16th Annual Rex Sater Award Luncheon

The Rex Sater Award for Excellence in Family Law is given each year to an individual or group who has contributed to improving the practice of family law in Sonoma County. The plaque commemorating this award states: “Judge Sater’s legacy to Sonoma County is his belief that people hold the answers to their family conflict locked in their own hearts…. The ‘System’s’ primary duty should be to help those people find their own answers....”

John E. Johnson

In 1997, after a 4 year tour with the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, which was followed by 10 years of civil litigation, John turned his attention to family law. Since then, he has become one of the best-known family lawyers in the North Bay. John is more than a zealous advocate. He has been active in the Family Law section by chairing meetings and developing and presenting MCLE programs. More recently, John worked with Commissioner Bayles-Fightmaster to draft a comprehensive revision of the discovery, fiduciary duty and disclosure statutes as they relate to family law matters. That draft is presently under review by the State Bar’s Family law Executive Committee. While John’s background and expertise is as a litigator, he embodies the spirit of Judge Rex Sater by resolving virtually all of his cases in the early stages through mediation, thereby sparing his clients the expense and acrimony of the litigation process.

John is a member of the SCBA Board of Directors, an immediate past Chair of the Family Law Steering Committee, and has presented numerous MCLE educational programs to family law practitioners.