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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 mvlslaw.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 mvlslaw.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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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