

Agenda

Obtaining and Evaluating Financial Information

L. Canales

Identifying relevant information on assets, debts, income and expenses
Obtaining financial information

- Using financial information questionnaires
- Using interrogatories, requests for production, deposition testimony, private investigators
- Valuing assets

Evaluating the information you have obtained
Working with accountants and financial experts
Preparing financial statements

Preparing Pleadings and Assisting with Motion Practice

E. Ross

Preparing initial pleadings Requesting temporary relief
Preparing for the temporary orders hearing Preparing the temporary orders

Assisting with Alternative Dispute Resolution

L. Melhart

Assisting in family law mediation
Understanding and assisting in divorce arbitration
Assisting in the collaborative divorce process

Assisting with Child Custody and Visitation Issues

M. Wise

Current status of custody law in Texas
Obtaining relevant information

- Client interview, custody questionnaires, authorizations for disclosure, using formal discovery

Working with guardian-ad-litem Working with experts
Drafting and reviewing parenting plans

Enforcing and Modifying Family Law Orders and Decrees

M. Wise

Implementing divorce decrees and orders

- Preparing and filing the decree
- Enforcing judgments and orders

Modifying decrees and orders

- Determining which parts of a decree or order are subject to modification, deciding when to seek modification

Assisting in modification actions

Handling Ethical Issues in Family Law Practice

H. Rampy Baird

Complying with rules of professional responsibility and ethics guidelines for attorneys and paralegals
Ethical considerations in negotiations and communications with opposing counsel and your client

- Review of mandates from the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct
- Principles from the Texas Lawyer's Creed
- Working with the secretive or dishonest client
- Zealous (vs. over-zealous) representation

Avoiding conflicts of interest
Maintaining client confidentiality
Avoiding the unauthorized practice of law

Texas Family Law Practice for Paralegals

Live, Interactive Webinar - Wed., December 2, 2020



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Learning Objectives

You'll be able to:

Locate and evaluate financial information on assets, debts, income, and expenses.

Prepare initial pleadings and request temporary relief.

Assist with family law mediation and assist in the collaborative divorce process.

Determine which parts of a decree or order are subject to modification and evaluate when to seek modification.

Identify ethical considerations in negotiations and communications with clients and opposing counsel.



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Texas Family Law Practice for Paralegals

Live, Interactive Webinar - Wednesday, December 2, 2020



Obtain and evaluate financial information

Enforce and modify family law orders and decrees

Prepare pleadings and assisting with motion practice

Explore ethical issues in family law practice

Assist with alternative dispute resolution

Continuing Education Credits

Texas Certified Paralegals
6.5 Family Law CLE Hours



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Faculty

Loren A. Canales is an associate at Schlanger Silver LLP. A native Houstonian, she earned her B.A. degree in Philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin in December 2012. After graduating, she attended South Texas College of Law while also working for a small family law firm in Pearland, Texas. During law school, Ms. Canales gained practice-ready skills in both the Family Law Advanced Clinic and Domestic Violence Clinic. She is a second-generation family law attorney and grew up wanting to help people navigate what is often the most difficult time of their lives. After being admitted to practice law in November 2016, Ms. Canales began her legal career at Burgower Law, LLP, in January 2017 and remained there until joining Schlanger Silver LLP in January 2020. She handles a variety of family law matters including adoptions, divorces, child custody disputes, enforcements, marital agreements, and modification actions.

Emily T. Ross of the Law Office of Emily T. Ross, PLLC, practices exclusively family law in Montgomery and Harris Counties. In addition to being a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association and Houston Bar Association, she is an active member of the Burta Rhoads Raborn Family Law American Inn of Court, an organization focused on mentoring attorneys and enriching the practice of family law through education and ethical awareness. Ms. Ross also serves on the Bill Review Committee of the Texas Family Law Foundation, reviewing and advising on legislation that impacts family lawyers and their clients throughout Texas. She earned her B.S. degree in Psychology and Criminology from Florida State University and her J.D. degree from Baylor University School of Law.

Lauren E. Melhart is an attorney at Kinser & Bates, LLP. She has been licensed to practice law in Texas since 2007 and earned board certification in family law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in 2014. Ms. Melhart has extensive experience within the family law field, including several years as a prosecutor representing the Department of Family and Protective Services. As a CPS prosecutor, Ms. Melhart received the award for excellence in serving children from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Trinity Valley. She has also been named by Super Lawyers as a Texas Rising Star each year since 2013 and is on the faculty for the NITA/American Bar Association Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute held in Boulder, Colorado, every July.

Webinar Information

Log into Webinar	Break
8:00 - 8:30 am CST	12:00 - 12:30 pm CST
Morning Session	Afternoon Session
8:30 am - 12:00 pm CST	12:30 - 4:00 pm CST

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This seminar is open to the public. The Texas Board of Legal Specialization has approved this course for 6.5 CLE hours, in the specialty area of Family Law.

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Mari L. Wise is an attorney with The Wise Law Firm in Houston. She is a board-certified family law attorney practicing family law in Harris County, Fort Bend County, Montgomery County, Waller County, Brazoria County and surrounding counties. Most frequently, she serves clients in Houston, Katy, Sugarland, Richmond, and throughout the surrounding areas. Ms. Wise helps clients in all divorce and family law-related matters, including child custody and child support, spousal maintenance, property division, post-divorce modifications and appeals. She also assists clients in other areas of family law, such as adoptions and paternity proceedings. Ms. Wise was admitted to the practice of law in Texas in 2000 and was admitted to the United State District Court for the Southern District of Texas in 2004. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin with honors, majoring in Psychology, and she earned her J.D. degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston. Ms. Wise is a member of the State Bar of Texas, State Bar of Texas Family Law Division, College of the State Bar of Texas, the Houston Bar Association and Houston Bar Association Family Law Division, as well as the Fort Bend County Bar Association.

Holly Rampy Baird is a partner at Orsinger, Nelson, Downing and Anderson, LLP, where her practice is limited solely to family law. She graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law in 2006 and earned her undergraduate degree from Hardin-Simmons University in 2002, where she graduated with a double major in Finance and Economics. Ms. Baird’s background in finance laid the groundwork for her practice which is focused on cases involving complex property divisions. She also handles cases involving difficult child custody matters in divorces, modifications, paternity suits, and enforcements. Ms. Baird was licensed to practice law in Texas in November 2010, and she is board certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She was selected as a Rising Star by Thomas Reuters each year from 2014 to 2018, and she was named as one of the top 50 up-and-coming Women and top 100 up-and-coming Attorneys in Texas in 2017, as published in *Texas Monthly* magazine. She was also selected to *D Magazine’s* list of “Best Lawyers Under 40” in 2018. Ms. Baird is a member of the Family Law Section of the Dallas Bar Association, the Texas Family Law Foundation, the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers and its foundation, and the Annette Stewart American Inn of Court.

Additional Learning

The Complete Trust Course
Wed., October 21 and Thurs., October 22, 2020

- Understanding Estate, Gift, Income and Trust Taxation
- The Critical Role of Testamentary Trusts in the Estate Plan
- Income and Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Basics
- Using Revocable Trusts
- IRAs and Trusts: Sophisticated Beneficiary Choices
- Asset Protection Planning for Seniors and the Disabled
- and more!

Federal Fiduciary Income Tax Workshop
Wed., October 28, 2020 and Thurs., October 29, 2020

- Income Taxation of Estates and Trusts
- Fundamental Fiduciary Tax and Accounting Concepts
- Income Reportable by Fiduciaries
- Deductions Available to Fiduciaries
- Tax Calculations, Credits, Payments and Special Rules
- Sample Problems for Form 1041 Preparation
- and more!

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Registration

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