

# Family Law

It has been approximately 30 years since divorce has replaced death as the primary manner in which marriage is terminated in our society. James P. Cunningham writes an informative article discussing this contemporary societal phenomena. The courts and the legislature have met the challenge of dealing with the vast number of Family Law cases by creating the Family Law Court and providing legislation and court rules that enable persons with disputes in the Family Law arena to utilize alternative dispute resolution techniques as a viable alternative to trial.

Family Law is not limited to the resolution of divorce cases. Three well-written articles dealing with children in a non-divorce setting are presented here. Maura D. Corrigan, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court writes an enlightening article about child protective proceedings and recently proposed court rule changes related to those proceedings. In her article, she refers to the influence of the federal government on the proposed rule changes.

Another area in which the federal system has had significant impact on the practice of Family Law concerns "grandparent visitation." A landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Troxel v Granville*, 530 US 57 (2000), dealing with this subject reverberated throughout the country. It resulted in a significant decision by the Michigan Supreme Court,

*DeRose v DeRose*, 469 Mich 320, 666 NW2d 636 (2003) and extensive committee hearings in our legislature. Both the U.S. Supreme Court decision and the Michigan Supreme Court decision are discussed in an insightful article by Richard S. Victor.

Adoption is the subject of DeLois T. Leapheart's article. She provides a thorough analysis of adoption involving putative fathers.

On behalf of all Family Law attorneys in Michigan, I thank each of our authors for their invaluable contributions to this theme issue.

New developments in Family Law have been prevalent in recent years. Practitioners can have an impact on future developments. The most effective way to do this is to become active in either your local bar association or the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Harvey I. Hauer



*Harvey I. Hauer, of Hauer & Snover, Bingham Farms, practices exclusively in the area of family law. Mr. Hauer is a former chair of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan and the Family Law Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys. He has also served as chair of the Michigan Supreme Court Domestic Relations Court Rules Committee.*