### Contents

Preface xxvii  
Acknowledgments xxix  

## I MARRIAGE AND ITS ALTERNATIVES

### Chapter 1. When Are Adult Partners a Family?
- Fineman, Why Marriage? 3  
- Sanger, A Case for Civil Marriage 5  
- Garrison, The Decline of Formal Marriage: Inevitable or Reversible? 8  
- Bowman, Social Science and Legal Policy: The Case of Heterosexual Cohabitation 11  
- Obergefell v. Hodges 13  
- Notes and Questions 15  
- Blumenthal v. Brewer 16  
- Notes and Questions 16  
- Braschi v. Stabl Associates Company 23  
- Notes and Questions 27  
- City of Ladue v. Horn 28  
- Notes and Questions 32  
- Armstrong v. Mayor 34  
- Notes and Questions 38  

### Chapter 2. The Importance of Being a Family

#### A. Marital Property
1. Ownership and Control of Wealth 44
   a. The Common Law Tradition 44
      Problem 46
      Adams v. Jankouskas 47
      Notes and Questions 49
      Problems 51
   b. Community Property 51
      Carter, The Illusion of Equality: The Failure of the Community Property Reform to Achieve Management Equality 53
      Notes and Questions 55
      Problems 55
2. Employment-Related and Public Benefits 56
Boggs v. Boggs 57
Notes and Questions 62
3. Family Support Duties 64
McGuire v. McGuire 64
Case, Enforcing Bargains in an Ongoing Marriage 67
Teitelbaum, Family History and Family Law 69
Hafen, The Family as an Entity 71
Notes and Questions 71
Sharpe Furniture, Inc. v. Buckstaff 72
Galbraith, Economics and the Public Purpose 76
Carter, The Illusion of Equality: The Failure of the Community Property Reform to Achieve Management Equality 77
Notes and Questions 79
Problem 81
“Necessaries” and Public and Private Benefits 81
Notes and Questions 83
4. Constitutional Limits on Gender-Based Classifications 83
Problem 83
a. Relevant Statutes 84
b. Empirical Data 84
Miller, The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap 84
c. Constitutional Decisions 85
B. Domestic Violence 91
Pleck, Domestic Tyranny: The Making of Social Policy Against Family Violence from Colonial Times to the Present 93
1. Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System 94
Williams v. State 94
Notes and Questions 99
Problem 100
Note: The Impact of Mandatory Arrest and No-Drop Policies 101
2. Protective Orders 102
J.D. v. M.D.F. 102
Notes and Questions 110
Note: Federal Domestic Violence Legislation 113
C. Reproductive Choice 114
1. Reproductive Rights and Interests 114
2. Spousal Consent and Notice 117
Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri v. Danforth 117
Notes and Questions 119
Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey 119
### Chapter 3. Entering Ceremonial Marriage

A. The Agreement to Marry

- *Lutwak v. United States* 126
- Notes and Questions 129
- Note: “Void” and “Voidable” Marriages 130
- Problems 131
- Note: Marriage-Related Immigration Rules 131
- *In re Marriage of Ramirez* 133
- Notes and Questions 136
- Problems 138

B. Constitutional Protection for the Right to Marry

- *Loving v. Virginia* 139
- Notes and Questions 142
- *Obergefell v. Hodges* 144
- Notes and Questions 160
- Note: International Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Couples 163

C. Restrictions on Marrying

1. Formalities
   - *Pickard v. Pickard* 164
   - Notes and Questions 168
   - Problem 170

2. Mental Capacity
   - *Edmunds v. Edwards* 170
   - Notes and Questions 173

3. Relationship
   - *Nguyen v. Holder* 175
   - Notes and Questions 178
   - Problems 181

4. Age
   - *Porter v. Dep’t of Health & Human Services* 181
   - Notes and Questions 186

5. One at a Time
   - *State v. Holm* 187
   - Notes and Questions 196

### Chapter 4. Legal Recognition of Informal Family Partnerships

Glendon, Marriage and the State: The Withering Away of Marriage 209

A. Common Law Marriage, Presumptions About Marriage, and the Putative Spouse Doctrine 210

1. Common Law Marriage 211
   - Grossberg, Governing the Hearth 211
II FAMILY DISSOLUTION

Chapter 5. Divorce Grounds and Procedures
A. The Traditional Divorce System
Kucera v. Kucera
Notes and Questions
Problems

B. The Adoption of No-Fault Divorce
Friedman, Rights of Passage: Divorce Law in Historical Perspective

1. No-Fault Grounds for Divorce: Irretrievable Breakdown
Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act
Desrochers v. Desrochers
Notes and Questions
2. The Coexistence of Fault and No-Fault Grounds 271
   *Flanagan v. Flanagan* 271
   Notes and Questions 275

3. No-Default Divorce Procedure and Collusion 276
   *Vandervort v. Vandervort* 276
   Notes and Questions 278
   California Family Code — Summary
   Dissolution 280
   Notes and Questions 281
   Problems 281

C. Evaluating Divorce Reform 282
   1. The American State of Marriage and Divorce 283
      *Cherlin, American Marriage in the Early Twenty-First Century* 283
      *Wax, Engines of Inequality: Class, Race, and Family Structure* 284
      Notes and Questions 286
   2. What Role Does the Law Play? 288
      *Scott, Divorce, Children’s Welfare, and the Culture Wars* 289
      *Mechoulan, Divorce Laws and the Structure of the American Family* 290
      Notes and Questions 291

Chapter 6. Property Division and Spousal Support 295
A. Overview 295
   1. Historical Justifications of and Criteria for Economic Awards 296
   2. Economic Orders in the No-Fault Era 297
   3. Criticism of No-Fault Economics 298
      *Prager, Sharing Principles and the Future of Marital Property Laws* 300
      *Oldham, Putting Asunder in the 1990s* 301
      *Carbone & Cahn, Nonmarriage* 302
B. Property Division at Divorce 303
   Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act § 307 305
   Notes and Questions 305
   Problem 307
   1. The Meaning of “Equitable Distribution” 307
      *Arneault v. Arneault* 307
      Notes and Questions 315
      Problems 321
   2. Characterization of Property as Separate or Marital 322
      *Siefert v. Siefert* 323
      Notes and Questions 325
      *O’Brien v. O’Brien* 327
      Notes and Questions 332
4. Fault Revisited
   Notes and Questions 380
   Problem 380

5. Spousal Support for the Caregiving Parent?
   Problem 380
   Empirical Data on Working Parents 381
   The General State of the Law 381
   The Politics and Social Value of Caregiving
   Estin, Maintenance, Alimony, and the Rehabilitation of Family Care 382
   Starnes, Lovers, Parents, and Partners: Disentangling Spousal and Co-Parenting Commitments 383

D. Divorce and New Property 384
1. Basic Principles 384
   Note: Valuing Streams of Payments 385
2. Pensions and Other Employment-Related Benefits 386
   Micke v. Micke 387
   Notes and Questions 395
   Note: Dividing Benefits into Marital and Nonmarital Shares 397
   Problems 400
   A Comparison: Survivorship Rights and Death Benefits 400
   Note: Social Security, Military, and Other Pensions 402
3. Professional Practices and Other Closely Held Businesses 404
   McReath v. McReath 404
   Notes and Questions 410
   Problems 413
4. Degrees, Licenses, Jobs, and Earning Capacity 413
   Marriage of Harris and Harris 414
   Notes and Questions 419

Chapter 7. Parent-Child Support Duties 421
Harris, Waldrop & Waldrop, Making and Breaking Connections Between Parents’ Duty to Support and Right to Control Their Children 421
A. The Current Child Support Model 424
   Williams, Guidelines for Setting Levels of Child Support Orders 425
Income Shares Formula 430
Wisconsin Formula 430
Notes and Questions 430
B. Challenges to the Continuity of Expenditures Model 431
Harris, The Proposed ALI Child Support Principles 432
Notes and Questions 436
C. Applying Child Support Formulas 439
Tuckman v. Tuckman 439
Notes and Questions 443
Problems 445
In re Marriage of Turk 446
Notes and Questions 450
Note: Child Support Obligations of Low-Income Parents 450
D. Post-Majority Child Support 451
Harris, Waldrop & Waldrop, Making and Breaking Connections Between Parents’ Duty to Support and Right to Control Their Children 451
Starnes v. Starnes 452
Turley & Desmond, Contributions to College Costs by Married, Divorced, and Remarried Parents 456
Fabricius, Braver & Deneau, Divorced Parents’ Financial Support of Their Children’s College Expenses 457
Notes and Questions 458
Problems 461
E. Adult Children’s Legal Obligation to Support Parents 462
American Healthcare Center v. Randall 462
Swoap v. Superior Court 465
Notes and Questions 466
Chapter 8. Modification, Termination, Enforcement, and Tax and Bankruptcy Treatment of Orders 469
A. Modification and Termination of Support 469
1. “Foreseeable” Changes in Circumstances 470
2. “Voluntary” Versus “Involuntary” Decreases in the Payor’s Income 471
Sharpe v. Sharpe 471
3. New Families — Spousal Support, Remarriage, and Cohabitation 480
   Peterson v. Peterson 481
   Notes and Questions 483
   Problems 485
   In the Matter of Raybeck 486
   Notes and Questions 488
   Problem 491

4. New Families — Child Support 491
   Harte v. Hand 492
   Notes and Questions 494
   Problems 497

5. A Comparison: Child Support Duties When the Family Receives Public Assistance 497

B. Enforcement 499
   Grall, Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support: 2013 499
   1. Private Enforcement Mechanisms — Liens, Trusts, and Insurance 500
   2. Jailing “Deadbeat” Parents 502
      Turner v. Rogers 502
      Notes and Questions 506
      Note: Civil or Criminal Contempt? 511
      Problem 513

3. The State-Federal Child Support Enforcement Program 513

4. The Continuing Challenge of Childhood Poverty 515
   Grall, Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support: 2013 515
   Harris, Questioning Child Support Enforcement Policy for Poor Families 516

C. Taxes 517
   1. Taxation of the Ongoing Family 518
   2. Taxation of the Family After Divorce 520
      a. Property Division — IRC § 1041 521
      b. Spousal Support — IRC §§ 71 and 215 522
      c. Child Support 524
      d. Dependency Exemptions, Child Tax Credits, Child Care Credits, Earned Income Credits, and Children’s Medical Expenses 525
      Problems 525

D. Bankruptcy 526
   In re Taylor 527
   Notes and Questions 531
Chapter 9. Child Custody

A. Introduction

Grossberg, Governing the Hearth: Law and the Family in Nineteenth Century America

B. Standards for Custody Determination

1. An Introduction to the “Best Interests” Standard

*Painter v. Bannister*

Freud, Painter v. Bannister: Postscript by a Psychoanalyst

Notes and Questions

Scott & Emery, Gender Politics and Child Custody: The Puzzling Persistence of the Best-Interests Standard

2. Shared Custody

*J.R. v. M.S.*

Notes and Questions

Note: Joint Custody Presumptions

Note: Children’s Preferences

Note: Parental Alienation and Joint Custody

Note: Parenting Plans and Parenting Coordinators

American Law Institute, Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution

Notes and Questions

Problems

3. Primary Caretaker

*Deyle v. Deyle*

Notes and Questions

Problems

4. Managing Shared Parenting

a. Relocation and Changed Circumstances

*Arnott v. Arnott*

Notes and Questions

Problems

b. Unfriendly Co-Parenting: Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Alienation

*Niemann v. Niemann*

Notes and Questions

Problems

*In the Matter of Miller*

Notes and Questions

Carbone, From Partners to Parents:

The Second Revolution in Family Law

Note: Visitation and Parenting Plans

Problem
Contents

Chapter 10. Family Contracts 623

A. Premarital Agreements 624

Simeone v. Simeone 625
Notes and Questions 629
Lane v. Lane 631
Notes and Questions 635
Bix, Bargaining in the Shadow of Love: The Enforcement of Premarital Agreements and How We Think About Marriage 640
Uniform Premarital and Marital Agreements Act (UPMAA) (2012) 642
Uniform Premarital Agreements Act (UPAA) 644
Notes and Questions 645
Notes and Questions 648
Problems 649

B. Spousal Contracts During Marriage 651

Borelli v. Brusseau 651
Notes and Questions 656
Bedrick v. Bedrick 658
Notes and Questions 662

C. Separation Agreements 664

1. The Permissible Scope of the Agreement 664
Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act (UMDA) § 306 664
Mnookin & Kornhauser, Bargaining in the Shadow of the Law: The Case of Divorce 665
Huss v. Weaver 666
Notes and Questions 674
2. Post-Decree Attacks on Separation Agreements 678
   *Hresko v. Hresko* 678
   Notes and Questions 681
   Problems 682

3. Modification of Settlement Agreements 682
   *Toni v. Toni* 683
   Notes and Questions 691
   Problem 694

Chapter 11. Lawyers and Family Dispute Resolution 695
A. The Lawyer’s Duties to Clients and the Court 696
   *In re the Discipline of Ortner* 696
   Notes and Questions 700

B. Conflicts of Interest 700
   ABA Model Rule of Professional
   Conduct 1.7, Conflict of Interest: Current Clients 701
   Notes and Questions 701
   ABA Model Rule of Professional
   Conduct Rule 1.9, Duties to Former Clients 706
   Notes and Questions 706
   Problems 709
   Note: Fee Arrangements 710
   Problems 712

C. Counseling, Negotiation, and Client Relations 712
   American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers,
   Bounds of Advocacy: Goals for
   Family Lawyers, Preliminary Statement
   §§ 1,6 (2000) 713
   Notes and Questions 715
   Problem 716
   Hedeen & Salem, What Should Family
   Lawyers Know? Results of a Survey of
   Practitioners and Students 717
   Notes and Questions 718
   Problems 721

D. Alternative Dispute Resolution 722
   Singer, Dispute Resolution and the
   Post-divorce Family: Implications of a
   Paradigm Shift 722
   1. Arbitration 724
      *Fawzy v. Fawzy* 725
      Notes and Questions 729
      Problem 733
   2. Mediation 733
      Reynolds, Harris & Peeples, Back to the
      Future: An Empirical Study of Child
      Custody Outcomes 735
Note: The Hague Convention and Domestic Violence 818

E. Federal Court Jurisdiction over Domestic Relations 819
   Ankenbrandt v. Richards 819
   Resnick, "Naturally" Without Gender: Women, Jurisdiction, and the Federal Courts 822
   Notes and Questions 824

III CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND THE STATE

Chapter 13. Determining Legal Parenthood: Marriage, Biology, and Function 831
   A. The Constitutional Rights of Parents 833
      Troxel v. Granville 833
      Notes and Questions 839
      Problems 841
   B. Determining Parentage in the Context of Custodial Rights and Support Duties 842
      Harris, Reforming Paternity Law to Eliminate Gender, Status and Class Inequality 842
      1. Establishing Legal Parenthood 843
         Uniform Parentage Act (2017) 845
         Greer ex rel. Farbo v. Greer 846
         Notes and Questions 853
         Pavan v. Smith 855
         Notes and Questions 857
         Problems 858
      2. Unmarried Parents' Rights — Adoption and Custody 859
         Lehr v. Robertson 859
         Notes and Questions 866
         In re Adoption of S.D.W. 868
         Notes and Questions 873
         Problems 874
      3. Biological Parenthood and Child Support 875
         McGee v. Gonyo 877
         Notes and Questions 885
         Problem 888
   C. Legal Recognition of Functional Parents 889
      Chambers, Stepparents, Biologic Parents, and the Law's Perceptions of "Family" After Divorce 889
      Elisa B. v. Superior Court 892
      Notes and Questions 896
      In re Custody of B.M.H. 897
      Notes and Questions 903
      Note: Second Parent Adoption 906
      Problems 908
## Table of Contents

**Chapter 14. Adoption and Alternative Reproductive Technologies**

### A. Adoption

- Sokoloff, Antecedents of American Adoption  
  
  1. Terminating the First Parent-Child Relationship  
     - Consent to Adopt  
       - Monty S. v. Jason W.  
       - Notes and Questions  
       - Note: Open Adoption and Open Records  
     - Adoption Without Consent  
       - Rodgers v. Rodgers  
       - Notes and Questions  
       - Problems  
  
  2. Establishing the New Parent-Child Relationship — Independent Versus Agency Adoption and Adoption of Special-Needs Children  
  
  3. Child Placement, Race, and Religion  
     - Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians v. Holyfield  
     - Notes and Questions  
     - Note: Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl  
     - Note: Transracial Placement  
     - Perry, Transracial and International Adoption: Mothers, Hierarchy, Race and Feminist Legal Theory  
     - Bartholet, International Adoption: The Child’s Story  
     - Notes and Questions  
     - Religious Matching  
     - Problem  

### B. Alternative Reproductive Technologies

- Artificial Insemination and In Vitro Fertilization  
  - Uniform Parentage Act (2017)  
  - Notes and Questions  
  - Problems  

- Surrogate Motherhood and Gestational Carriers  
  - Johnson v. Calvert  
  - Notes and Questions  
  - Problems  

### Table of Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table of Cases</td>
<td>973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>