



April 2004

## Family Law Docket

### Call for Content

We are working on augmenting the Online Resource Center content. If you have any articles, briefs, forms, checklists, etc. that you are willing to share, please contact Tina Belanger via e-mail [belanget@staff.abanet.org](mailto:belanget@staff.abanet.org) or view the [FAQ sheet](#) on submitting documents.

### Working Group on Same-Sex Marriages and Non-Marital Unions Presents White Paper

The Group has a final draft of a white paper about the impact legalizing same-sex marriages will have on various aspects of family law practices nationwide. Look for updates in the coming months regarding the final report.

[Get more information.](#)

### Attention Law Students

The Commission on Domestic Violence announces a law student writing competition. First prize is a trip to the 2004 ABA Annual Meeting in Atlanta to receive your award.

Email submissions by June 15, 2004 to Robin Runge at [runger@staff.abanet.org](mailto:runger@staff.abanet.org). For additional information call the Commission at 202-662-1021 or visit the web site at [www.abanet.org/domviol](http://www.abanet.org/domviol).

### Nominating Committee Report

The slate for the 2004-05 elections has been updated. View the Nominating Committee's [revised report](#).

## Message from the Chair

By *Phyllis G. Bossin*  
[Read more.](#)

## Articles

### Brief Writing and Oral Argument in Appellate Practice

by *Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt*

Judge Rosenblatt's article examines how to [focus your written and oral arguments](#) for an effective presentation.

## Members on the Move

### Adoption Case Summaries for 2003

Harlan S. Tenenbaum, chair of the section's Adoption Committee, arranged a [compendium of adoption law related cases](#). The case descriptions have been prepared by the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law at Capital University Law School. The compendium is also available on the [Online Resource Library](#), and is a good example of the types of content we are looking to receive from our members.

## Best of the Listserv

We have picked several interesting topics of discussion from the ESQ listserv for April's best of the listserv. [Read more.](#)

## Upcoming CLE and Events Information

### San Juan Meeting Time – Last Minute Notes

We will be in Puerto Rico in less than two weeks. A record number of attendees are expected to attend this year's spring conference, selling out our hotel block.

The Working Group on Same-Sex Marriages and Non-Marital Unions will present their white



### This month's featured benefit:

The Annual Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute

Are you a new family law practitioner or a seasoned veteran? If you're just starting out or simply want to brush up on your trial skills, this program is for you!

The Annual Trial Advocacy Institute is an intense, eight-day program held every May at the University of Houston Law Center during the last full week in May.

The program sells out quickly, so start thinking about next year, and mark your calendars to check out the family law web site for additional information in early February at [www.abanet.org/family](http://www.abanet.org/family).

What's in it for you?

#### *Individual attention:*

Limiting enrollment to 48 attorneys provides you with a ratio of one faculty member to every four students.

#### *CLE Credits:*

You can expect to earn 45

paper to the Section's Council for approval.

This is your last chance to view the proposed amendments to [Section Bylaws](#). Members will vote on April 30, 2004.

### **2004 ABA Annual Meeting**

Time to start thinking about the ABA Annual Meeting – the early bird deadline is May 28th. You should be receiving your family law specific registration forms in your next issue of the Family Advocate. For more information, or to register online, please visit us at [www.abanet.org/annual/2004](http://www.abanet.org/annual/2004).

attending this program.

*Hands-On Experience:* Participate in exercises, break-out groups and a final mock trial.

Here's what people are saying about the program:

*"A truly outstanding week of learning the art of trial advocacy. In a week, I gained at least five years' worth of experience."*

Sal Simeone  
East Hanover, NJ

*"This was the most intensive training experience I have ever had – in the field of family law or any other field. I believe I learned more this week than any other week."*

Susheela Varky  
Washington, D.C.

*"You'll see me at trial. Bring in on."*

Anonymous

### **Editor**

Tina Belanger  
[belanget@staff.abanet.org](mailto:belanget@staff.abanet.org)  
Please send proposals for future content submissions to the editor.

---

### **Contact Information**

Section of Family Law  
750 N. Lake Shore Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-988-5603  
fax 312-988-6800  
[familylaw@abanet.org](mailto:familylaw@abanet.org)

---

### **ABA Email Privacy**

Your e-mail address will only be used within the ABA and its entities. We do not sell or rent e-mail addresses to anyone outside the ABA.

The complete ABA Privacy Statement is posted on [ABAnet.org](http://ABAnet.org) for your review.

### **Unsubscribe or Update Your Email Address**

To change your e-mail address or remove your name from any future general

distribution e-mails, complete our [online form](#).

If you prefer, call us at 800-285-2221 or write to:  
**American Bar Association  
Service Center  
541 North Fairbanks Court  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**PDF version**

If you are unable to view this page in HTML, it can also be downloaded and viewed as a .pdf file.

---

©2003

American Bar Association

ABA Copyright Statement