

## PREFACE TO THE 2026 EDITION

This treatise, now in its 25th Edition, was originally founded by the late Muller Davis and Jody Meyer Yazici three decades ago. Ms. Yazici is now assisted by David I. Grund and Alyssa Mogul, who provide more than 75 years of combined legal experience and family law expertise to the work. We remain indebted to Mr. Davis's contribution, the foundation on which *The Illinois Practice of Family Law* continues to build.

This 2026 Edition of *The Illinois Practice of Family Law* replaces the 2025 Edition of this treatise. As in past editions, this 2026 Edition is divided between a Practice Volume (Volume 12) and a corresponding and fully integrated Forms Volume (Volume 13). The Practice Volume is a compilation of statutes, cases, and commentary, and is organized by statute; starting with the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act and the rest of the Families chapter of the ILCS. Additional Illinois statutes affecting family law cases, probate and estate statutes, procedure and evidence statutes and rules, the Internal Revenue Code and other federal laws, and selected notes and statutes follow. The primary law in this edition is extensively annotated with case law and practice notes. Cross-references have been added and expanded throughout this edition to help assist readers to quickly find related materials. The updated Table of Laws and Rules, Table of Cases, and Index for the treatise are contained in the back of the Forms Volume (also referred to as the Forms & Index Volume) and can also be used to facilitate efficient research.

This edition includes, deciphers, and applies changes to the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act, which was substantially amended effective January 1, 2016, with additional refinements and corrections since. Case law interpreting and applying these changes is compiled and analyzed.

In 2017, Illinois transitioned to an income-sharing system of child support. Under this system, both parents' incomes are considered in a calculation of the appropriate child support award. This edition provides refinements to the law made since its introduction, and the statutes, forms, and instructions for determining the appropriate award of support.

The income-sharing support provisions mesh with Illinois's change of the entire "custody" and "visitation" section of the Act, which now provides instead for the allocation between the parents of parental responsibilities, decision-making responsibilities, and parenting time.

All of these statutory changes and many more, plus new case law developments, are reflected in this edition of *The Illinois Practice of Family Law*. Author's Notes reflect and explain the changes, and provide guidance on incorporating the law into practice. Forms have been created or revised for the practitioner's use under the statutory provisions. Both the Practice Volume and the Forms & Index Volume have been comprehensively reviewed and updated for changes in the law since publication of the previous edition.

The authors appreciate the continued support over the past 30 years that has established *The Illinois Practice of Family Law* as one of the most valuable resources available on this topic, and look forward to the years ahead.