

MBA NEWS



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THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHILDREN

LENOX, Mass. — How to manage divorce cases while considering the best interests of the children involved is the focus of the Massachusetts Bar Association's 17th Annual Family Law Conference: "Deciding, Proving and Planning for Best Interests – When Family Law Cases Affect Children."

The conference, sponsored by the MBA's Family Law Section, will be held from Friday, Sept. 28 through Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Cranwell Resort, Spa and Golf Club in Lenox. It will feature sessions that include emerging trends and new legislation. There will also be a judicial forum on parenting plans and custody.

"This is the premier event for family law practitioners around the state," said conference chair Veronica J. Fenton, the MBA regional delegate for Berkshire/Franklin/Hampshire counties and a private practice attorney in Lenox. "The conference will discuss trends that could help guide our clients through the divorce process. I think the prevailing issue is the changing dynamic of the family."

The two-day event will conclude at 2:45 p.m. on Sept. 29 with the Judicial Forum on Parenting Plans. Panelists will include the Berkshire Probate and Family Court First Justice Edward J. Lapointe and Franklin Probate and Family Court First Justice Geoffrey A. Wilson.

Among the faculty and presenters are:

- Fenton and Thomas A. Kenefick III, Thomas A. Kenefick III PC, Springfield – Parent Alienation Syndrome: Will Expert Testimony Survive *Daubert*?
- Marsha Kline Pruett, a clinical psychologist and faculty member at Smith College in Northhampton – The Father-Child Connection: A Two-Way Street
- Paula M. Carey, incoming Chief Justice of the Probate and Family Court and Edward P. Ryan Jr., O'Connor & Ryan PC, Fitchburg – Clinical Experts in a Custody Case: Are They Necessary and How to Present and Challenge Clinical Expert Testimony
- Theresa M. Varnet, Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple PC, Worcester – Special Financial Planning for Special Needs Children

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.