

# GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

## 2009 Marital and Family Law Review Course

by Damian J. Turco, Esq.

This past weekend, I attended the Family Law Section's annual Marital and Family Law Review Course; it was a great experience. I have not taken the certification exam, nor is it my intention to do so this year. In fact, I have only been practicing law for nine months. Why then did I attend? Because family law is my focus and I intend to become an expert.

The less experience one has in a particular practice area, the more patchwork one's expertise is likely to be. It is difficult to improve knowledge across the several components of family law in a consistent manner, particularly in the early stages of our careers. That makes attending courses like this, at the outset and throughout one's career, so important.

Having the current law of our discipline laid out by some of the brightest practitioners in the State provides the benefit of improved understanding across each fundamental area of family law. Beyond the substantive lectures and great practice tips, the written materials provide even further guidance for use in our current and future cases. Of course, those three volumes also present a patient opportunity for continued learning whenever we are ready.

Aside from the knowledge imparted by the Course's speakers, was the opportunity to meet other experienced practitioners from around the State. We are largely and, in my opinion, rightly a collegial group. Accordingly, there was no shortage of appreciated good advice and offers to provide guidance as needed in the future. As a new practitioner, that is significant to me and I intend to pay that favor forward to those who I may help in the future.

Before leaving Orlando, I had the opportunity to observe the Executive Council meeting. For those of you who have not attended, I recommend the experience. The Council is our Section's leadership, engaged in running the Family Law Section. These members exhibit a passion beyond that which drives us in helping our clients through some of their most difficult times. The Council's members dedicate their time and effort to further and improve the discipline as a whole. It was an experience to observe.

I have not practiced long, but I have practiced long enough to realize this is a career in which to be truly great, it must be a career of continuous improvement. The Marital and Family Law Review Course was a good step in that direction. Just five more years and I can actually take the exam.