

## Mark E. Merin

Born and raised in Philadelphia; BA from Cornell University, 1965; J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, 1968; L.L.M. from New York University, 1970 (Urban and Poverty Law).

Private practice of civil rights law in Sacramento from 1975 to the present. During that time I have represented the Feminist Women's Health Centers to insure patient/clients have access to abortion services (controlling obstruction by protesters); represented victims of police and governmental misconduct; obtained the largest civil rights judgment for damages for wholesale violation of privacy rights of persons who were arrested on minor charges and routinely strip searched at the Sacramento County Jail; similar case brought and settled on behalf of juveniles strip searched, routinely, at the County juvenile facilities; represented county unions and individuals discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, sex, or because of expression of their political views; represented a class of homeless persons whose property was seized and discarded by Sacramento City and Sacramento County; one of the organizers and a member of the board of Safe Ground Sacramento seeking to establish self-governing communities of presently unsheltered homeless persons where they can address and resolve barriers to their successfully reentering productive society and obtaining permanent housing.

Married to Cathleen Williams (poet and civil rights attorney who is on the board of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee which publishes "Homeward" a street journal; father of Noah Merin (M.D. Ph.D from University of California at Davis, fellow in malignant hematology at USC) and Maia Merin (Ph.D. in history of Education from NYU, director of non-profit corporation focused on Executive Training for mid-career public school teachers).

2009 Sacramento County Distinguished Attorney of the Year; 2012 Homeless Justice Award from the Sacramento Housing Alliance.