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HEAR STRAIGHT FROM THE BENCH

Get invaluable insight from 10 Michigan judges.



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Michigan's Can't-Miss Family Law Event

Join the entire Michigan family law community—judges, colleagues, and court staff—together again under one roof! Don't miss Hon. Janice K. Cunningham's perennially popular caselaw update.

Dive into the top family law issues that experienced and new lawyers face—everything from cyberstalking to spousal support. Recognize deceit in a divorce and understand how it impacts discovery and negotiations. Determine if your client has standing to seek relief under the Revocation of Paternity Act.

Invaluable Insight from Michigan Judges

Nowhere else can you find this much candid advice straight from the bench. All-star judicial faculty provides answers to questions such as:

- Which divorce battles are worth a fight?
- How would a judge rule on various evidentiary issues?
- How should you tackle minor guardianships—for which there is very little caselaw?
- What do you say to the judge when you know the other side is lying?
- What matters most to the judge when deciding on spousal support income?
- What information should be shared between parties in joint decision-making?
- How does a judge analyze separate property divisions?

Interact with 10 Judges from Across the State



Hon. Janice K. Cunningham
56th Circuit Court

We hear this every year: “Judge Cunningham’s session is worth the price of admission.” We are so pleased she will be back for another riveting caselaw update that will have the family law community abuzz. Don’t miss this chance to hear from one of our most popular speakers and one of the most respected members of Michigan’s judiciary.



Hon. Megan K. Cavanagh
Michigan Supreme Court



Hon. B. Chris Christenson
7th Circuit Court



Hon. Melissa A. Cox
3rd Circuit Court



Hon. Charlene M. Elder
3rd Circuit Court



Hon. Kent D. Engle
20th Circuit Court



Hon. Linda S. Hallmark
Oakland County Probate Court



Hon. David M. Lawson
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Michigan



Hon. Nancy L. Thane
Tuscola County Court



Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg
20th Circuit Court

Stay Up to Date

Hottest Issues Covered

Featured Speaker



Randall J. Chioini
Chioini Group PLLC,
Mount Clemens

The Dangers of Cyberstalking

AirTags, electronic eavesdropping, apps—there are so many ways for disgruntled spouses to harass your client. Familiarize yourself with modern tracking and discern when it crosses the line from annoying to illegal. Protect yourself as well, so you can confidently meet with your client away from prying eyes.

See [Cyberstalking and Spousal Monitoring and When It Turns into a Crime](#) on page 8.

Randy specializes in family law matters, specifically those with complex asset division, including closely held or family-owned businesses. He is also a certified mediator and regular speaker for the Macomb County SMILE Program.

Featured Speaker



Mark A. Bank
Bank Rifkin,
Birmingham

The Imprecise Science of Spousal Support

With no formula for calculation, this is tricky for any lawyer. How do you properly adjust for dual-income households? Some lawyers use MarginSoft. Is software worth your time? Will a judge think the number generated by software is a reasonable amount? Take away best practice tips and learn how to get your parties to agree.

See [Crack the Code on Spousal Support](#) on page 10.

Mark has focused on complex matrimonial matters for more than 25 years. He is a fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, where he serves as cochair of the continuing legal education committee.

“ I’ve often said the *Family Law Institute* is the single best seminar on family law anywhere in the state of Michigan and perhaps in the country. ”

- Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg, 20th Circuit Court, *Grand Haven*

Get Tips to Win in Court


Survey Results from Michigan Judges

Respected practitioners Jennie Boldish Bryan and David C. Sarnacki recently surveyed Michigan family law judges. Now you get to examine the results in two back-to-back sessions.

The first session reveals the judges' answers to key questions. What do judges expect? What are the big differences from county to county? What are best practices?

The second session lets you hear directly from three judges. Judges Christenson, Cox, and Van Allsburg weigh in on the survey results—and share their own pet peeves and tips for better advocacy. Plus, get your questions answered in this town hall format.

See session descriptions on page 8.



“Judges want lawyers to be effective and efficient in court. You will see their survey responses, and you will learn the nuggets of advice to win the best results for your client.”

- David C. Sarnacki, The Sarnacki Law Firm PLC, *Grand Rapids*

Get Timely Advice

More Can't-Miss Sessions

Featured Speaker



J. Matthew
Catchick, Jr.
Catchick Law PC,
Bloomfield Hills

The Complexities of the Revocation of Paternity Act

Does your client have standing to seek relief under the Act? A practitioner and referee eliminate the uncertainty. Be prepared to handle the issues that come up most often, including when someone can revoke paternity or correct a birth record. Tackle complex fact patterns with confidence.

See *The Revocation of Paternity Act and Its Unique Issues* on page 10.

Matt has 26+ years of experience and is founder and president of the firm. He has successfully handled hundreds of divorce, family law, and criminal cases, and previously served as public defender for the city of Wayne.

Featured Speaker



Richard A. Roane
Warner Norcross
+ Judd LLP,
Grand Rapids

The Impact and Underpinnings of Deception

A spouse's deception in a divorce case affects trust, discovery, negotiations, and more. What do you say to the judge when you know someone is lying? How do you properly identify deception? Hear from a fellow practitioner, a judge, and a therapist on the science behind deception, how to request perjury sanctions, and more.

See *Deception in Divorce: How It Impacts Trust, Discovery, and Negotiations* on page 10.

Ric is a partner in the firm and has practiced family law and domestic relations litigation for 30+ years. A frequent speaker, he is also a mediator, arbitrator certified by the AAML, and trained collaborative attorney.

“The resources and tools provided in this seminar and materials are unmatched by any other program out there.”

- Channelle Kizy-White, Kizy Law, Southfield

Agenda

CLE: 8.5 LEVEL: Basic/Intermediate/Advanced



8:00am Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Vendor Showcase (Both Days)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

9:00am Welcome, Introductions, and Section Update

9:25am Domestic Relations Caselaw and Statutory Update with Analysis

10:45am Networking Break

	Core Concepts Track	Intermediate/Advanced Track	Bench and Bar Track
11:00am	Form-Filing Frenzy	Crack the Code on Spousal Support	Unresolved Constitutional Questions in Minor Guardianships
11:50am	Networking Lunch		
1:05pm	Set Client Expectations and Have the Tough Conversations	The Revocation of Paternity Act and Its Unique Issues	Deception in Divorce: How It Impacts Trust, Discovery, and Negotiations
2:05pm	Business Valuation 101	Answering Kids' Tough Questions During the Divorce Process	High Conflict: Strategies When Parents Behave Badly
2:55pm	Networking Break		
3:10pm	Support Income: Experts Battle, Bench Weighs In	Joint Legal Custody: Tactics for Addressing Parental Decision-Making	It's Mine, Go Away! Separate Property Point-Counterpoint
4:10pm	What the Judges Tell Us—and What to Do About It		
5:00pm	Family Law Town Hall—the Judges Weigh In		
5:30pm	Networking Reception		

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022

9:00am Cyberstalking and Spousal Monitoring and When It Turns into a Crime

	Financial/Tech Track	Litigation Track	Drafting Track
10:10am	Tax Tips for Practitioners*	Fighting Everything? Avoid Expensive Mistakes and Win Client Respect*	Drafting Motions and Orders*
11:00am	Networking Break		
11:15am	It Doesn't Have to Be So Hard: Software to Lighten Your Load*	Essential Evidence Demonstrations for Rookies and Veterans Alike*	Prenuptial, Postnuptial, and Separation Agreements*

*MP3 download available to all registrants after the seminar.

Tracks

Plenary Sessions

8:00am/Thursday & Friday

Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Vendor Showcase

9:00am/Thursday

Welcome, Introductions, and Section Update

Shelley A. Kester, Chair-Elect, Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Wilson Kester PLLC, *Traverse City*

9:25am/Thursday

Domestic Relations Caselaw and Statutory Update with Analysis

The Hon. Janice K. Cunningham returns with her expert analysis of recent court decisions and legislative enactments.

Hon. Janice K. Cunningham, 56th Circuit Court, *Charlotte*

11:50am/Thursday

Networking Lunch

4:10pm/Thursday

What the Judges Tell Us—and What to Do About It

Using a qualitative survey of family court judges on their views of key issues facing advocates, gain insight on major topics confronting the trial lawyer. From substance to procedure, as well as tips on presentation and effective (not annoying) advocacy, get feedback from judges who want you to learn and improve your representation. Experts share the most meaningful and significant survey results and provide insights based on their experience and judgment.

Jennie Boldish Bryan, McShane & Bowie PLC, *Grand Rapids*;
David C. Sarnacki, The Sarnacki Law Firm PLC, *Grand Rapids*

5:00pm/Thursday

Family Law Town Hall—the Judges Weigh In

Top judges share their take on the survey results, their own preferences and procedures, and tips for better advocacy. Plus, get your questions answered.

Hon. Melissa A. Cox, 3rd Circuit Court, *Detroit*; Hon. B. Chris Christenson, 7th Circuit Court, *Flint*; Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg, 20th Circuit Court, *Grand Haven*

5:30pm/Thursday

Networking Reception

Relax and join faculty, exhibitors, and fellow registrants for light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

9:00am/Friday

Cyberstalking and Spousal Monitoring and When It Turns into a Crime

When a spouse becomes an online harasser or cyberstalker, lawyers must be ready to help protect their client—and themselves. Grasp how to discuss this danger with clients; the law related to eavesdropping during divorce; modern forms of tracking, e.g. AirTags, family apps, and miniature eavesdropping devices; and how to detect illegal monitoring. Protect yourself from spying eyes as you meet your client. An experienced prosecutor shares when police and prosecution get involved and what evidence is helpful.

Randall J. Chioini, Chioini Group PLLC, *Mount Clemens*; Karen D. McDonald, Oakland County Prosecutor, *Pontiac*

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Core Concepts Track

11:00am/Thursday

Form-Filing Frenzy

Domestic relations initial pleadings require meticulous preparation. From required and suggested allegations requesting custody or parenting time to properly completing the verified financial information, learn the ropes and do things right the first time. Get tips to navigate e-filing and e-service.

Jamie Slotsema, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, *Grand Rapids*

1:05pm/Thursday

Set Client Expectations and Have the Tough Conversations

Get tips on how to deal with difficult clients, deliver bad news, and effectively manage the attorney-client relationship.

Shalini Nangia, Varum LLP, *Ann Arbor*; Julia A. Perkins, Varum LLP, *Novi*

2:05pm/Thursday

Business Valuation 101

Family-owned businesses can confuse lawyers who are not trained in business or accounting. Identify the types of businesses that need a valuation and understand different valuation methods. Know when to use a neutral and when to hire your own expert. Receive a list of documents to request in discovery and get tips on how to review both experts' recommendations. Gain strategies to build a partnership with your expert and to protect what is likely your client's most complex and valuable asset.

Gary R. Rogow, Rogow & Loney PC, *Ann Arbor*; Karen S. Sendelbach, Nichols Sacks Slank Sendelbach Buiteweg & Solomon PC, *Ann Arbor*

3:10pm/Thursday

Support Income: Experts Battle, Bench Weighs In

When it comes to alimony or child support cases, what counts as income? Are you always left guessing what the judge or referee really cares about? See experts argue their cases live, followed by rulings from former family court judges and referees who share what matters most in their decision-making.

Brian M. Bakker, Stout Risius Ross LLC, *Grand Rapids*; Benjamin I.S. Bershad, Bodmer Price Light & Bershad LLC, *Bloomfield Hills*; Hon. Linda S. Hallmark, Oakland County Probate Court, *Pontiac*; Kent L. Weichmann, Mediation and Arbitration Services, *Ann Arbor*

“The networking that goes on here is invaluable.”

- Hon. Gregory C. Pittman, Muskegon County Probate Court, *Muskegon*

Moderators



Intermediate/Advanced Track

Sahera G. Housey

Oakland County Friend of the Court, *Pontiac*



Bench and Bar Track

Ashish S. Joshi

Joshi Attorneys + Counselors, *Ann Arbor*



Plenary Session

Shelley A. Kester

Chair-Elect, Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Wilson Kester PLLC, *Traverse City*



Litigation Track

John K. Kline

Kline Legal Group PLC, *Ann Arbor*



Drafting Track

Keri Middleditch

Middleditch Law Firm PLLC, *Birmingham*



Core Concepts Track

Julia A. Perkins

Varum LLP, *Novi*



Financial/Tech Track

Jacob N. Simon

The Law Office of Susan E. Cohen, *Bloomfield Hills*

Tracks

Intermediate/Advanced Track

11:00am/Thursday

Crack the Code on Spousal Support

Because there is no formula to follow, calculating spousal support is an imprecise science, and high-income situations only make it more challenging. How can you get your parties to agree? Review key factors and explore software tools to use as a guide. Get best practice tips and perspectives from both a litigator and judge.

Mark A. Bank, Bank Rifkin, *Birmingham*; Hon. Nancy L. Thane, Tuscola County Court, *Caro*

1:05pm/Thursday

The Revocation of Paternity Act and Its Unique Issues

Do you have a leg to stand on? Are you uncertain about when a claimed father or a mother can either establish or revoke paternity or correct a birth record? Learn from two of Michigan's experts as they simplify and explain the complex fact patterns you may face when determining if your client has standing to seek relief under the Revocation of Paternity Act.

J. Matthew Catchick, Jr., Catchick Law PC, *Bloomfield Hills*; Kate Weaver, Oakland County Circuit Court, *Pontiac*

2:05pm/Thursday

Answering Kids' Tough Questions During the Divorce Process

The questions that kids ask about divorce are multifaceted and vary depending upon the stage of development. They can be complicated further by the circumstances that led to the breakdown of the marriage. What, if anything, should lawyers say to their clients about speaking with children? Should lawyers talk to children? Should a mental health professional be involved? Get insights into the roles of the court, counsel, parents, mental health professionals, and others who work with minors.

Sahera G. Housey, Oakland County Friend of the Court, *Pontiac*; Ryan M. Kelly, Kelly & Kelly PC, *Northville*; Richard Wooten, Matrix Psychological Consulting LLC, *Southfield*

3:10pm/Thursday

Joint Legal Custody: Tactics for Addressing Parental Decision-Making

Children's lives can be complicated. Learn what implicates joint decision-making and what information should be shared between the parties. Explore a dozen common issues involving decisions such as medical emergencies versus common illnesses; orthodontics; prescriptions versus over-the-counter drugs; school changes; public versus private schooling; vaccinations; tutoring; religious issues; and more. Plus, learn how strategies may change in high-conflict cases.

Hon. Melissa A. Cox, 3rd Circuit Court, *Detroit*; Donald C. Wheaton, Jr., Donald C. Wheaton Jr. PC, *Saint Clair Shores*

Bench and Bar Track

11:00am/Thursday

Unresolved Constitutional Questions in Minor Guardianships

In minor guardianship cases, courts have the authority to strip parents of their constitutional right to direct the care of their children. Yet despite the serious constitutional rights at stake, very little caselaw exists governing guardianship practices. This session will highlight and explore these important—yet unresolved—questions.

Hon. Megan K. Cavanagh, Michigan Supreme Court, *Lansing*; Vivek S. Sankaran, The University of Michigan Law School, *Ann Arbor*; Kristen S. Wolfram, The Maul Law Group PLLC, *Grand Rapids*

1:05pm/Thursday

Deception in Divorce: How It Impacts Trust, Discovery, and Negotiations

Explore trust issues and how deception by one spouse or both can impact negotiations—and how to overcome a lack of trust if possible. Understand deception's scientific underpinnings. Negotiators and litigators address the presence of deception (extramarital affairs, hidden assets, *Sands*), scope and proportionality of discovery, negotiation techniques, plus perjury sanctions.

Hon. Kent D. Engle, 20th Circuit Court, *Grand Haven*; Sharon R. Hobbs, PhD, Abbott Road Center for the Family, *East Lansing*; Richard A. Roane, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, *Grand Rapids*

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2:05pm/Thursday

High Conflict: Strategies When Parents Behave Badly

Distinguish between a high-conflict (HC) case and a case of parental alienation, and the factors that drive the hostility between the parties. Identify, assess, and mitigate what's driving the conflict: alleged DV, substance abuse, mental illness, child abuse, and the perfect storm created by social media. Get practice pointers on managing HC cases, including psychoeducation and other tools for identifying issues, the level of conflict, and early and effective intervention.

Ben Burgess, The Fountain Hill Center, *Grand Rapids*; Ashish S. Joshi, Joshi Attorneys + Counselors, *Ann Arbor*; Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg, 20th Circuit Court, *Grand Haven*

3:10pm/Thursday

It's Mine, Go Away! Separate Property Point-Counterpoint

Using a series of realistic scenarios, dig deep into the most contentious separate property divisions like retirement assets and contribution/commingling. Hear the lawyers' arguments and the judge's analysis. Gain strategies for litigating separate property cases, including key documents to use and the pitfalls to avoid.

Elizabeth K. Bransdorfer, Mika Meyers PLC, *Grand Rapids*; Hon. B. Chris Christenson, 7th Circuit Court, *Flint*; James J. Harrington, III, Harrington Law PLC, *Novi*

Financial/Tech Track

10:10am/Friday

Tax Tips for Practitioners

Don't miss this year's roundup of the latest and greatest tax tips for lawyers who are not tax experts, including important updates and strategies for 2022 tax filings and tax planning during divorce negotiations.

Michelle F. Gallagher, CPA/ABV/CFF, Adamy Valuation, *Lansing*; Jessica L. Larson, Mallory Lapka Scott & Selin PLLC, *Lansing*; Jacob N. Simon, The Law Office of Susan E. Cohen, *Bloomfield Hills*

11:15am/Friday

It Doesn't Have to Be So Hard: Software to Lighten Your Load

Are you able to run your office, keep abreast of tasks, and meet client expectations while still being able to take time for yourself? Experts discuss popular practice management software and programs, their features, and how you might use them to work faster, reduce mistakes, manage tasks, and automate your processes to effectively run your family law practice.

Saraphoena B. Koffron, Austin+Koffron, *Kalamazoo*; Sarah L. Ostahowski, Sarah's Law Firm PLC, *Clare*

Litigation Track

10:10am/Friday

Fighting Everything? Avoid Expensive Mistakes and Win Client Respect

The wounds of divorce make it hard to know what battles are worth the fight and what battles feel like a self-inflicted wound. A litigator and judge share strategies to identify the difference. Help your clients evaluate the metrics of whether to challenge issues involving fault, discovery, late and/or imperfect compliance with court orders, spoliation of electronic evidence, and more.

Hon. Charlene M. Elder, 3rd Circuit Court, *Detroit*; Shelley A. Kester, Chair-Elect, Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Wilson Kester PLLC, *Traverse City*

11:15am/Friday

Essential Evidence Demonstrations for Rookies and Veterans Alike

See live demonstrations of critical evidentiary techniques that will undoubtedly come up in your next evidentiary hearing. See the arguments from two experienced litigators and then hear the trial judge's rulings with color commentary throughout. Gain confidence and be prepared to handle your opponent's common evidentiary objections.

John K. Kline, Kline Legal Group PLC, *Ann Arbor*; Jennifer L. Lawrence, Law Office of Jennifer Lawrence, *Ann Arbor*; Hon. David M. Lawson, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, *Detroit*

Drafting Track

10:10am/Friday

Drafting Motions and Orders

An experienced practitioner shares tips and best practices based on 28 years of winning—and losing—in court. Learn how to draft motions that are effective and persuasive, draft orders that are clear and enforceable, and avoid common drafting errors and pitfalls. Get best practices for ex parte and seven-day orders, what they mean, and when to submit them.

Shon A. Cook, Shon Cook Law PC, *Muskegon*

11:15am/Friday

Prenuptial, Postnuptial, and Separation Agreements

Some clients get married more than once, have second families, or marry later in life. How can you help clients protect their property? Using caselaw and experience, best practices are discussed along with how to avoid pitfalls and future litigation. Since *Allard*, protection may have gotten trickier—but not impossible. Help your client move forward with their life confidently.

Keri Middleditch, Middleditch Law Firm PLLC, *Birmingham*

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Prices guaranteed until 11/18/22. Cannot combine discounts. ¹Please attach additional sheet listing registrants attending. All registrations must be submitted and paid for at the same time. ²Current sitting state court judges (limit 40) attend free and must call ICLE or submit order form to register. ³Limited to five registrations from any one office and must call ICLE or submit order form to register. ⁴Limit one print handbook purchase per registrant. Print handbooks are nonrefundable after the event cancellation date. **Complete Seminar Policies:** www.icle.org/info/seminarpolicies. **Cancellation Policy:** For a full refund, notify ICLE by 11/03/22. Registrants who cancel after that date will be charged a \$60 cancellation fee. No refunds will be issued after 11/10/22. **Walk-in Registrations:** Permitted on a space-available basis or if registrants fail to claim their seat in the first 15 minutes of the seminar. **Persons with Disabilities or Dietary Restrictions:** For special arrangements please contact ICLE no later than seven days before the seminar.

Accommodations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt Place Detroit/Novi Hotel in Novi, under group code G-ICL3 for 11/16-17/22. Visit www.icle.org/family/hotel or call 888-591-1234 and mention ICLE's *Family Law Institute* to reserve a room. Reservations must be made by 10/17/22. Registrants are responsible for their own hotel expenses.