often, she will offer a suggestion which many people throughout North Texas (and North America-since these ideas are shared in trainings) now utilize.

Carla has given many, many hours of her time to create forms for use in the Collaborative process. People in other states and countries are often “amazed” at the detail and usability of these forms, compared to what might be used in their area. She is, and has been, one of the innovators and leaders in her local practice group often suggesting a new idea to increase the skills of her colleagues as collaborative professionals, or, suggesting a skilled trainer to bring in to educate the group. In addition, she has worked tirelessly on marketing for the group (and the collaborative process as a whole) and she was instrumental in creating an effective practice group website.

Carla has also served on the Protocols Committee of the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas. The committee,

compromised of lawyers, co-authored the protocols now used by Texas lawyers when practicing Collaborative law.

Carla M. Calabrese is a shareholder in Dallas family law firm Calabrese Huff, PC (calabresehuff.com) and serves clients in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, and Denton counties. Her practice is devoted exclusively to family law, specifically adoption and Collaborative Law. Carla has been an advocate for Collaborative Law since January 2000, when she first learned of the process.

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