South Carolina Family Law Practice for Paralegals

Columbia, SC - Friday, April 24, 2020

You’ll be able to:

Perform conflict checks and assist with initial client interviews.
Prepare initial pleadings and temporary orders.
Identify relevant information on assets, debts, income, and expenses.
Discuss the current status of custody law in South Carolina.
Assist with the drafting and implementation of divorce decrees and orders.
Comply with the rules of professional responsibility and ethics guidelines for attorneys and paralegals.

Agenda

Assisting with Family Law Case Intake
R. Creel
- Performing conflicts checks
- Assisting with initial client interview
- Preparing engagement letter, opening file
- Collecting information

Preparing Pleadings and Assisting with Motion Practice
J. Howard III
- Preparing initial pleadings
- Requesting temporary relief
- Preparing for the temporary orders hearing
- Preparing the temporary orders

Obtaining and Evaluating Financial Information
C. Warner
- 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

Assisting with Child Custody and Visitation Issues
D. Butcher
- Current status of custody law in South Carolina
- 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
S. Hawkins
- Implementing divorce decrees and orders
  - Preparing and filing the decree
  - Preparing other necessary documents
  - 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
R. McLean
- Complying with rules of professional responsibility and ethics guidelines for attorneys and paralegals
- Avoiding conflicts of interest
- Maintaining client confidentiality
- Avoiding the unauthorized practice of law
- Working with the secretive or dishonest client
- Handling allegations of abuse or neglect
- Zealous vs. over-zealous representation
- Fee agreements, retainers, and collection of unpaid fees

Learning Objectives

- Assist with family law case intake
- Draft pleadings and assist with motion practice
- Obtain and evaluate financial information
- Learn about assisting with child custody disputes
- Get tips on enforcement and modification of family law orders and decrees
- Identify ethical issues in family law practice

Continuing Education Credits
This seminar offers paralegals
6.5 CLE hours, including 1.0 ethics hour.
NALA Approved
NFPA Approved
Faculty

Rebecca Creel is the founder of Creel Family Law, LLC. She is a native of Hemingway, South Carolina, and an alumnus of Converse College. She received her J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2007. She is also a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Social Work. Ms. Creel specializes in the areas of family law, probate, and estate planning. She has extensive experience in the family law, probate, civil and appellate court systems. She is a certified family court mediator and guardian ad litem. Ms. Creel has been named as a member in the South Carolina Business Monthly Legal Elite of the Midlands in the area of family law for the past three consecutive years and was honored in 2015 by South Carolina Supreme Court's Commission on the Profession as the G. Dewey Omer Jr., Mentee of the Year. She has been selected to teach and speak at the South Carolina Bar convention, the Family Court Bench/Bar, Family Law Essentials, and the SCAJ Annual Convention. Ms. Creel has also assisted in drafting publications such as the AIC-Lawyer Reference Manual and Low School for NonLawyers on family law issues. She serves on the editorial board of the 9th Edition of Mental Literature in South Carolina.

John W. Howard III is a solo practitioner who has been an attorney for over 45 years. He focuses his practice in the areas of domestic litigation, domestic mediation and arbitration and real estate matters. Mr. Howard is admitted to the United States Supreme Court, the South Carolina Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces and the United States Court of Appeals. He is also certified as a family court mediator and circuit court arbitrator. Mr. Howard earned his J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Carrie Warner, Attorney at Law, is known for her success in family law law, probate and estate planning cases. She is part of the legal team that made history in 2014 when their clients prevailed on their challenge to South Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage, with the ultimate decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Warner brings considerable experience in the family, probate, civil and appellate court systems. She is regularly featured in statewide publications, at conferences, and in the news media. She also serves as a volunteer for the American Bar Association's legal services program for U.S. military service members.

Seminar Information

Course by Marriott Columbia
Downtown at USC
630 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29012
(803) 799-7800

Tuition
$299 for individual registration
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