

# Western Massachusetts Family Law Practice 2024

*Empowering practitioners in mediation, QDROs, separation agreements, and LGBTQ+ legal issues*

Join us for an engaging program designed to empower legal practitioners in Western Massachusetts with essential skills and knowledge in critical areas of family law. Our program offers invaluable insights into the intricacies of mediations and settlements. You gain a comprehensive understanding of the key strategies, negotiation techniques, and client counseling methods necessary to achieve favorable outcomes in dispute resolution.

In addition, our program includes a dedicated session on QDROs. This segment equips you with the expertise to navigate the complexities of QDROs effectively, ensuring that your clients' interests are safeguarded during asset division. We also delve into separation agreement language, offering practical guidance on drafting legally sound agreements. Lastly, we address contemporary legal issues in the realm of LGBTQ+ rights and culture. We explore a wide spectrum of topics, from pronouns and language sensitivities to family structures, enabling you to better serve the diverse needs of your LGBTQ+ clients. This panel also includes tips and surprise appearances from a variety of judges of Western Massachusetts. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your legal expertise and broaden your understanding with our experts.

## Agenda

- How to Prepare Your Clients for Successful Mediations and Settlements
- QDRO Session: Potential Traps for Practitioners to Consider
- Best Separation Agreement Language: What It Should Include and Mistakes We Have All Made
- Queer Cultural Competency and Queer Legal Issues: Everything from Pronouns/Language to Family Structures, and Second Parent Adoption to Name Changes

## Faculty

Renee S. Wetstein, Esq., *Wetstein Family Law, Northampton, Chair*  
Jessica L. Berrien, Esq., *Jessica L. Berrien, Attorney at Law LLC, Easthampton*  
Hon. Dana S. Doyle, *Hampden Probate and Family Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
Krista Ellis, Esq., *Community Legal Aid, Springfield*  
Gabrielle Larissa Mollo Hartley, Esq., *Northampton*  
Allison Laughner, *Bulkley Richardson, Springfield*  
Hon. Nicholas L. Parsenios, *Hampden Probate and Family Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
Hon. Kathleen A. Sandman, *First Justice, Franklin Probate and Family Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
Alison Silber, Esq., *Law Offices of Alison Silber, Longmeadow*  
Hon. Richard A. Simons, *Berkshire Probate and Family Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
Adam Waitkevich, CFP, AIF, CDFA, *President & Founder, Divorce Financial Solutions, Shrewsbury*



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## Dates & Location

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

### LIVE WEBCAST

Friday, March 15, 2024  
9:30 am–12:30 pm  
Program # 2240233WBC

### REBROADCAST

Monday, April 1, 2024  
2:00 pm–5:00 pm  
Program # 2240233RB1

### REBROADCAST

Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
9:30 am–12:30 pm  
Program # 2240233RB2

### ON DEMAND WEBCAST

View after Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
Program # 2240233WBA

## Tuition *(includes written materials)*

- \$195
- \$175.50 MCLE Members
- \$97.50 New Lawyers admitted to law practice within 5 years, Pending Admittees, Law Students, and Paralegals
- **FREE** for MCLE OnlinePass Subscribers

To apply for a need-based scholarship, email [scholarships@mcle.org](mailto:scholarships@mcle.org).

## Materials

*Massachusetts Family Law Sourcebook & Citorator* ebook, plus speaker materials

- E-materials link emailed upon registration
- Transcript & videorecording emailed 2 weeks post-program

## CLE Credits

Earn up to 3 CLE credits