

**John Marshall Law School**  
**FAMILY LAW EXTERNSHIP CLINIC**  
**Fall 2012**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Objective:**

To provide students with a basic understanding of Georgia law regarding child support, child support calculation, domestic relations financial affidavits, litigation of child support calculation for select pro se family law litigants assigned to the County Superior Court; and, drafting and finalizing mediation agreements for clients to present to the Court for final order.

**Class Dates:**

Thursday Class and Externship Hours are located at the Office 123 Main St. Atlanta, Georgia (T. 404-123-4567) (F. 404-456-7890).

Class will be from 8:30-9:30 am and “office hours” from 9:30 am-5 pm.

Friday Court Appearances are located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor at Courtroom B County Courthouse, 345 North Main Street. Generally, from 8:30 a.m. until court adjourns.

**Text:**

*Georgia Divorce, Alimony and Child Custody*, 2012-2013 Edition, by Dan E. McConaughy, by Thomson West (available via Westlaw at database “gadivorce”)

Multiple Handouts provided in person and via email.

**Grading:**

Grading will be based upon evaluation of performance of advisement to litigants, mastery of calculation of child support worksheets, completion of domestic relations financial affidavits and incorporation of mediated settlement memorandums into settlement agreements; as well as classroom assignments including memos, briefs and papers.

**Assignments:**

Reading Questions may be assigned for homework. We will use hypothetical situations to formulate class discussion. There may be handouts distributed for hypotheticals.

There may be classroom assignments (in fact patterns/hypotheticals, drafting court filings) to assist in opportunities for grade adjustment, per above.

**Credit Opportunity:**

Credit opportunities may arise throughout the semester and will be announced in class.

## **Class Etiquette**

You are representing the school in the Atlanta community. Dress is business for office hours as well as court appearances.

## **Tardiness and Absentee Policy:**

The class attendance policy of John Marshall Law School applies, and can be found in Section 601 of the Academic Code contained in your Student Handbook. Late arrivals will count as an absence. Students, who miss more than two (2) classes, will receive a “W/F” in the course. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences.

## **Class Topics:** (Subject to Change)

### **Class 1, August 23, 2012**

Overview of Family Law and the DeKalb County ADR and Division 9.

Jurisdiction

Initial interview, setting fees, retainer, unavailability of contingency fees

When does attorney-client relationship begin?

Ethical Considerations  
ABA Model Code State Bar of Georgia

### **Class 2, August 30, 2012**

O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15

*Georgia Divorce, Alimony and Child Custody:* §§ 11.13-11:31

### **Class 3, September 6, 2012** (classroom instruction only – no office hours – will be an extended assignment to be turned in)

Domestic Relations Financial Affidavit  
U.S.C.R 24, et seq.

### **Class 4, September 13, 2012**

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mediation & Arbitration  
*Georgia Divorce, Alimony and Child Custody:* §§ 29.1-29.4

### **Class 5, September 20, 2012**

Determination of Gross Income

### **Class 6, September 27, 2012**

Child Support Deviations and Adjustments, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15

**Class 7, October 4, 2012**

Drafting of Settlement Agreements

**Class 8, October 11, 2012**

Georgia Case Law on Child Support Calculation

**Class 9, October 18, 2012**

Georgia Case Law on Child Support Calculation (con't)

**Class 10, October 25, 2012**

Child Support Deviations and Adjustments, O.C.G.A. § 19-6-15 (con't)

**Class 11, November 1, 2012**

Modification and Enforcement of Support Awards--O.C.G.A. §§ 19-6-19, 19-9-1, et. Seq.  
*Georgia Divorce, Alimony and Child Custody*: §§ 16.1-16.11

**Class 12, November 8, 2012**

Recovery of Child Support  
Income Deduction Orders

**Class 13, November 15, 2012**

Attorney's Fees

**Class 14, November 22, 2012**

Enforcement of Court Orders Enforcement, Attachment, Contempt or other Collection Methods  
*Georgia Divorce, Alimony and Child Custody*: §§ 14.1-14.37

**Court Dates**

**October 5**

**November 2**

**December 7**