



Two CLE webinars are coming up in February!
See below for more information

January 2012

Section News

Elect Leaders at the Family Law Annual Meeting

August 3-4, 2012

The Section of Family Law will meet August 3-4, 2012, in conjunction with the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. Section leadership elections will take place at the meeting.

Slated nominees are:
Officers: Scott Friedman (Chair-Elect); Lori Nelson (Vice Chair); Greg Ortiz (Secretary); Anita Ventrelli (Delegate).

Council:
Jean Crowe (At Large); Michael Mosberg (At Large); Karl Topor (At Large); Linda Ravdin (Region II); Henry DeWoskin (Region IV); Virginia Dugan (Region V); Allen Bailey (Region VI).

We will soon be posting brief bios and pictures of the nominees on our website and in *Family Advocate* so you can get to know them a bit better.

In the meantime, congratulations to our nominees, and thank you to our Nominating Committee (Maryann Foley, Christy Albano, William Balkun, Sandra Morgan Little, and Marshall Wolf) and all of the Section members who offered their nominations!

We know the Nominating Committee had a tough job selecting from the wealth of highly-qualified candidates, and we appreciate

CLE Calendar

Webinar February 15, 2012

Divorce and Tax Issues: Simple Answers to Complex Questions

Designed for all levels of family law practitioners, this program will look at real-life examples of the tax issues faced every day when dividing property or making a support/maintenance agreement.
[Register online now.](#)

Webinar February 29, 2012

Initial Client Interview in Family Law Matters

This program will present an in-depth analysis of the importance of the initial interview with a potential client and divorce attorney. Elevate your understanding of the initial interview and develop skills required for successful attorney/client representation!
[Register online now.](#)

SAVE THE DATES

April 18-21, 2012
Spring CLE Conference
Miami Beach, FL

Sand, sun, and CLE, plus an evening on a yacht!

Reserve your hotel room at the Eden Roc Renaissance by March 27, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time in order to qualify for the special discount rate of \$225/night (subject to availability). Call 1-800-319-5354 or (305) 531-0000.

[Register now](#)

Bookmark the [Spring Conference](#) website and check back often for updates.

May 2-4, 2012
[20-Hour Advanced Family](#)



Webinar Programs When You Want Them

What Do You Mean?

We know you can't always join us for our CLE webinars in real-time. Sometimes you're in trial, or sometimes you have other conflicts.

But now you can order the webinars you may have missed in a variety of ways! Purchase the program you missed as a cd-rom, an audio download, or as an on-demand, streaming online course.

What's In It For Me?

The opportunity to get the Family Law CLE you want, when you want it. For instance, if you missed our program on QDROs last fall, you can always order it from the ABA Web Store. It's Family Law CLE on **your** terms.

How Do I Order the Programs?

On the Family Law website, go to our Events & CLE

everyone's commitment of service to the Section and the practice of family law.

**Last Call for
CLE Proposals!
Deadline: February 3, 2012**

Have an idea for a great CLE program or know something every other family law attorney should be aware of? Heard a great speaker you think would wow your ABA Family Law colleagues? Submit a proposal for our CLE Committee's consideration! Programs will be considered for our Fall CLE Conference (October 10-13, 2012, Philadelphia, PA) and our Spring CLE Conference (April 17-20, 2013, Anchorage, AK).

We're also accepting proposals for our webinar series. These programs last approximately 90 minutes.

To submit your ideas, just fill out the appropriate form linked below and return it to us via facsimile at 312-988-6800 or via email by February 3, 2012.

[CLE Proposal Form](#)

[Webinar/Teleconference
Proposal Form](#)

**ABA Presidential
Appointments
Apply by March 1, 2012**

ABA President-Elect Laurel Bellows will be making approximately 600 appointments to standing committees, special committees, commissions, and other entities and initiatives. All ABA members are eligible for an appointment.

Note: All current ABA Special Committee and Commission members must "re up" to be considered for reappointment.

Please be sure to read the instructions before filling out the application.

For more information and to apply, visit the [Presidential Appointments](#)

[Mediation Training](#)
Boston, MA

July 14-21, 2012
[26th Annual Family Law Trial
Advocacy Institute \(TAI\)](#)
Boulder, CO

August 3-4, 2012
ABA Family Law Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL

October 10-13, 2012
Fall CLE Conference
Four Seasons
Philadelphia, PA

April 17-20, 2013
Spring CLE Conference
Captain Cook
Anchorage, AK

More information about these conferences will be available soon; be sure to clear your calendar so you can join us!

Stay up-to-date on CLE offerings with our [CLE Calendar](#).

Unable to attend a teleconference or a Section CLE conference? Not to worry, you can learn on your own time when you purchase the CLE materials.
[See a listing of available CLE materials.](#)

Best of the ESQ List

This month's column features questions and answers concerning: UCCJEA and Attorneys' Fees; UCCJEA Loss of Jurisdiction; Subpoena to Child to Appear in Parents' Divorce Action; and Cell Phone "Cloning."

[Read the January issue.](#)

Did you know?

ESQ is cited as one of the top member benefits of the Section of Family Law and is the third most heavily trafficked of all the ABA discussion lists. Get referrals, ask questions, [sign up now!](#) (Please note that the ESQ list is only for our lawyer members.)

Are you one of our members from outside the U.S.? Let us help you get on the ESQ list! If you're one of our members from Canada, Mexico, England, etc., and you're not currently on ESQ, please let us know. Send an email to [Hilary Glazer](#) and be sure to include your member ID.

AICPA Corner

page, then click on "Past Event Info & Materials" (or just use the handy direct link below). Scroll down the page until you see "Webinars" -- then just click on the link for the program you want.

You'll be taken to the page for the cd-rom in the ABA Web Store, but if you want to purchase it in other formats, just click on the appropriate icon. Simple as that!

Recent programs include:

*Handling the Media in a Family Law Matter

*Mission Impossible: How to Obtain Discovery from Gambling Establishments

*Top 10 QDRO Mistakes Experienced Lawyers Make

*Boilerplate Language in Settlement Agreements

For the full list, click on the link below.

[Past Event Info & Materials](#)

Editor

Hilary Glazer
hilary.glazer@americanbar.org
Please send proposals for future content submissions to the editor.

Contact Information

Section of Family Law
321 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654
Tel: 312-988-5145
Fax: 312-988-6800
familylaw@americanbar.org

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website.

Please send a note to familylaw@americanbar.org to let us know that you've applied, as we might be able to put in a good word for you!

**Submit Nominations:
Sharon Corbitt Award**

**Deadline:
March 30, 2012**

The ABA Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence created the Sharon Corbitt Award in 2008 to recognize exceptional service and leadership in improving the legal response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking. Nominees may be lawyers from any area of practice, including non-profit, private firm, government, corporate counsel, and the judiciary, in the spirit of Sharon Corbitt.

Sharon L. Corbitt was an active member of the American Bar Association for 25 years, serving as a member of the Commission on Domestic Violence from 2002 to 2005 after serving as Chair of the Family Law Section. In honor of her exemplary professional and personal contributions to victims of domestic violence throughout her career, this award will recognize an attorney each year who embodies her spirit and dedication.

Any person familiar with the achievements of a candidate may submit a nomination. The Commission urges nominators to choose only one candidate a year. No self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, March 30, 2012.

[More information](#)

[Download Nomination Form](#)

**Registration Opens for
Spring CLE Conference**

**A column by members of the AICPA's
Forensic and Valuation Services
Section**

This month's column is by Jerome Johnson, CPA/ABV/CFF, CVA.

**Read this month's AICPA Corner:
[Do I Need a Financial Expert?](#) (You will need to log in to the ABA website.)**

Special Resource

**Listen to Recordings of Special
Webinars from the Battered Women's
Justice Project**

The Battered Women's Justice Project is a nationally-recognized partnership and collaboration between the programs of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (formerly Minnesota Program Development, Inc.) and the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women.

On January 31, 2012, a webinar called "Resources for Advocates and Attorneys Working with Military-Related Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence" will take place. This webinar is part of the launch of the Military-Related Legal Technical Assistance Project to assist attorneys and advocates working on civil legal cases involving military-related (active duty military, National Guard and Reserve personnel, veterans, and family members) survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV).

Although registration for this program is now closed, you can listen to the recording of it approximately one week later. The BWJP website contains links to recordings of other webinars you may find useful.

[BWJP Webinar Recordings](#)

Tech Tips

**Schedule Meetings Without the
Headache**

Everyone has experienced the meeting-planning headache at least once. You try to set up a meeting with a group of colleagues or friends, and pretty soon emails are bouncing left and right with proposed dates and time, none of which works for the whole group.

links:

[Update your profile](#) or
[Unsubscribe](#).

If you prefer, call us at
800-285-2221 or write to:
**American Bar Association
Service Center
321 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60654**

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**Early-Bird Deadline:
March 9, 2012**

Winter is here, which means it's time for you to start planning your trip to Miami Beach for the Family Law Spring CLE Conference this April 18-21 at the Eden Roc Renaissance Hotel!

Plenty of plenary and one-hour CLE sessions will hold your attention each morning, while our receptions and social activities will help you unwind in the evenings. A preliminary schedule is posted on the conference website so you can start thinking about how you'll spend your time. More information is in the middle column.

[Register today!](#)

[Conference website](#)

Take Your Practice to the Next Level!

**Enroll in the
20-Hour Advanced Family
Mediation Training**

**May 2-4, 2012
Boston, MA**

"Breaking Impasse and Breaking Through Barriers in Mediation" will provide you with an in-depth look at the mediation process while examining the various reasons impasse occurs (economic, emotional, cultural, psychological, etc.) to reaching agreement.

This program is designed for mediators and attorneys, but would also benefit divorce coaches, financial professionals and those with a therapy background that work with couples or families.

This is a joint program of the ABA Section of Family Law and Boston Law Collaborative, LLC, and is co-sponsored by the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution.

Space is limited; [learn more and enroll today!](#)

Next time, save yourself the hassle by using a free, easy online meeting management tool like [MeetingWizard](#) or [Doodle](#).

With these tools, you propose a variety of possible meeting times and send them out to a group of contacts. The recipients mark the days and times when they're available, and then you compare the final results to set your meeting time. No downloads, no pricetags, no headaches!

—Joshua Poje, [ABA Legal Technology Resource Center](#)

Get More! Looking for more quick technology tips for your practice? Visit our [Tech Training library](#) with more than 50 training videos available exclusively for ABA members.

Law Student Corner

**Schwab Essay Contest:
Call for Entries**

Show us you've got the "write" stuff by entering the Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest!

Just pick a topic in the field of family law, get about 5,000 words down, and you're done. (That's about 25 double-spaced, typewritten pages including footnotes. Don't go overboard; we disqualify entries over 28 pages.) Also, only one submission per author is eligible.

If you win, we'll tell your Dean, you'll likely be published in *Family Law Quarterly* (and on the Family Law website), and you'll get a nifty certificate, too.

This contest is open to all law students, not just those who are Section of Family Law members, so feel free to spread the word and mention it at your study group. The more entrants we have, the better you can feel about winning.

Law school professors, please mention this to your students! Maybe one of them will make you proud!

More information about the contest--rules, eligibility, etc.--is available at the [Schwab website](#).

**Request your entry number by
April 27, 2012.**

Deadline for entries: May 4, 2012

26th Annual Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute

July 14-21, 2012
Boulder, CO

Join us for our annual "boot camp" and emerge with heightened skills and confidence!

In light of last year's success, we have again partnered with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), the worldwide leader in advocacy skills training.

Whether you need to brush up on your skills or learn new techniques for success at trial, TAI is the course for you. Our intensive, fast-paced program provides you with years of trial experience, and you'll benefit from working one-on-one with members of our faculty.

The Institute is limited to no more than 48 participants; [secure your spot today!](#)

**To get the ABA Family Law member discount, be sure to use the code FAMILY.

Visit the [TAI website](#).

Don't Get Dropped!

There's just a little time left to pay your membership dues...

If you've already paid your Family Law membership dues, thank you very much, you'll continue receiving all of your membership benefits like *Family Advocate*, *Family Law Quarterly*, and *Case Update*, to name just a few.

You'll also be able to continue networking with your colleagues on ESQ and our other committee discussion lists. And you'll continue saving money on Family Law CLE programs and books, too.

Job Posting

Director, Honoring Families Initiative

[IAALS](#), the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver, is seeking a Director for its Honoring Families Initiative. IAALS is a national independent research center dedicated to continuous improvement of the process and culture of the legal system.

IAALS has four initiatives. The other three focus on selection and evaluation of judges; the civil justice process; and educating tomorrow's lawyers.

The Honoring Families Initiative seeks to advance empirically based models for court practices and procedures related to divorce and child custody matters that promote greater access, efficiency and fairness.

A successful applicant for this position must have deep experience with the system and national contacts, be collaborative, creative and a good project manager. The preferred credential is a law degree, although other graduate degrees relevant to the position might be acceptable. This job represents an extraordinary opportunity to rethink the way in which we deal with divorce and child custody proceedings in our legal system, and to participate in the development of new models that will be appropriately tested and improved over time. The person will need to live in Denver in order to become integrated into the full IAALS staff and mission.

[View Job Posting](#) (DU Website)

Volunteers Needed to Judge Law Student Competitions in 6 Cities

New Orleans, Atlanta, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

The ABA Law Student Division seeks licensed attorneys to serve as competition judges in February and March.

Negotiation Competition judges are needed for the National Finals February 3-4 in New Orleans. [Sign up to be a National Finals judge](#)

Moot Court Competition judges are needed for regional competitions at federal and state courthouses in

BUT...if you've found yourself thinking, "Oh, I can take care of that tomorrow," please know that you only have until the **end of February** to renew your membership. After that time, you'll no longer be considered a valued member of the Section of Family Law, and worse, you'll lose all the benefits of Family Law membership.

Fortunately, renewing your Family Law membership is simpler than ever! Either call the ABA Service Center at 1-800-285-2221 or [renew your membership online](#).

If you haven't had a moment to do so before now, or thought it could wait, time's running out. [Renew today](#).

Thank you for your membership in the ABA Section of Family Law!

Help Increase Our Family and Win Prizes!

ABA Rewards for Referrals

You can win an iPad® or iPod touch®, and more. Recruit new ABA lawyer members with a free trial ABA and Section membership and you can earn great prizes!

ABA Lawyers and Associates can register to participate at the [ABA Rewards for Referrals](#) website.

No purchase necessary. Submit entries no later than 5pm CST on 5/31/12. The iPad® and iPod touch® are registered trademarks of Apple, Inc. The contest is not endorsed by or affiliated with Apple, Inc.

Publications

The Military Divorce Handbook, 2nd Ed. (includes cd-rom)

Atlanta, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. Please [visit our website](#) for specific dates and details and to access the online form to sign up to be an oral argument judge.

Please contact [Peggy Pissarreck](#) if you have questions, and thank you for your help.

Project COPE Study

Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren Ages 4-12

Participants needed in:

- *Northeastern OH
- *Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
- *San Bernardino County, CA
- *Greater Baltimore/Washington D.C. area

This study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, compares different ways of helping grandmothers who are raising a grandchild between ages 4 to 12 in the total absence of the grandchild's birth parents.

Participation in this study will involve attending 10 weekly meetings with other grandmothers and a professional group leader at a safe and convenient location in the local community. Grandmothers will be assigned randomly to participate in one of three different programs that are designed to help grandmothers cope better with the role of raising a grandchild.

Participants will also be asked to complete a total of six assessments over a two-year period, where grandmothers will complete a brief interview and also complete a simple task with their grandchild that will be videotaped.

For more information about the study, or if you know of a grandmother who is willing to participate, call the toll-free number 855-260-2433 or email grandmothers@kent.edu.

[Download Brochure](#)

[Download Press Release](#)

Call for Papers

6th World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights

**March 17-20, 2013
Sydney, Australia**

Mark E. Sullivan



Product Code 5130184

Now completely revised and expanded, the new edition of *The Military Divorce Handbook* is a timely and much-needed addition to a family lawyer's library. Both comprehensive and practical, it covers all aspects of representing servicemembers and their spouses in divorce in an accessible, easy-to-use format.

Key chapters explain the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), military tax issues, and the important issue of dividing military retirement benefits. Also covered are the difficult and increasingly important issues of custody and domestic violence involving servicemembers.

[More information](#)

To order, call the ABA Service Center at 1-800-285-2221 and request Product Code 5130184 or purchase your copy [online](#).

[BUY NOW](#)

Submissions Due: March 1, 2012

The theme of the Congress is 'Building Bridges—From Principle to Reality.' Some of the topics covered will include:

- Better care of children
- Protecting the rights of indigenous and multicultural children and preserving their cultures
- Juvenile crime and justice
- Family Law issues
- Effect of family violence on children
- Education
- Expert analysis, evaluation and therapy

For more information on submitting your paper, or about the 6th World Congress in general, visit the links below.

[Call for Papers](#)

[6th World Congress Website](#)

ABA Ethics 20/20

Deadline for Comments: Late January 2012

Consistent with the ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20's promise to provide opportunities for input, it is publishing for comment the [Discussion Draft with Cover Memo](#) relating to Alternative Law Practice Structures.

The ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20 is also pleased to release for comment, along with a [Cover Memo](#) from Commission Co-Chairs Jamie S. Gorelick and Michael Traynor, a new [initial proposal](#), relating to choice of law and alternative law practice structures. Choice of law issues will exist whether or not the Commission ultimately decides to propose any modification to the current prohibition in Model Rule 5.4 on any form of alternative law practice structure.

The Commission has heard that lawyers and law firms would benefit from additional guidance in this regard, particularly given the proliferation of domestic and international cross-border practice and the fact that more countries where U.S. lawyers and law firms do business now permit alternative law practice structures (as does the District of Columbia).

Please note that, if the Commission decides to present any proposals on this subject to the ABA House of Delegates, it will not do so until February 2013.

Comments should be submitted to Senior Research Paralegal, Natalia Vera, natalia.vera@americanbar.org.

For more information, visit [ABA Ethics 20/20](#)

