The Family Law Review

A publication of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia May 2004

Be a Judge for a Day!

Attend the 2004 Family Law Institute

by Carol Walker
cawlaw@bellsouth.net

Make your views known! See what your peers would decide and help us learn more about each other! Please plan to attend the 2004 Annual Family Law Institute and participate in our interactive program on May 28. You will decide the issues using the latest in interactive technology to see instant results, and a panel of judges will comment. Our views on the child support fact patterns will be presented to the Superior Court judges at their annual seminar this summer, so tell them what you think!

Sample fact patterns:

How does the special circumstance of extraordinary travel expenses to exercise visitation affect child support?

The mother has primary physical custody of the parties' two children and was awarded $1,200 per month in child support in the parties' divorce, which was 25 percent of the father's gross monthly income of $4,800. The mother has given notice to the father that she intends to move from Macon to Nashville, Tenn. because of her current husband's new job. The father, who lives in Macon and continues to earn $4,800 per month, files an action to modify visitation and child support. He introduces testimony that he will be spending an additional $500 per month to visit his children on a monthly basis.

There are no other special circumstances that would warrant a variation from the guidelines.

Should the father receive a decrease in his child support obligation?

(1) Yes

(2) No

see Judge on page 3

Inside This Issue

Note From the Chair 2
Case Law Update 4
Tips on Coverdale ESAs 7
Plan Your Technological Attack 8
Family Law Institute 10
The Editor's Corner 12

Note from the Chair

By Thomas F. Allgood Jr.
Allgood, Childs & Mehrhof, P.C.

The 2004 Family Law Institute is just around the corner. The excellent program put together by Richard Nolen features several panel discussions on the latest family law topics, with a special interactive session on May 28.

At considerable effort and expense, the Family Law Section, for the very first time, gives its members and others who attend the 2004 Institute a unique opportunity to make their opinions known to other attendees and judges. Each attendee will be able to register his or her responses to a variety of factual scenarios and questions by using hand-held electronic transponders. Responses will be immediately compiled, tabulated and displayed. Demographic information will be obtained at the beginning of the interactive session and factored into the results. I am sure we will get some surprises, and have a lot of fun. Better yet, the analysis of the data will be presented by the Family Law Section at the Council of Superior Court Judges.

This may be the best, if not only chance family law practitioners will have as a group to advise the bench how we would decide troubling issues, or advance our views on issues important to our clients. I encourage you to attend and participate.

Past Chairs of the Family Law Section

Emily S. Bair 2002-03
Elizabeth Green Lindsey 2001-02
Robert D. Boyd 2000-01
H. William Sams 1999-00
Anne Jarrett 1998-99
Carl S. Pedigo 1997-98
Joseph T. Tuggle 1996-97
Nancy F. Lawler 1995-96
Richard W. Schiffman Jr. 1994-95
Hon. Martha C. Christian 1993-94
John C. Mayoue 1992-93
H. Martin Huddleston 1991-92
Christopher D. Olmstead 1990-91
Hon. Elizabeth Glazebrook 1989-90
Barry B. McGough 1988-89
Edward E. Bates Jr. 1987-88
Carl Westmoreland 1986-87
Lawrence B. Custer 1985-86
Hon. John E. Girardeau 1984-85
C. Wilbur Warner Jr. 1983-84
M.T. Simmons Jr. 1982-83
Kice H. Stone 1981-82
Paul V. Kilpatrick Jr. 1980-81
Hon. G. Conley Ingram 1979-80
Bob Reinhardt 1978-79
Jack P. Turner 1977-78

Judge

Continued from page 1

If yes, the father's modified child support obligation would be:

(1) $1,104 (23%)

(2) $960 (20%)

(3) $816 (17%)

(4) $700 (15%)

How does the special circumstance of shared physical custody affect child support?

(A) The divorcing parties have agreed to share physical custody of their child, with approximately equal time with each parent. The father earns $4,000 per month and the mother earns $2,000 per month.

There are no other special circumstances that would warrant a variation from the guidelines.

How should child support be calculated?

(1) Neither party would pay support to the other.

(2) The father would pay support to the mother.

(3) Each party would pay support to the other based upon the child support guidelines.

If the father should pay support to the mother, what amount should be awarded as monthly support?

(1) $200 (5% of gross monthly income)

(2) $400 (10%)

(3) $680 (17%)

(4) $800 (20%)

(5) $920 (23%)

(B) The divorcing parties have agreed to share physical custody of their child, with the child spending approximately 75 percent of the time with the mother and 25 percent with the father. Again, the father earns $4,000 per month and the mother earns $2,000 per month.

How should child support be calculated?

(1) Neither party would pay support to the other.

(2) The father would pay support to the mother.

(3) Each party would pay support to the other based upon the child support guidelines.

If the father should pay support to the mother, what amount should be awarded as monthly support?

(1) $200 (5% of gross monthly income)

(2) $400 (10%)

(3) $680 (17%)

(4) $800 (20%)

(5) $920 (23%)

Georgia Case Law Update

by Sylvia A. Martin
Sylvia Martin, Attorney at Law

CHILD SUPPORT

In the last few months, several important cases have come down from the appellate courts regarding child support, modifications and the child support guidelines.

Ward v. McFall,
593 S.E.2d 340 (Ga. 2004)

Following on the heels of *Georgia Dept. of Human Resources v. Sweat*, 276 Ga.627 (2003), the Supreme Court again upheld the Georgia Child Support Guidelines as constitutional. In this case, the father had custody of the parties' two children. The mother was ordered to pay child support based on a percentage of her income. She later filed an action to modify child support and visitation, and moved to have the child support guidelines declared unconstitutional. The trial court entered a temporary order that modified downward her child support by applying the guidelines and then applying a special circumstance enumerated in the code to vary from the stated amount. The trial court then found that the child support guidelines were invalid due to violation of the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

In examining situations of when state statutes violate the Supremacy Clause, the Supreme Court discussed the concept of pre-emption. The Court found that there is a strong presumption against pre-emption in domestic relations matters because such laws are traditionally left to each state for implementation and regulation. Furthermore, the federal mandate is for each state to promulgate its own child support guidelines which will be reviewed by the appropriate federal governing body. The Court ultimately determined that the responsible federal agency has found that the Georgia guidelines are in conformance with Georgia law and will defer to that decision. The Court overturned the trial court's order and found that the guidelines are constitutional and do not frustrate the intended Congressional purpose of the guidelines.

Keck v. Harris,
SO3A1425; 4 FCDR 1003 (03/22/04)

This case is another failed attempt to have the court declare the child support guidelines, and in this case the trial court refused to declare the guidelines as unconstitutional. The trial court did not agree with the father who had filed an action to modify his child support and visitation. At trial, the father sought a determination that the child support guidelines were invalid, again under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The trial court upheld the constitutionality of the guidelines which ruling was affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Moccia v. Moccia,
277 Ga. 571 (2004)

Pursuant to the divorce decree, mother had custody of the parties'child, and father was required to pay child support. The final decree indicated that the amount of father's child support exceeded the guideline amount but was based on father's earning capacity. Father sought a downward modification of child support, alleging a worsening of his financial condition. At trial, the father presented evidence that he received a certain amount of cash each month as a result of working in his brother's business, which made it impossible to pay the obligated amount of child support. The trial court denied his request for modification and found that he could not explain adequately how he could pay his recurring living expenses. The Court of Appeals affirmed this portion of the trial court's decision and held that "financial status" as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 19-6-19 is more comprehensive than "income" alone. Financial status is more encompassing and pertains to an individual's overall financial position with regard to his income and property.

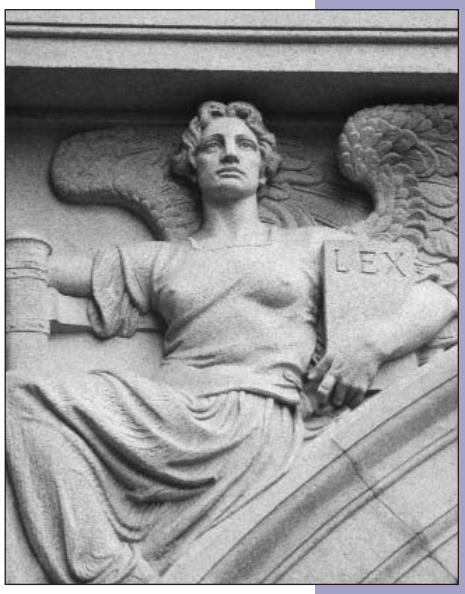
Parker v. Parker,
SO3A1396, 4 FCDR 1000 (03/22/04)

The mother attempted to have similar cases heard based on the same evidence and against the same party in two different forums. She filed a case against the father for modification of child support and contempt in the Superior Court, and a claim against the father in state court for fraud and for breach of contract. The modification action in Superior court was tried to a jury, and the mother presented evidence that the father had failed to pay all of his child support because he was obligated to pay "25 percent of any employer payments above salary" as part of his child support. He had received some payments from an account that was retirement in nature, and he argued that it was not an "employer payment," while the mother argued to the contrary. The mother also presented evidence in the Superior Court case that the father had entered into a scheme with his father to suppress some of his income. The jury found that the father had not suppressed his income, rejected the mother's argument that the retirement payments should have been included in his child support, and increased the child support. While that case was pending in Superior Court, the mother filed the state court action, which was based on the same evidence: breach of contract for failure to pay all child support ordered in the settlement agreement, and fraud for attempting to have his father hide income. The Supreme Court found that the mother was barred from bringing the state court action by the doctrine of collateral estoppel.

CONTEMPT

Collins v. Billow,
592 S.E.2d 843 (Ga. 2004)

Upon the parties' divorce, the father was awarded custody of the parties' children, and the mother was ordered to pay 23 percent of her income, or $115 per week. The father then filed a petition for contempt a year later alleging the mother was in arrears. The mother filed a separate action for modification of visitation and child support, asking the court to award a sum certain for the child support. The court consolidated the two actions, and the trial court modified visitation, and set the child support at the amount of $140 per week. This award was entered under the file number for the contempt action, which was later changed by the attorneys such that the modification of visitation order was entered under the file number for the modification case, and the change of child support order was entered with the contempt case file number.



The father later filed another contempt against the mother, claiming she had failed to pay 23 percent of her income as child support. The mother claimed that the child support had been modified; however, the father responded by stating that the court cannot modify terms of the divorce decree in a contempt hearing.

The Court agreed that divorce decrees cannot be modified in contempt hearings; however, in this particular case, three years had passed since the entry of the erroneous order, and the father had never filed a motion to set aside the order. Thus, the Court found that the previous order entered in the contempt matter was still the existing order, and the mother's child support obligation was $140 per week until modified in a proper proceeding.

CUSTODY

Cousens v. Pittman,
A03A2450, 4 FCDR 1044 (03/18/04)

The father filed a change of custody action seeking a custody change of the parties' 12-year-old daughter. The evidence showed that the parties had been divorced for ten years, that the mother had primary custody of the child during that time, and the relationship between the parties had been very acrimonious since the divorce. Both parties had remarried.

At the trial, the child testified that she wanted to continue living with her mother. The school psychologist testified that the child had indicated to her that she felt she did not get to spend enough time with her father. The child's treating psychologist testified that the child had indicated she felt left out by the father's new family, that she was afraid of her father when he was angry and that she was having suicidal thoughts as a means to avoid the unpleasantness. The father agreed to forego some visitation at one point at the psychologist's request, and the child's relationship with her father improved after that time. At the trial, the evidence showed that the child was having better visits with the father and that her relationship with him was improving. The *guardian ad litem's* report was sealed and not made a part of the record.

The trial court found that the bickering between parents constituted a material change in circumstance and changed custody from sole physical in the mother to joint physical custody, with the child staying alternating weeks at each parent's residence.

On appeal, the Court of Appeals vacated the award and remanded for re-entry of a new order. The Court noted that the trial court's order was entered pre-*Bodne*; however, the Court was not required to review in light of *Bodne*. The Court found that, although *Bodne* did away with the previous presumption that the primary parent has a *prima facie* right to custody, the trial court still has a duty post-*Bodne* to ensure that the best interests of a child are met by changing physical custody only if a new and material change in circumstance exists. The Court found that the bickering did not constitute a change in circumstance because the parties had not gotten along since the divorce. The Court indicated that the trial court is in the best position to view all the evidence and determine credibility of the witnesses when making a decision in a hotly-contested custody case. However, the record was devoid of any evidence indicating there had been a material change in circumstance such that the best interests of the child would be met by changing custody. The Court found that, due to the psychologist's testimony, the child indicating her preference and evidence that the relationship with the father was improving, there was no evidence to support a finding that the child's best interests were served by changing custody to joint physical custody.

Fish v. Fish, **AO4A0451, 4 FCDR 797 (2/25/04)**

The parties were divorced in Georgia. Pursuant to the divorce decree, they had joint legal custody of the two children, with the mother having physical custody and the father having visitation rights. The mother and the children moved to Florida a couple of years after the divorce, and the parties entered into a consent order in Georgia which modified the father's visitation due to the move.

The parties' son turned 14 in 2003, and he elected to reside with the father, who still lived in Georgia. The father filed an action to change custody in Georgia, and attached the child's affidavit. *Sua sponte*, the trial court dismissed the father's action, claiming Georgia no longer had jurisdiction to hear the matter as the mother and children had resided in Florida for seven years. The Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the case, and held that under the UCCJEA, Georgia would retain jurisdiction in a custody case as long as certain factors were met, including a party's continuous residence in Georgia. The Court noted that the father still resides in Georgia and has physical custody of the child at least part of the time; it would be incorrect to automatically presume that neither the child nor the child's parents have a significant connection to Georgia. The Court remanded the case for further findings including a determination that, even if Georgia retains continuing jurisdiction, whether Georgia would be an inconvenient forum for further custody matters.

Reeves v. Hayes, **AO3A2486, 4 FCDR 886 (3/4/04)**

The Court of Appeals found that once a child's paternity has been established, then the paternal grandparents have standing to bring a change of custody action, regardless of whether the father actually legitimated the child. The Court noted that the definition of "grandparent" in O.C.G.A. § 19-7-3 is a parent of a parent of a child, or the parent of a child's parent who has died. Once paternity has been established, then the father's parents are the grandparents of the child, regardless of legitimation.

Tips on Coverdale Education Savings Accounts

By Scott Thurman
Thurman Financial Consulting, Inc

Coverdale Education Savings Accounts (Coverdale ESAs) are investment accounts that allow taxpayers to save for a child's education. They are named after the late Georgia Sen. Paul Coverdale. A Coverdale ESA can be used to pay for private school education expenses for elementary and secondary education (K-12) as well as for post secondary education (college, graduate school, or vocational school). The Coverdale ESA is an excellent vehicle for saving for a child's private school education expenses.

A Coverdale Education Savings Account can be used to pay for private school education expenses for elementary and secondary education (K-12) as well as for post secondary education (college, graduate school, or vocational school).

Amounts paid for qualified education expenses (tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment) from a Coverdale ESA are tax free to the beneficiary. Room and board expenses are also tax free if the student is enrolled in post secondary education on at least a half-time basis. Any investment income earned by the account is tax free.

The account must be established to benefit a child under age 18. The maximum contribution (which is not deductible) is $2,000 per year per child until the child is 18. Anyone may contribute to a Coverdale ESA for a child so long as the contributor's adjusted gross income is less than $110,000 for single filers and $220,000 for married joint filers. A parent or grandparent, aunt, uncle or friend of the child can contribute to a Coverdale ESA as long as the contributor meets the income limits and the total contributions for the beneficiary do not exceed $2,000 in any one year. Individuals whose contributions would be limited by the income rules can consider having contributions made by entities, such as corporations, trusts or other entities that are not subject to the income limitation rules.

Amounts held in a Coverdale ESA may be rolled over into a different Coverdale ESA for a beneficiary who is a member of the original beneficiary's family. Any amounts that are distributed from the Coverdale ESA out of income the account earns that are not used for education expenses are taxable to the beneficiary. The tax is increased by an additional 10 percent. The account must be fully distributed within 30 days after the beneficiary reaches age 30.

Coverdale ESA accounts may be opened at banks, mutual funds, credit unions or brokerage firms. The account can invest in a wide range of investments including, stocks, mutual funds, bonds, certificates of deposit and money market accounts.

A beneficiary can have both a Coverdale ESA and a 529 plan. Both types of accounts may be used for funding college expenses. The advantage to the Coverdale ESA is that it can also pay for private school education expenses.

Plan Your Technological Attack

by Randy Kessler
Kessler & Schwarz, P.C.

Family law attorney Jeffery Bogart once said that the courtroom can be like an obstacle course and the best thing we can do is to preview it and anticipate the obstacles before the trial even begins. I believe this analogy can naturally be extended to the use of technology in the courtroom. Courtrooms are increasing their technological facilities for everyone's benefit and we would be foolish to not take advantage of them.

However, just as with everything else we do, the key to success is in preparation and planning. For this reason, it is my strong suggestion that if you plan to use technology in your case you should visit the courtroom ahead of time.

Fayette County has a wonderful courthouse where you simply plug your computer into their system and your presentation will appear on monitors for the judge, jury, witness, court reporter, each attorney and even on a large TV monitor for people observing the trial. The new DeKalb County courthouse has similar facilities and many of the other courthouses in metro Atlanta and around the state are expanding their technology resources.

On the other hand, courthouses that have not yet made such technological leaps still have the ability to allow you to use technology in the courtroom if you prepare. For instance, does the courthouse have a screen for you a PowerPoint presentation? Does the courthouse have a television monitor for you to connect your computer to? Where are the outlets located so that your computer and projector may be plugged in during the trial? These and other questions are not difficult to answer, but are the kind of things we must ask ourselves.

While technology can be frightening, I am going to re-emphasize how simple it can be. Technology can be as simple as using an overhead projector or as complicated as making a mini movie depicting a "day in the life" of a client.

Perhaps the best use of technology in the courtroom (which will be discussed more in-depth in an upcoming article) is the use of PowerPoint programs. Without getting into an in-depth discussion of PowerPoint programs, I'll simply say that if you can view something on your computer screen, there is a way to get that same image on a screen before a judge or jury. The simplest way to learn about this process would be to go to any local electronics store and talk to a manager. Once you have mastered the ability to prepare a program in PowerPoint or Corel Presentations (Corel equivalent of Microsoft's PowerPoint) you will need to be able to get that presentation up on the a screen for a judge. The simplest way (but perhaps the most expensive) is for you to simply purchase your own projector and screen. However, a quick telephone call or visit to the courtroom might reveal that there actually are screens somewhere in the courthouse or even in the courtroom, and/or television type monitors to which you could directly connect to your laptop computer.

Most importantly you should learn the name of the technology administrator for the court in which the case will be handled. Each courthouse seems to have one person designated as the person in charge of technological questions and these individuals are often quite helpful so ask for help.

Remember, brevity is a virtue and if we can walk into the courtroom, turn on our computer, make our presentation and sit down, the court will get a clear picture in a concise and understandable fashion, which can only help you and your client. Most importantly, the benefit of preparation is to avoid the potential disaster of having all of your material on your computer and having to fumble with it, or worse, not even being able to get it on the screen for the court. Any frustration you cause the court will certainly not help your case and will certainly not help your client feel confident about your representation. Therefore, just as we have always done, we must plan and prepare even in areas such as technology, to be sure we make our point clearly, concisely and effectively.

Fun in the Sun - 2002 Family Law Institute

Right: Alice Nolan, Richard M. Nolan, Robert Boyd and Barrie Boyd enjoy the warm weather in Destin, Fla. at the 2002 Family Law Institute.

Bottom: 2003-2004 Section Chair Thomas F. Allgood Jr., and his wife Bonnie Allgood are joined by other section members and Bill Sams (far right) on the beach at the 2002 Institute.

Above: This year the section will return to the SanDestin Hilton in Destin, Fla., which was also the site of the 2002 Family Law Institute.

Left: Carol Walker, Judge Michael Hancock, M.T. Simmons and Jennie Simmons socialize during the Institute.

2004 Family Law Institute: Practical Family Law

May 27 - 29, 2004 — SanDestin Hilton, Destin, Fla.

Presented by the Family Law Section and I.C.L.E.

Thursday, May 27

8:15 **Registration**

8:30 **Opening Remarks and Welcome**
Richard M. Nolen, Program Chair, Warner, Mayoue, Bates, Nolen & Collar, P.C., Atlanta

8:35 **Ethics and Professionalism: Divorce Lawyers Dilemmas**
Justice Carol Hunstein, Supreme Court of Ga.
Robert D. Boyd, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta

9:30 **Break**

9:45 **Awards and Section Announcements**

9:55 **Alternatives to the Courtroom**

A. Collaborative Law
Lauren Alexander Esq., Atlanta
Eileen Thomas, Esq., Atlanta

B. Practical Mediation Tips
M.T. Simmons, Simmons & Szczecko, Decatur
Barry McGough, McGough, Huddleston & Medori, Atlanta

C. Arbitration Issues and Strategies
Edward E. Bates Jr., Warner, Mayoue, Bates, Nolen & Collar, P.C., Atlanta
Baxter L. Davis, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta

10:55 **Practical Tips for Avoiding Malpractice**
David N. Lefkowitz, The Lefkowitz Firm, Atlanta

11:55 **Break**

12:10 **Family Law Appeals: The Appellate Judges Speak**
The Honorable Jeanney M. Kutner, Judicial Officer, Superior Court of Fulton Country, Atlanta (Moderator)
Justice Carol Hunstein, Supreme Court of Georgia
Justice Harris Hines, Supreme Court of Georgia
Justice Hugh Thompson, Supreme Court of Georgia

1:00 **Recess**

6:30 **Institute Welcome Reception**

Friday, May 28

INTERACTIVE SESSION
Elizabeth Green Lindsey, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta (Moderator)

PANELISTS:

Judges: Hon. Bonnie Chessher Oliver, Superior Court of Hall County
Hon. David R. Sweat, Superior Court of Clarke County
Hon. Melvin K. Westmoreland, Superior Court of Fulton County
Hon. Frank J. Jordan Jr., Superior Court of Muscogee County

8:30 **Your View Matters: Child Support Scenarios to be Presented by Superior Court Judges**
Speakers: John F. Lyndon, Esq., Athens
Carol A. Walker, Esq., Gainesville

9:30 **Child Support: Comparisons of Income Share, Cost Share and Percentage Models**
Speakers: Richard W. Schiffman Jr., Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta
H. Martin Huddleston, McGough, Huddleston & Medori, Atlanta

10:15 **Break**

PANELISTS:

Judges: Hon. Wendy L. Shoob, Superior Court of Fulton County
Hon. Adele L. Grubbs, Superior Court of Cobb County
Hon. Steve C. Jones, Superior Court of Clarke County
Hon. Robert E. Flournoy III, Superior Court of Cobb County

10:30 **Alimony Scenarios: "The Gift that Keeps on Giving"**
Speakers: Rachel A. Snider, Macey, Wilensky, Cohen, Wittner & Kessler, Atlanta

Andrew R. Pachman, Lawler, Tanner & Zitron, P.C., Atlanta

11:15 **Evidence: Cyber Crimes, Sex-Demeanors, PIs and More**
Speakers: Elizabeth Green Lindsey, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta
Kurt A. Kegel, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta

12:00 **Break**

PANELISTS:

Judges: Hon. Louisa Abbot, Superior Court of Chatham County
Hon. Cynthia D. Wright, Superior Court of Fulton County
Hon. George H. Kreeger, Superior Court of Cobb County
Hon. Willie E. Lockette, Superior Court of Dougherty County

12:15 **Attorney Fees: Show Me the Money**
Speakers: Christine C. Bogart, Bogart & Bogart, P.C.
John L. Collar Jr., Warner, Mayoue, Bates, Nolen & Collar, P.C., Atlanta

1:00 **Recess**

1:30 **Golf Tournament (Captain's Choice) – Golf Course at Sandestin Hilton**

6:30 **Family Law Section Reception**

Saturday, May 29

8:30 **Hot Tips From the Experts**
Moderator: Shiel Edlin, Stern & Edlin, Atlanta

9:30 **Emerging Issues in Family Law**

A. Computer and High-Tech Issues, Discovery and Evidence
John F. Lyndon, Esq., Athens

B. Relocation Issues and Strategies
Robert D. Boyd, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta
Catherine M. Knight, Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., Atlanta

10:30 **Break**

10:45 **Practical Divorce Taxation**
Melvyn B. Frumkes, Miami, Fla.

11:45 **Recent Developments: Cases, Legislation and Practice Pointers**
Randall M. Kessler, Kessler & Schwartz, P.C., Atlanta
Paul Johnson, McCorkle, Pedigo & Johnson, Savannah
Karen Brown Williams, Esq., Atlanta

1:00 **Recess**

2004 Family Law Institute Features Interactive, Participatory Full-day Session

All attendees may participate in Friday's session via individually issued and utilized hand-held electronic transponders.

Use of these transponders will allow the compilation, tabulation and immediate room-wide screen display of data from the participants.

The transponders will be utilized in a litigation-style format with experienced trial attorneys and judges handling designated family law related issues, ranging from unique child support guidelines applications to attorneys' fees and evidence issues.

The Executive Board of the Family Law Section plans to analyze and present this data to the Council of Superior Court Judges for its consideration. So come to the Family Law Institute and let your voice be heard!

The Editor's Corner

by Kurt Kegel
Davis, Matthews & Quigley P.C.

What better way to spend the Memorial Day weekend than at the beach? What better place to be than Destin, Fla.? For those of you who have not signed up, pick up the phone now and make your reservations to join us at the SanDestin Hilton for the 22nd Annual Family Law Institute.

As I mentioned in our last edition, the Family Law Institute is coming up again during the Memorial Day weekend and we are returning to the SanDestin Hilton this year. This year's Program Chair, Richard Nolen, with Warner, Mayoue, Bates, Nolen & Collar, has put together an excellent program that promises to be informative and entertaining, from start to finish.

In this edition, I have not included a "lead article," but I have included another copy of the agenda for the Institute and a special article that will give you a taste of the interactive session scheduled for Friday. (See page 1.) This interactive session is the opportunity for you, the practitioner, to offer your input on developing issues in family law and to have those opinions shared with the judiciary. For this interactive session to be completed properly, it is important that all participants provide some general background information before the session begins, which will be gathered through the use of the transponders placed at each seat. So, make sure to be a little early on Friday morning so we can get the program up and running on time.

See you at the Beach!

Family Law Section
State Bar of Georgia
Kurt Kegel, Editor
104 Marietta St, NW
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30303

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATLANTA, GA
PERMIT NO. 1447