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THEME INTRODUCTION

The embryonic phase of the family court is now history. The apprehensions many had regarding the court are now also behind us. Parties, most of whom will have their court exposure limited to the family court, will find a system in which the primary focus is the efficient and equitable resolution of family law issues. Family law practitioners no longer have to vie with those involved in general civil law and criminal law for the court's attention. Family law, however, continues to evolve.

This theme issue is dedicated to a discussion of some of the cutting-edge issues in family law, as well as some practical information to assist practitioners who find themselves in the family law arena. In "Listening In," Henry S. Gornbein and Jorin G. Rubin review potential land mines for the family law practitioner created by technology.

With the family law court comes greater certainty that firm trial dates will result in trials. Family law practitioners are also trial attorneys. They should, therefore, always be ready to hone their trial skills. David C. Sarnacki's article, "Winning Divorce Trials," helps them do just that.

Those of us involved in family law depend upon professionals in other disciplines. Parents who have demonstrated an inability to resolve their parenting disputes are routinely referred to mental health professionals. In the last couple of years a new title has been created, the "parenting coordinator." The position of the parenting coordinator may be occupied by either an attorney or mental health professional. Jack P. Haynes discusses, in "Focus on the Children," the dynamics of parenting coordination and the ways in which a parenting coordinator may help both parties involved in a lawsuit as well as their children.

The Michigan Court Rules continue to have a significant impact on family law. Richard S. Victor authors an article, "Keeping Current," that thoroughly discusses and analyzes recent court rule changes pertaining to family law.

The subject matter for this theme issue has been carefully selected. Each of the authors is recognized for significant contributions to family law. On behalf of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, we thank them.

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Co-chairpersons Family Law Theme Issue

