

## SEMINAR

# Domestic Abuse in Divorce & Custody Litigation

*Spot the issues, handle the impact, and maintain your role as an effective advocate*

Despite a growing awareness of the prevalence of domestic abuse in family situations, many family lawyers struggle to determine the best way to put issues of domestic abuse before the court. Until you are confronted with issues of domestic abuse in your divorce or custody matter, it is difficult to anticipate all the ways that the abuse can impact your case, and therefore all the steps you should take to protect your client. With this program, you can be prepared to act in divorce and child custody cases where there are allegations of domestic abuse, and gain tips to handle it more effectively.

Seasoned family law practitioners take you through the steps involved in taking on a client who alleges to have been the victim of domestic abuse, or who is alleged to have been the perpetrator. How must these allegations impact your legal approach? How does your pretrial and trial strategy differ? How do judges factor these allegations into their decision making? What must you do to ensure the judge has the information he or she needs to make the ruling you are advocating for? Don't miss this opportunity to advance your skills in a uniquely challenging and emotional aspect of family law practice.

## Agenda

- Recent Changes to the Law
- How to Present to the Court the Child's Preference and Observations of Domestic Violence at Home
- When and How to Seek Orders of Protection—Effectively Draft Orders
- Look for Common Errors in Custody Evaluations and Learn How to Present and Challenge Reports
- Deal with the Reluctance of Many Professionals to Identify Domestic Abuse
- Analyze the Abusive Behavior in Relation to Statutory Considerations
- Judicial Considerations in Cases with Abuse Allegations
- "Ask the Experts" Q&A Session

## Faculty

Pasquale DeSantis, Esq., *Prince Lobel Tye LLP, Boston*, Chair; Hon. Serge Georges, Jr., *Boston Municipal Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*; Richard M. Novitch, Esq., *Todd & Weld LLP, Boston*; Hon. George F. Phelan, *Norfolk Probate and Family Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*; Tannaz N. Saponaro, Esq., *Verrill Dana LLP, Boston*

## Materials

In addition to faculty-prepared submissions that supplement the agenda, the materials for this program include MCLE's *Obtaining, Enforcing and Defending Chapter 209A Restraining Orders*, a practical reference prepared by experts in the field that provides comprehensive coverage of the topic as well as practice tips and sample forms.

*With MCLE's supplementation service, new supplements are mailed automatically with an invoice. If you do not wish to subscribe, please note on order form.*



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## Dates & Locations

### BOSTON

Wednesday, June 27, 2018  
2:00 pm–5:00 pm

MCLE Conference Center,  
10 Winter Place, via Winter Street  
Program Number: 2180197P01

### LIVE WEBCAST

Wednesday, June 27, 2018  
2:00 pm–5:00 pm

Register at [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org)  
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### RECORDED WEBCAST

Wednesday, July 11, 2018  
9:00 am–12:00 noon

Register at [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org)  
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For course agendas, hours, fees, and discounts, please refer to the respective seminar pages. The fee includes all written materials unless otherwise noted, program instruction, and refreshment breaks. Lunch may be enjoyed on your own.

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Upon registration, MCLE will e-mail a confirmation. Please check in with the registrar on the day of the program.

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