Family law matters are intimate, personal, and touch upon people’s most private treasurers. This perspective directly affects all aspects of domestic relations, including appellate practice. As a result, family law appeals provide certain dilemmas not existing in other areas of the practice of law.

If this book has an underlying purpose—besides serving as a practical guide for a novice to appeal a family court decision—then it is for you to be both cautious and extraordinarily careful in choosing to appeal a family law case.

You must consider the potential result and costs both on individual lives and on the precedent a matter could set upon future litigants, including your own.

As an old sage once advised, “There is an equal chance of creating bad law as good law when you appeal.”

Do not jump in.

But rather wade in and determine whether the choice to appeal is both proper and wise. The context matters. You are dealing with people’s most intimate concerns, emotions, minds, and hearts. Take good care of them. Try always to inflict no harm upon them.

Words are powerful. Use them carefully and with due caution.

Words move mountains, alter lives, and change ordinary people into heroes. A well-crafted story is impactful long after it has been read. A powerful argument may change a mind and make a difference in the world. Your ability to persuade a judge or a panel of jurists will live long after you.
I hope you use these words in the pages ahead wisely. I hope you are impactful, make a difference, and are always extraordinary in your representation of all of your clients.

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