
PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

This is the first edition of the casebook joined by Solangel Maldonado. As with earlier editions, which date back to the first edition in 1978, this book is designed first and foremost for classroom instruction. It is structured to introduce students to the major issues in the field of family law with a particular emphasis on 21st century case law and statutes, model codes, and other materials, and is written with an eye toward putting the study of family law in touch with the social world it is a dynamic part of.

As previous editions have done, this book draws on a variety of sources—historical and contemporary, legal and non-legal—in order to emphasize the complex and wide-ranging dynamics of family life, as well as their highly personal and interpersonal stakes, which the law must recognize and address somehow. This new edition builds on the well-known strengths of earlier editions’ treatment of family law’s many equality themes, offering deep engagements at family law’s intersection with different axes of inequality, including race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and identity, and class. The book is also enriched with practical materials, including questions and problems, designed to allow students to confront some of the high stake issues in the field in practice-simulating ways.

We are indebted to the many colleagues and students whose probing questions and suggestions over the years have helped to shape these materials. For distinctively formative feedback as the new edition took shape, we would like to thank, among others, Elizabeth Bartholet, Mary Anne Case, Amy Cohen, Tucker Culbertson, Sally Goldfarb, Janet Halley, Clare Huntington, Melissa Murray, Reva Siegel, and Robin West. We also owe a particular debt of thanks to Milton C. Regan, Jr., for his many contributions to the Fifth Edition, which continue to enrich this one. Law students at Georgetown, Ohio State, and Seton Hall provided outstanding research assistance in preparing this edition. In particular we would like to thank law students (some already recent graduates) Alex Al-Doory, Laura Santos-Bishop, Elianni J. De La Cruz, Drew Factor, Morgan Mackay, Nicholas Pasquarello, James Pfeiffer, Gretchen Rutz, Jordan Duval, Zannatul (Pria) Mustafa, Jessica L. Peslak, Malina Welman, Lindsey Woods, and Jia Zhang. The truly exceptional skills and dedication of Sandy De Sousa, Jessica Rae Rodgers, and Ethan Weber as the manuscript came together, helped make it possible. We are also very much indebted to others at our schools for other forms of indispensable help as we worked to prepare these materials. At Georgetown, the library research services, especially Yelena Rodriguez and Andrea Muto, provided invaluable help with statutory references. Anna Selden and Jonathan Zimmer helped with some of the copyright permissions. At Ohio State, Allyson Hennelly provided significant editorial assistance, particularly coordinating copyright permissions, and Susan Azyndar gave incredibly sharp aid with countless research and sourcing

questions, often in a pinch. Our thanks go to all of you and to our families for their inspiration and support.

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May, 2019