Letter from the Editor
By Marie Sarantakis

Would you like to see your name in print in the next edition of the ABA YLD Family Law Newsletter?

Social Media and Divorce Proceedings
By Madeline Wines, J.D. Candidate
Should the Courts monitor divorcing spouses’ online profiles?

Comparing Child Support Formulas Throughout the United States
By Marie Sarantakis
Family law attorney, Marie Sarantakis, compares and summarizes the three models of calculating child support used by various states across the nation.

Register for the 2017 ABA Annual Meeting
Members of the Young Lawyers Division are encouraged to visit New York for the ABA Annual Meeting.

Attend the 2017 ABA Section of Family Law Fall CLE Conference
Family Law practitioners can enhance their skills while earning CLE credits in the heart of the Colorado Rockies.

ARTICLES >>

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The more you give, the more you get. This paradox holds true for many aspects of life—especially one’s involvement with bar associations. By giving just a little of your time, you can open the door to countless possibilities.

One of the ways that you can become more involved with the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Family Law Committee is to write for our newsletter. Benefits of becoming an author with a nationwide newsletter include:
• **Enhancing your Resume** – In a competitive market, attorneys need to stay relevant and competitive. The American Bar Association provides a platform for attorneys to have their name featured nationwide, backed by industry credentials.

• **Promoting your Firm** – You can promote your practice by showcasing your expertise to attorneys and clients alike.

• **Becoming Recognized as an Expert** – Publication may lead to other opportunities. Many authors receive questions from news sources and even chances to lecture on their niche area of expertise.

We are currently accepting submissions for family law related articles for our Fall edition. If you are interested in submitting an article for consideration, please e-mail your work in Word format to marie@davilegal.com.

Contributions should be no longer than *approximately* 200 words and pertain to recent developments in family law.

We are also accepting longer Practice Series articles, *approximately* 600 words. These articles serve as a resource for new lawyers. Practice series submissions should discuss a substantive and/or procedural aspect of family law. Examples can be found on our Committee's webpage.

**Social Media and Divorce Proceedings**

By Madeline Wines, *J.D. Candidate*

Oversharing on social media has become somewhat of a normal occurrence in our society and divorce has become commonplace. Accordingly, an increasing number of divorcing couples have accounts on social media.

Courts across the country are still reconciling how to deal with social media posts, and the frequent subsequent deletion thereof, in divorce proceedings.

Should the Courts play a role in monitoring social media? Some may see this as a good thing. It settles the "*he said, she said*" that can be so common in family law cases. However, others may see this as invasive. Many consider their social media accounts to be a part of their private lives, somewhere they share their most intimate feelings and less than flattering moments.

The answer remains to be seen. Just how far will the Courts reach beyond the computer screen and how much such litigants in a divorce proceeding monitor what they say and do online?

*Madeline Wines* is a second year law student at The John Marshall Law School. Ms. Wines is interning as a law clerk with North Shore Law Group, Ltd. and has an interest in practicing family law upon the completion of her studies.
Comparing Child Support Formulas Throughout the United States  
By Marie Sarantakis

Family law matters are reserved to the states.\(^1\) Across the U.S. there are three main approaches that states have adopted in determining child support obligations.\(^2\) Although there are some minor differences across state lines, by and large, the three models in operation are as follows:

(1) **Percentage of Obligor’s Income Model** – Under this framework, only the non-custodial parent’s income is considered.\(^3\) The custodial parent, who is primarily responsible for the child[ren]’s day-to-day needs, receives a percentage of the non-custodial parent’s income based on their income and the number of children.\(^3\) This model is relatively straightforward and simply calculated.\(^3\) Approximately seven states use this formula today.

(2) **Income Shares** – The most common method for calculating child support in the U.S. is income shares. Forty states now use an income shares standard which takes into account both parents’ incomes and apportions to the child[ren] a pro rata share of each parent’s income in proportion to the parents’ overall incomes when added together.\(^4\)

(3) **Melson Formula** – This formula is an adaptation of the income shares calculation, but takes into consideration various adjustments for public policy reasons. Three states, Delaware, Hawai’i, and Montana, currently apply this formula.\(^4\) Of all three methods, this is the most complex to calculate.

The pros and cons of each of these three approaches are often debated.\(^\_\) Which is more equitable?\(^\_\) Which closest reflects our public policy values?\(^\_\) While the methods and rationales differ, proponents of all three formulae seek the same laudable end: to benefit the children in receipt of the funds.

**Marie Sarantakis** is the Founding Attorney of North Shore Law Group, Ltd. She is the incoming Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Family Law Committee.

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**NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Register for the 2017 ABA Annual Meeting**
The ABA Annual Meeting will be held in New York, New York from August 10th through August 15th. The meeting promises to host meaningful CLE programming, speakers, and special events. The ABA Section of Family Law will be hosting an array of CLE programs, business meetings, and social networking events.

**Attend the 2017 ABA Section of Family Law Fall CLE Conference**

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\(^4\) *Id.*
From October 4, 2017 through October 7, 2017, the ABA Section of Family Law will be hosting its Fall CLE Conference in the scenic heart of the Colorado Rockies at the Ritz-Carlton Bachelor Gulch. Guests will enjoy a Wellness Day, over 18 CLE courses, and social events to mix and mingle with family law practitioners from around the nation.