Tennessee Family Law Practice for Paralegals
Nashville, TN - Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Assist with family law case intake
Draft pleadings and assist with motion practice
Obtain and evaluate financial evidence
Learn about assisting with child custody disputes

You’ll be able to:

Perform conflict checks and assist with initial client interviews.
Assist with the preparation of initial pleadings and temporary orders.
Identify relevant information on assets, debts, income, and expenses.
Discuss the current status of custody law in Tennessee.
Establish and maintain good communication with clients.

Assisting with Family Law Case Intake
L. Reid
Performing conflicts checks
Preparing engagement letter, opening file
Collecting information

Preparing Pleadings and Assisting with Motion Practice
M. Williams
Preparing initial pleadings
Requesting temporary relief
Preparing for the temporary orders hearing
Preparing the temporary orders

Obtaining and Evaluating Financial Information
C. Panther
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 and creating effective reporting tools
Working with accountants and financial experts
Preparing financial statements

Assisting with Child Custody and Visitation Issues
A. Walsh
Current status of custody law in Tennessee
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

Working With Divorce Clients and Opposing Counsel
J. Cassell
Establishing and maintaining good communication with clients
• Methods of communication and contents of communications
• Guidelines for responding to client communications
Working with difficult clients
Working with the courts and opposing counsel
Maintaining professionalism
Capturing your time for billing
Dealing with cultural or linguistic barriers to communication
Boundaries for opposing counsel and clients

Assisting with Alternative Dispute Resolution
C. Panther
Assisting in family law mediation
• Co-mediation
• Mediation statements
Assisting in the collaborative divorce process
• TN Supreme Court Rule 53 requirements
• Screening clients for process
Differences in mediation and collaborative processes

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Continuing Education Credits
This seminar offers all paralegals 6.5 CLE hours.

NALA Approved
NFPA Approved

Work effectively with divorce clients and opposing counsel
Assist in mediation and in the collaborative divorce process

Agenda

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Faculty
Lori Thomas Reid is an attorney at Reid Family Law. She is a 1985 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law. Ms. Reid has practiced family law for nearly 30 years, including working as a JD in attorney in the 21st Judicial District of Tennessee from 1994 until 2000. She opened Reid Family Law in 2017, where she focuses her practice on prenuptial agreements, divorce, post-divorce, child support, custody, adoption, grandparent’s rights, and juvenile court cases. She is a Rule 31 Listed Mediator. In January of 2020, Ms. Reid was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission for a two-year term. She received the Professionalism Award from the Williamson County Bar Association in 2010.

Megan Williams is a senior litigation attorney with the International Domestic Litigation firm of Cordell and Cordell, PC. She opened the Nashville, Tennessee, location and currently works in the Nashville office serving North Nashville family law clients. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in Political Science from DePaul University and her juris doctorate degree from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2011. In 2015, she was named as the Top Regional Performer with her firm. In 2018, she was named to the National Advocates Top 40 Under 40 list. Ms. Williams is a member of the Nashville Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the Junior League Advocacy Committee, and she is a Board Member with CASA. In her free time, she loves to travel and spend quality time with her teacup yorkie named Benji.

Cheryl Panther is a certified public accountant, Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 listed family mediator, and presets and manages her own team of paralegals. She has experience working as a financial advisor (Tennessee). She provides creative, outside-the-box analytical skills to the often complex, confusing, and ever-changing financial and taxation issues in divorce cases and settlements. She executes a variety of specialized divorce financial services for clients and attorneys, including education and support as a neutral financial and tax professional in collaborative divorce mediation, and consulting and testifying in traditional divorce cases. Ms. Panther has presented a variety of training programs for collaborative divorce, mediation, and financial and taxation topics. She serves her practice group, the Middle Tennessee Collaborative Alliance, as president, is a member of the training faculty for the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) and serves on several education committees for IACP. She also offers training for collaborative divorce practitioners through the Institute for Family Conflict Resolution, of which she is a principal member.

Aaron G. Walsh is an attorney at Walsh Law, LLC. He received his law degree in 2003 from the University of South Carolina. While there, he clerked for a local law firm and worked on the student staff of the ABA Real Property, Probate, and Trust Journal. After graduation, Mr. Walsh spent time working in a law firm and an assistant public defender before settling into private, solo, practice in 2007. His primary focus is family and domestic law, though he continues to defend criminal cases at all levels. Mr. Walsh is admitted to practice in South Carolina and Tennessee.

Jane Ellen Cassell is an attorney at The Cassell Law Firm. Her primary focus is on immigration law and family and divorce litigation. Drawing on her experience in navigating complex immigration matters including deportation and removal proceedings, visas, humanitarian petitions, and waivers of admissibility, Ms. Cassell is an advocate for the immigrant community. She is also an assertive and passionate family law attorney who helps her clients through difficult divorce, child support, custody, and adoption matters with a deliberate aim to achieve the best results for their families. Ms. Cassell is licensed in the state of Tennessee and has also been admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court of Middle Tennessee. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Belmont University American Inns of Court, the American Bar Association, and Lawyer’s Association for Women: Marion Griffin Chapter.

Seminar Information
Scarrritt-Bennett Center
1027 18th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 340-7500

Tuition
$299 for individual registration
$279 for three or more registrants from the same company at the same time.

Continuing Education Credit Information
This seminar is open to all paralegals and offers 6.5 CLE hours to paralegals. Certification is not required to attend this event. The National Association of Legal Assistants and the National Federation of Paralegal Associations have approved this course for 6.5 CLE hours, including no ethics hours. Please visit www.halfmoonseminars.org for current NALA and NFPA course approval information under this seminar listing.

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