



2011-2012

Committee Preference Form

*Maximize your Impact on Family Law in Florida and
Enhance your Section Membership*

Join a Committee Today!

Dear Family Law Section Member:

It's that time of the year again — time to select and designate The Florida Bar Family Law Section committees that you would like to serve on during the 2011 - 2012 bar cycle. As Chair Elect of the Section, and on behalf of the Section's Executive Council, I extend an invitation to those of you already engaged in Section service to continue that valuable process. To those of you who have not yet served on a Section committee, I challenge you to take your first steps toward beginning Section service in what I hope will be an interesting, meaningful, exciting, and fun-filled year.

The Section's theme for the 2011 – 2012 bar cycle is “Balancing and Improving.” Section committee participation will provide you the opportunity to reach out to fellow family law practitioners, judges, general magistrates, forensic and other professionals {C.P.A.s, mental health practitioners, mediators, etc.} statewide; and to network, renew old friendships, and forge new ones.

The Section's operational committees fulfill a variety of important functions that benefit the bench, the bar, and Florida's families by:

- Initiating and monitoring legislation,
- Providing technical assistance to legislators and their staff who are drafting or considering legislation,
- Improving rules and forms, as well as creating new ones to implement legislation enacted into law,
- Educating members, non-members and the public via a vast array of live and electronic seminars,
- Disseminating information through the Section's various print and electronic publication,
- Recruiting new members, and
- Obtaining sponsorship for the Section's on-going activities.

The substantive committees include adoption, paternity, dependency and children's issues; alternative dispute resolution; domestic violence; equitable distribution; litigation support; and support issues.

You will find the Section's various operational and substantive committees attached to the Committee Preference Form. I invite you to go on the Section's website at www.familylawfla.org to review committee minutes and reports to get an additional sense of the type of work that the committees do. Feel free to contact any Executive Council member {contact information is on the same website} if you have questions about a particular committee or general service within the Section.

Meetings of the Family Law Section committees are open to all Section members, as is membership on all of the listed committees. Committee membership is not capped for any of the committees except legislation. Any Section member may appear to voice comments at any committee meeting. However, the only way to be kept informed of the meeting dates, times, and agendas so your voice can be heard is by joining a committee. Although any Section member will be recognized for discussion purposes at committee meetings, voting is limited to those listed on the committee roster. Therefore, your potential to impact committee work and direction is enhanced by signing up now for assignment to those committees that interest you.

Take the time to serve the Section and assist us in fulfilling the Section's motto and goal of “Serving Florida's Families” and “Promoting Professionalism.” I guarantee that you will enjoy yourself and that the service you render will benefit you both professionally and personally.

DAVID L. MANZ

Chair Elect

The Florida Bar, Family Law Section

DEADLINE TO RETURN THIS FORM TO THE FLORIDA BAR IS April 15, 2011!

Help Yourself and the Family Law Section Say YES to Committee Participation!

To ensure that we maintain a diverse mix of members across the state, you will be placed on the roster of any committee selected. Being on a committee roster keeps you advised of committee action, including live meetings, telephone conferences and e-mail votes. You will also be able to vote at all committee meetings.

This brochure describes the 2011-2012 Family Law Section committees. Please fill out this form indicating the committee(s) of your choice and return it to The Florida Bar **even if you are now a member of the committee(s) you select.**

There will be separate applications to join the Executive Council or to be elected as a Section officer. Fill out this form regardless of whether you intend to apply for one of those positions.

We hope that you will plan to attend the following Family Law Section events in 2011-2012:

April 6 - 10, 2011

Family Law Spring Retreat – Escape to Wine Country

Location: Villagio Inn & Spa (*Hotel Sold Out*)

Call for Reservations: Napa Valley Lodge – (888) 944-3545

Hotel Yountville – (888) 944-2885

Brochure available on Section website

June 22 - 23, 2011

**Family Law Section Annual Meeting in conjunction with
The Florida Bar Annual Convention**

Location: Gaylord Palms Resort, Kissimmee, FL

June 22 - Family Law Committee Meetings, 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

June 23 - Family Law Executive Council Meeting, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

August 11 - 14, 2011

Matrimonial Trial Advocacy Seminar

Location: Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa

Call for Reservations: (888) 236-2427

Group Code: The Florida Bar

September 21 - 24, 2010

Florida Bar Midyear Meeting

Location: Hilton Walt Disney World Resort

October 2011

Family Law Fall Retreat

Location: Boston

April 2011

Family Law Section Spring Retreat

Location: TBD

January 2012 (tentative)

- **Marital & Family Law Review Course**
- **Family Law Section Midyear Meeting**

June 20 - 21, 2012

**Family Law Section Annual Meeting in conjunction with
The Florida Bar Annual Convention**

Location: Gaylord Palms Resort, Kissimmee, FL

Check the Family Law Section website (www.familylawfla.org) for details about these meetings!

2011-2012 Operational Committees

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION – This committee plans, schedules, produces and runs all Section CLE programs, including our telephonic lecture series. The CLE committee also assists the section chair in planning seminars to occur at Spring and Fall Family Law Section retreats.

LEGISLATION – This committee creates legislation and monitors proposals in the Legislature. Members work with our lobbyist advising legislators and staff and testifying before the Legislature.

MEMBERSHIP – This important committee showcases our Section and seeks to increase membership through the creation, explanation and display of membership benefits and opportunities.

PUBLICATIONS – This committee exhibits the Section's talents to the rest of the Bar by soliciting, producing and editing content for our newsletter, The Commentator; our e-zine, FAMSEG; our state-of-the-art website and articles for The Florida Bar Journal.

RULES & FORMS – Working with family law rules, judicial administration rules and Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, this committee creates new and revises existing rules and forms. It also provides analysis and input as to the impact rule changes sought by others will have upon the practice of family law.

SPONSORSHIP – This committee forms strategic relationships with entities eager to reach members of our Section. Sponsorship revenues enable us to maintain our high level of service to members.

2011-2012 Substantive Committees

ADOPTION, PATERNITY, DEPENDENCY and CHILDREN'S ISSUES – This committee looks at placement, safety, welfare and best interests of children in all areas of family law. It works closely with the Legislation Committee and Executive Council ensuring that children's interests are a primary concern.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – This committee has established itself as a statewide leader in the area of domestic violence. It often is the driving force behind positive changes to legislation, rules and forms.

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION – Analyzing the law concerning the division of assets and debts in a family law case, this committee works to improve Florida's equitable distribution, looking at presumptions, special equity and the option of temporary equitable distribution relief.

GENERAL MAGISTRATES – This committee discusses issues relating to magistrates and support enforcement hearing officers. It suggests changes in areas impacting magistrates and hearing officers.

LITIGATION SUPPORT – This committee interacts with mental health and financial professionals to examine and define the roles of litigation support professionals in a family law practice.

MEDIATION and COLLABORATIVE LAW – This committee seeks to educate attorneys and judges about the availability of mediation, collaborative law and other alternative dispute resolutions models. It seeks statewide uniformity in practice of those models through passage of statutes or rules.

SUPPORT ISSUES – This committee focuses its efforts on the determination, modification and enforcement of alimony and child support. It has been responsible for many improvements in the law.

The Florida Bar
651 E. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300

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Help Yourself and the Family Law Section Say YES to Committee Participation!

Your cooperation in promptly returning this form will allow our committees to be formed and ready by the Annual Meeting. Complete this form even if you now serve on the committee(s) of your choice.

After making your choice(s), please return this entire page *including label to:*

**SUMMER HALL
FAMILY LAW SECTION ADMINISTRATOR
THE FLORIDA BAR
651 E. JEFFERSON STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2300**

Place a check mark next to any committee(s) you wish to join for the 2011-2012. If you want to apply for committee leadership, contact David L. Manz, Incoming Chair, at dmanz@bellsouth.net.

Operational Committees:

- _____ (FL952) CLE
- _____ (FL954) Legislation
- _____ (FL957) Membership
- _____ (FL951) Publications
- _____ (FL958) Rules/Forms
- _____ (FL959) Sponsorship

Substantive Committees:

- _____ (FL961) Adoption, Paternity, Dependency and Children's Issues
- _____ (FL967) Domestic Violence
- _____ (FL965) Equitable Distribution
- _____ (FL969) General Magistrates
- _____ (FL966) Litigation Support
- _____ (FL955) Mediation and Collaborative Law
- _____ (FL960) Support Issues

Print Name: _____ Atty. Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

DEADLINE TO RETURN THIS FORM TO THE FLORIDA BAR IS APRIL 15, 2011!

ATTENTION! All current committee members must return this form to remain on the committee roster!