Follow us on social media!

facebook.com/MVLSProBono/

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
@MVLSProBono

Visit [www.mvlslaw.org/events](http://www.mvlslaw.org/events) for more info on upcoming training and clinics!
Resources for MVLS Volunteers
Judicare Opportunities

- Judicare is a reduced fee-program that funds pro bono legal services organizations up to $1,600 per case representation.
- Judicare attorneys must accept one pro bono case for every Judicare case accepted.
- For more info: mvlslaw.org/judicare-family-law-reduced-fee-panel/
- Contact Michelle Swift at 443-451-4068 or mswift@mvlslaw.org to join the Judicare panel.
Upcoming Training:
Go to mvslslaw.org/events for more info!

February 21 - Nuts & Bolts of Collections: IRS & MD
5:30 - 7:30 pm

March 22 - Baltimore City Code Enforcement Action - What’s Next?
12 - 1:30 pm | Webinar

March 22 - “March Madness” Themed Benefit
Visit mvslslaw.org/2018benefit for tickets!
6 - 9 pm

April 16 - It Ain’t Over ‘til the QDRO Has Been Prepared....
10 am - 12 pm

April 27 - Human Trafficking in Maryland and Beyond:
Providing Post-Conviction Relief
12 - 3 pm
Anatomy of a Family Law Case

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Heyman Law Firm
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Baltimore, Maryland 21201
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Pre-Litigation

- Are there any relevant agreements? Pre-existing orders?
- Are there other alimony or support obligations?
- Settlement vs. litigation considerations; Fee arrangements
- Religious considerations
- Documents to be assembled
  - Financial Statement (short or long form)
  - Pay stubs and tax returns
  - Documents relevant to best interests analysis (photos, drawings, report cards, etc.)
  - What to do with medical records
Litigation

- Complaint and Preliminary Issues
- Grounds: FL 7-103
  - Voluntary/Involuntary Separation
  - Fault-Based Grounds
  - Mutual Consent
  - Limited Divorce
  - Custody and/or Support only
  - Civil (Domestic) Information Report
- Regular vs. Substitute Service (Maryland Rules 2-121, 2-122, 2-126
  - Service of Amended Complaints
Answer

- Time for filing (in state v. out of state defendants)
- Mandatory Preliminary Matters: Venue, Process, Personal Jurisdiction
- Permissive Preliminary Matters: Subject Matter Jurisdiction
- Affirmative Defenses
- Effect of Failure to Answer Each Allegation
- Counter-Claim practice

Bifurcation and Reservation
• Scheduling Conference
  • Maryland Rules 2-504 and 2-504.1
    • ESI
    • Neutral Experts, BIAs, and Other Relief
  • Interim visitation orders and agreements facilitated by magistrates
Pendente Lite Relief

- How requested and time for requesting
- Remedies available on pendente lite basis
- Preparing for the PL “mini trial”
Discovery

- Methods available
- Time for serving
- Time for responding
- Depositions of parties and third parties
Expert Witness Practice

- The Expert Designation
- Expert witness discovery and practice
Mediation/Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Differences by City/County
- Mediation practice
- Parenting plans

- Custody Evaluations

- Substance abuse evaluations
- Court-appointed psychiatric and social work evaluations
H. Best Interest Attorneys
   i. Basis for appointment and Role
   ii. Family Law 1-202
   iii. Privilege Waivers (Nagle v. Hooks)
   iv. Practice Standards Maryland Rule 9-205.1
   v. Compensation and Liability Issues
Pretrial Conferences

Practice by City/County

The Pretrial Statement Maryland Rule 2-504.2
Trial

- Joint Statement of Marital Property
- Exhibits, Stipulations, Witness Lists, and Other Housekeeping Issues
- Testimony/Meetings with Minor Children; Preferences
- Role of Magistrate vs. Judge and Process for Filing Exceptions
Judgments and Orders; Enforcement
  - Post-Judgment Practice
  - Contempt
  - Modification and the “Material Change in Circumstances” Analysis

Bankruptcy