

Preface

Ensure student success with the Focus Casebook Series.

THE FOCUS APPROACH

In a law office, when a new associate attorney is being asked to assist a supervising attorney with a legal matter in which the associate has no prior experience, it is common for the supervising attorney to provide the associate with a recently closed case file involving the same legal issues so that the associate can see and learn from the closed file to assist more effectively with the new matter. This experiential approach is at the heart of the *Focus Casebook Series*.

Additional hands-on features, such as Real Life Applications, Application Exercises, and Applying the Concepts provide more opportunities for critical analysis and application of concepts covered in the chapters. Professors can assign problem-solving questions as well as exercises on drafting documents and preparing appropriate filings.

CONTENT SNAPSHOT

Chapter 1 sets the stage with a review of the historical antecedents of family law and cases that shaped the foundations of the current law in this area. **Chapter 2** builds upon these historical foundations and reviews the recent law with respect to marriage equality and recognition of same sex marriages, as well as the recognition of rights for non-marital couples.

Chapters 3 through 10 build, in order, the law with respect to family relationships and of legal separation and divorce. **Chapter 3** begins with the law of premarital and post-marital agreements that may form the basis for how assets are divided. **Chapter 4** explores the basic divorce, annulment and legal separation process. Each of the subsequent chapters takes an area of the law and details the statutory and case law that the courts must use in defining rights and responsibilities of each individual. **Chapter 5** addresses child custody and explores the best interest standard judges must use in deciding parenting rights and visitation. **Chapter 6** looks to the financial aspect of child custody decisions and how to set child support and enforce child support orders. **Chapters 7 and 8** provide in-depth coverage of spousal support and division of marital property, issues that exist in all divorce cases. The procedural aspects of family law cases are discussed in **Chapter 9** covering the divorce process, and in **Chapter 10** on jurisdiction.

Chapters 11 through 15 focus on individual aspects of family law that may not arise in every case but are important areas for practitioners to understand and to address. Thus, Domestic Violence (**Chapter 11**), Parentage issues (**Chapter 12**), Child Abuse and Neglect (**Chapter 13**), Adoption (**Chapter 14**) and Assisted Reproductive Technology (**Chapter 15**) are covered, tracing developments from the historical underpinnings to the current law applied by family courts.

RESOURCES

Casebook: The casebook is structured around text, cases, and application exercises. Highlighted cases are introduced with a *Case Preview*, which sets up the issue and identifies key questions. *Post-Case Follow-Ups* expand on the holding in the case. *Real Life Applications* present opportunities to challenge students to apply concepts covered in the case to realistic hypothetical cases. *Application Exercises* offer a mix of problem solving and research activities to determine the law of the state where the student plans to practice. State law application exercises better prepare the student to actually handle cases. The *Applying the Concepts* feature demands critical analysis and integration of concepts covered in the chapter.

Other resources to enrich your class include: Practice Skills Exercises, or supplementary material such as Examples & Explanations: Family Law 4E, by Robert E. Oliphant and Nancy Ver Steegh. Ask your Wolters Kluwer sales representative or visit the Wolters Kluwer site at wklegaledu.com to learn more about building the product package that's right for you.