

Contents

Dedication.....	v
About the Author	xvii
Acknowledgments	xix
Foreword.....	xxi
Preface	xxv
A Note about Primary Sources	xxvi
Chapter 1 Trial Process and Procedure.....	1
The Role of the Trial Judge in a Family Law Proceeding ...	1
Format of a Family Law Trial.....	3
Theories and Themes.....	4
Opening Statement.....	5
Direct Examination	6
Cross-Examination.....	7
Closing Argument	9
Ethical Considerations	10
Chapter 2 The Fundamentals of Evidence	13
What Is Evidence?	13
History of the Federal Rules of Evidence.....	14
Purpose of the Rules.....	15
Rules of Admissibility.....	16

Direct versus Circumstantial Evidence.....	17
Relevance	17
Reliability of the Evidence.....	18
Witness Testimony.....	18
Tangible Evidence (Exhibits)	19
Other Considerations of Admissibility: Hearsay.....	19
Privilege	20
Original Writing Rule.....	21
Objections to Evidence.....	21
Effective Use of Evidence.....	22
Planning.....	23
Use of a Proof Chart	25
Chapter 3 Relevance.....	27
Rule 401. Test for Relevant Evidence	27
Rule 104. Preliminary Questions.....	28
Circumstantial Evidence.....	31
Conditional Relevance of Circumstantial Evidence	33
Relevance of Background Information	34
The Relevancy-Balancing Test	34
Practice Points.....	35
Chapter 4 Evidence of Character and Habit	37
Rule 404. Character Evidence; Crimes or Other Acts	37
Character Evidence Defined	39
Methods of Proving Character	42
Admissibility of Habit Evidence	43
Practice Points.....	45
Chapter 5 Other Miscellaneous Relevancy Issues	47
Rule 408. Compromise Offers and Negotiations.....	47
Permissible Uses of Settlement Negotiations.....	51
Withdrawn Plea or Plea of No Contest.....	52

The Rape Shield Rule	53
Evidence of Sexual Misconduct in a Civil Proceeding.....	54
Practice Points.....	55
Chapter 6 Hearsay	57
Rule 801. Definitions That Apply to This Article;	
Exclusions from Hearsay.....	57
Rule 802. The Rule against Hearsay.....	59
Hearsay Defined.....	60
Nonverbal Communication as Hearsay.....	61
Who Is the Declarant?.....	62
Nonassertive Out-of-Court Statement	62
Prior Inconsistent Statement Made under Oath Is Not	
Hearsay.....	64
Prior Consistent Statement Admissible as Not Hearsay ...	64
Admissions of a Party Opponent.....	65
Judicial Admissions Distinguished from Evidentiary	
Admissions.....	67
Testimonial Admissions by a Party Opponent	68
Statement of Third Person Imputed to Party.....	68
Adoptive Admissions.....	69
Admission by Silence.....	70
Admission by Conduct	71
Practice Points.....	73
Chapter 7 Hearsay Exceptions	75
Rule 803. Exceptions to the Rule against Hearsay—	
Regardless of Whether the Declarant Is Available as a	
Witness.....	75
Rule 806. Attacking and Supporting the Declarant’s	
Credibility	83
Rule 807. Residual Exception.....	84
Present Sense Impression	85

Excited Utterance	87
Then-Existing Mental, Emotional, or Physical Condition (the “State of Mind Exception”).....	90
Statement Made for Medical Diagnosis or Treatment.....	91
Recorded Recollection.....	92
Records of Regularly Conducted Activity (Business Records Exception)	94
Computer-Generated Business Records	99
Religious and Family Records	103
Records of Documents Affecting an Interest in Property Ancient Documents	104
Market Reports and Similar Commercial Publications ..	105
Learned Treatises.....	108
Reputation Evidence	110
Judgments	111
FRE 804—Hearsay Exceptions That Require Witness Unavailability	112
Exceptions—Prior Testimony	115
Dying Declaration	116
Statements against Interest	117
Admissions Distinguished from Declarations against Interest	118
Statement of Personal or Family History	119
Forfeiture by Wrongdoing	120
Hearsay within Hearsay: FRE 805	121
Impeaching the Out-of-Court Declarant: FRE 806.....	122
The Residual Exception: FRE 807.....	122
Expert Testimony—Rule 703	126
Practice Points.....	126
Chapter 8 Judicial Notice and Presumptions	127
Rule 201. Judicial Notice of Adjudicative Facts.....	127

Rule 302. Applying State Law to Presumptions in Civil Cases.....	128
Judicial Notice Defined	129
Presumptions.....	132
Burden of Proof.....	133
Presumption Distinguished from Burden of Proof	134
Practice Points.....	135
Chapter 9 Authentication of Writings and Other Tangible Evidence.....	137
Rule 901. Authenticating or Identifying Evidence.....	137
Rule 902. Evidence That Is Self-Authenticating	139
Authentication of Real Evidence	142
Authenticating Photographs	144
Authentication of Writings	149
Authentication by Identification of Handwriting.....	150
Authentication of Writings by Other Means.....	150
Authentication of Electronic Communications	151
Websites and Social Media	162
Computer-Generated Documents	168
Demonstrative Aids	171
Summaries.....	172
Public Records or Reports.....	174
Ancient Documents	174
Self-Authentication of Real Evidence.....	175
Necessity of Subscribing Witness.....	177
Practice Points.....	177
Chapter 10 Original Writing Rule and the Rule of Completeness.....	179
Rule 1001. Definitions That Apply to This Article.....	179
Rule 1003. Admissibility of Duplicates.....	180
Rule 1004. Admissibility of Other Evidence of Content	181

Rule 1006. Remainder of or Related Writings or Recorded Statements	182
Rule 1007. Testimony or Statement of a Party to Prove Content	182
Original Writing Rule.....	182
Use of Duplicates	185
Exceptions to the Requirement for Introduction of Original Document.....	186
Secondary Evidence Defined.....	189
Collateral Writings	190
Public Records	192
Use of an Admission to Prove Content of a Writing.....	192
The Rule of Completeness.....	192
Practice Points.....	193
Chapter 11 Competency of Witnesses.....	195
Rule 601. Competency to Testify in General.....	195
Rule 104. Preliminary Questions.....	196
Rule 603. Oath or Affirmation to Testify Truthfully	196
Rule 701. Opinion Testimony by Lay Witnesses	196
Rule 605. Judge's Competency as a Witness	197
Questions of Witness Competency	197
In-Camera Proceedings.....	199
Oath or Affirmation	199
Requirement of Firsthand Knowledge of the Witness	200
Lay Opinion Testimony	201
Expert Opinion Differentiated.....	204
Opinion on the Ultimate Issue.....	205
Use of Interpreters.....	205
Competency of the Judge or Lawyer as Witness	206
Practice Points.....	207

Chapter 12 Evidentiary Privileges	209
Rule 501. Privileges in General.....	209
Rule 502. Attorney-Client Privilege and Work Product; Limitations on Waiver	210
Privilege against Self-Incrimination	213
Remedies for Opposing Party Invoking the Fifth Amendment Privilege.....	215
Waiver of the Privilege.....	217
Attorney-Client Privilege	219
Professional Relationship Defined	220
Production of Documents Containing Privileged Communications	221
Impact of the Presence of a Third Party on the Privilege	222
Waiver of Attorney-Client Privilege	223
Inadvertent Waiver	224
Intercepted Correspondence and Privilege	225
Disclosures in Fee Petition.....	226
Matters to Which the Attorney-Client Privilege Does Not Apply	227
Work-Product Doctrine	229
Physician-Patient Privilege.....	234
Patient Privacy and HIPAA	234
Waiver of Physician-Patient Privilege.....	236
Marital Privileges	238
Practice Points.....	239
 Chapter 13 Expert Witnesses	 241
Rule 702. Testimony by Expert Witnesses	241
Rule 704. Opinion on an Ultimate Issue.....	242
Rule 706. Court-Appointed Expert Witnesses	243
Subject Matter of Expert Testimony	244
The Role of the Expert	245
The Expert’s Assignment	246

Reliability of Scientific Expert Testimony	246
Reliability of Nonscientific Expert Testimony.....	248
Using Expert Testimony	248
Qualifying the Expert.....	250
The Factual Basis of the Expert’s Testimony.....	252
The Expert’s Opinion	255
Admission of the Expert’s Report.....	256
Direct Examination of the Expert.....	259
Cross-Examination of the Expert	260
Practice Points.....	261
Chapter 14 Examination of Witnesses.....	263
Rule 607. Who May Impeach a Witness.....	263
Rule 608. A Witness’s Character for Truthfulness or Untruthfulness.....	263
Rule 611. Mode and Order of Examining Witnesses and Presenting Evidence.....	266
Leading Questions.....	271
Foundation for Testimony	271
Refreshing Recollection.....	273
Use of Nonadmitted Documents	275
Cross-Examination Generally.....	276
Scope of Cross-Examination	277
Request to Examine a Witness for Voir Dire.....	277
Impeachment of Witnesses	278
Scope of Redirect and Re-Cross Examination	292
Judicial Questioning of Witnesses.....	293
Exclusion of Witnesses	293
Practice Points.....	294
Chapter 15 Tendering Exhibits, Objections, and Offers of Proof.....	297
Rule 103. Rulings on Evidence.....	298

Objections to Exhibits.....	300
Objections Generally.....	300
Responding to Objections	305
Timing of Objections.....	306
Objections during Opening Statement or Closing	
Argument.....	307
Offers of Proof.....	308
Plain Error Rule; Harmless Error Rule	309
Practice Points.....	309
Chapter 16 Procedures for Streamlining Admission of Evidence.....	311
Requests to Admit Facts and Genuineness of Documents	
.....	311
Concluding Comments.....	314
Appendix	315
The Federal Rules of Evidence.....	315
Article II. Judicial Notice.....	318
Article IV. Relevance and Its Limits	319
Article X. Contents of Writings, Recordings and	
Photographs	353
Foundations	357