

33rd Annual Family Law Conference

Ocean Edge Resort, 2907 Main Street, Brewster, MA 02631

Sponsored by the Family Law Section

AGENDA

Friday, October 25, 2024 Lunch Will Be Provided

11:00 a.m. – Noon: Registration

Noon – 12:55 p.m.: Roundtable: Coercive Control

Massachusetts has expanded the definition of abuse in the context of G. L. c. 209A, by including “coercive control” as a basis for obtaining an abuse prevention order. This panel will explore the meaning of coercive control and how to identify this behavior

Faculty:

Moderator: Brigid Mitchell, Esq., *Brigid Mitchell, PC, Fall River*

Panelists: Hon. Kimberly Moses, *Bristol Probate and Family Court*
Jamie Sabino, Esq., *Mass Law Reform Institute, Boston*
Denise M. Fitzgerald, Esq., *Administrative Office of the Probate and Family Court, Boston*
Grace C. Roessler, Esq., *Mirick, O’Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP, Boston*

1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.: Welcome Remarks

Crissa A. Morton, Esq., *Michael I. Flores, PC, Orleans, MBA Family Law Section Council Chair*

1:05 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.: Keynote Speaker

Hon. John D. Casey, Chief Justice, *Massachusetts Probate and Family Court*

1:35 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.: Networking Break

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.: Equity Based Compensation: Is it Income, an Asset, or Both?

Grants of various forms of equity-based compensation can be awarded to employees at all levels in both public and privately held companies. When it comes to equity-based compensation in privately held companies, understanding the nature of a grant, its restrictions, and any valuation issues relating to it play a critical role in advising your client on how it might impact settlement. Our experienced panel will provide an understanding what forms equity-based awards might take, and an understanding of their valuation complexities and uncertainties. In addition, panelists will dive into the case law to provide examples of how equity-based compensation can be allocated as part of a Section 34 division and included in income for purposes of calculating support.

Faculty:

Moderator: Rachel A. Deering, Esq., *Verrill Dana LLP, Boston*

Panelists: Hon. Christine Anthony, *Middlesex Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Jennifer M. Ulwick, *Essex Probate and Family Court*
Marc D. Bello, CPA/ABV, CVA, MST, *Willamette Management Associates, Boston*
Robert J. Rivers, Jr., Esq., *Lee & Rivers LLP, Boston*
Gary Owen Todd, Esq., *Todd & Weld LLP, Boston*

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.: Refreshment and Networking Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Best Practices for Using GALs in Family Law Cases

This is your opportunity to hear from attorneys, Category E and F Guardians *ad Litem*, and Judges about the process associated with a GAL investigation in family law cases. The panel will discuss considerations from attorneys and judges when appointing a GAL, including whether to appoint a Category E or F GAL; dos and don'ts for preparing clients; general information about the GAL investigation; and what comes after a report has been issued.

Faculty:

Moderator: Alana B. Holly, Esq., *Tomasino Legal Group LLC, Wellesley Hills*

Panelists: Hon. Janine Rivers, *Suffolk Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Abbe L. Ross, *Suffolk Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Nan M. Sauer, *Essex Probate and Family Court*
Calvin J. Heinle, Esq., *Gibbs Heinle Maiona LLP, Wellesley Hills*
Premela G. Deck, J.D., Ph.D., LICSW, *SD Family Services, Canton*

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.: Networking Break

4:45 p.m. – 5:35 p.m.: Judicial Forum

A returning favorite: Probate and Family Court judges consider and discuss issues they face every day on the bench.

Faculty:

Moderators: Michael G. Xavier, Esq., *Prince Lobel Tye LLP, Boston*
Jessica M. Martin, Esq., *Anchor Family Law, Seekonk*

Panelists: Hon. Christine Anthony, *Middlesex Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Jacqueline M. Burchill, *Norfolk Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Kevin R. Connelly, *Plymouth Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Megan English Braga, *Plymouth Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Katherine A. Field, *Bristol Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Kimberly Moses, *Bristol Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Abbe L. Ross, *Suffolk Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Nan M. Sauer, *Essex Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Jennifer M. Ulwick, *Essex Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Claudine Wyner, *Hampden Probate and Family Court*

5:45: Reception

Saturday, October 26, 2024 Breakfast and Beverages Will Be Provided

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.: Discover This

Discovery is a central feature of every case – at times, a quietly overwhelming component, but sometimes also a somewhat overlooked one. Beyond the rote cycle of Rule 410 disclosure, Rule 34 requests, and Rule 45 subpoenas which occupies most of the discovery landscape lies a more discrete world of more refined or under-utilized discovery tools that can be instrumental in properly understanding or presenting a case. Our esteemed panelists explore and speak from their experiences about some of the less mundane and more complex discovery issues that litter that outer landscape and walk down the pathways of getting it done and getting it in evidence.

Faculty:

Moderator: Samantha Lerner, Esq., *Lee & Rivers LLP, Boston*

Panelists: Hon. Kimberly Moses, *Bristol Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Jacqueline M. Burchill, *Norfolk Probate and Family Court*
Jared D. Spinelli, Esq., *Rubin and Rudman LLP, Boston*
Holly A. Hinte, Esq., *Lee & Rivers LLP, Boston*
Rachel Biscardi, Esq., *Northeast Legal Aid, Lowell*

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.: Networking Break

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.: Uncovering Hidden Assets-Evolving Strategies and Techniques

Join us as this venerated panel explores the evolving landscape of discovery and forensic investigations in family law, focusing on both the uncovering of intentionally and inadvertently concealed assets. We will examine how asset hiding techniques have evolved in this modern age, including a discussion on the best methods for uncovering concealed or undisclosed assets. Topics include identifying key indicators of secreted assets and the utilization of various techniques to help you better navigate the discovery process and, from the judicial perspective, how to effectively address these issues in the courtroom. You won't want to hide from this one!

Faculty:

Moderator: Chelsea J. Strauss, Esq., *Rubin and Rudman LLP, Boston*

Panelists: Hon. Katherine A. Field, *Bristol Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Megan English Braga, *Plymouth Probate and Family Court*
Kyle T. MacDonald, Esq., *Verrill Dana LLP, Boston*
Elizabeth A. Roberts, Esq., *Roberts & Associates, Burlington*
Lee D. Sanderson, CPA, ABV, CFF, CVA, MST, *Valuation Forensics LLC, Framingham*

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Networking Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.: Perfecting Your Technique: Trial Advocacy/Evidence Roleplay

Part of our continuing series to shine a spotlight on excellence in practice by taking hypothetical facts and subjecting them to the rigors of trial with intense focus on proper procedure and technique.

Our attorney experts will argue evidentiary issues in a mock trial setting in front of Probate & Family Court Judges. Watch them roll up their sleeves and do the work to get their evidence in (or keep it out) and get first-hand insight into how Judges analyze these issues and the attorneys' arguments.

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION • CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Faculty:

Moderator: Peter J. Jamieson, Esq., *Hastings, Jamieson & Lipschutz Family Law Group LLP, North Andover*

Panelists: Hon. Kevin R. Connelly, *Plymouth Probate and Family Court*
Hon. Claudine Wyner, *Hampden Probate and Family Court*
Justin M. Banks, Esq., *Kajko, Weisman & Colasanti, LLP, Lexington*
Peter Kajko, Esq., *Kajko, Weisman & Colasanti, LLP, Lexington*
Rachael M. Soun, Esq., *Atwood & Cherney PC, Boston*
Karen Sweeney Shea, Esq., *McGrath & Kane, Boston*

12:45 p.m.: Conclusion-See you next year!

