

# The Financial Divorce

## Property, Retirement, Income & Bias in Maine Family Law

September 16, 2026 | Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport

CLE Credits: 6.0, including 1.0 H&D

*This program has been approved for practice and procedure credit under Maine's reciprocal admission rule.*



### SCHEDULE AND FACULTY

#### 8:30 Registration

#### 9:00 Mine, Yours, or Ours? Cracking the Code of Marital vs. Non-Marital Property

The threshold question in nearly every contested divorce is what belongs to the marriage and what does not. This session covers the § 953 marital-property presumption, statutory exceptions, standards of proof, and shifting evidentiary burdens, then turns to the practical challenges of tracing and proving non-marital property, including commingling, transmutation, active and passive appreciation, and the use of exhibits and expert testimony.

*Hon. Jed J. French, Maine District Court*

*Hon. Heather M. Seasonwein, Maine District Court*

*Catherine C. Miller, Esq., MillerAsen, PA*

#### 11:00 Break

#### 11:15 Retirement Revealed: Decoding IRAs, Roths, Pensions & Beyond

An accessible guide to the alphabet soup of retirement assets, organized around three questions: what they are, how you divide them, and how you value them. The session covers traditional and Roth IRAs, defined-contribution plans (401(k), 403(b), 457 deferred compensation), and defined-benefit pensions; the mechanics of dividing each—including QDROs for qualified plans versus transfers incident to divorce for IRAs, survivor-benefit elections, and the tax traps hidden in the pre-tax/after-tax distinction; and valuation, including present-value and coverture-fraction approaches for defined-benefit pensions. Particular attention will be given to MainePERS and other public pensions, which do not divide like private plans and can catch practitioners off guard.

*Anna Mikhaylina, Esq., Verrill Dana, LLP*

#### 12:15 Lunch (included)

#### 1:15 Follow the Money: Reading Tax Returns & Defining Income

Hour 1 — Reading Tax Returns Like a Pro: Identifying true income, reading K-1s and 1120-S returns, and spotting hidden or underreported income.

*James D. Wade, Esq., Beacon Tax Advocates, LLC*

*Susan M. Schultz, Esq., Schultz Family Law LLC*

Hour 2 — What Counts? Defining Income: Earned and unearned income, imputation, and key issues affecting support calculations.

*Magistrate Andrea C. Najarian, Maine District Court*

#### 3:15 Break

#### 3:30 Rewriting the Narrative: Bias, Non-Monetary Contributions, and the Theory of Spousal Support (H&D)

How gender-based assumptions quietly shape financial outcomes in family cases—and how to counter them. This session examines the theory of spousal support, the treatment of non-monetary contributions, and the persistent tendency to view a spouse's career sacrifices as an absence of contribution rather than a contribution in kind. Practical takeaways will help reframe that narrative in negotiation and at trial.

*Joseph R. Boisvert, Esq., R B Boisvert Law Office*

*Dana E. Prescott, Esq., Prescott Jamieson Murphy Law Group, LLC*

#### 4:30 CLE Program adjourns & Family Law Achievement Award Dinner begins (additional cost).

### FAMILY LAW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DINNER

Please join the MSBA Family Law Section to celebrate the achievements of **Kenneth P. Altshuler** at the Family Law Achievement Award Dinner!

In addition to the dinner, there will be remarks about Kenneth's career in family law by Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill, Judge Peter J. Goranites, and Elizabeth J. Scheffee, with the award presented by the Family Law Section Chair Joseph R. Boisvert.

#### 4:30 Welcome Reception

#### 5:30 Buffet Dinner

#### 6:30 Award Presentation and Remarks

Tickets: \$70 per person

RSVP by Friday, Sept. 9.

No refunds or cancellations after Sept. 8.

Questions regarding the dinner? Please contact Colin Marquis-Boutin at (207) 622-7523 or [cmarquisboutin@mainebar.org](mailto:cmarquisboutin@mainebar.org).

## CLE Program Information

### In-Person at the Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport

**Registration:** Registration for the Hilton Garden Inn is **capped at 100** and will close on **Sept. 14**, or when capacity is reached.

**Walk-In Registration:** If registration is full prior to the program, walk-in registrations **will not be allowed**. We recommend pre-registering or calling ahead before arriving at the Hilton. Payment is required at registration.

**Canceling from the Live Program at the Hilton Garden Inn:** You may cancel your registration for a full refund until **4:00 p.m. on Sept. 8**. **No refunds** will be issued after this time. The date of cancellation is the date received at Bar Headquarters in Augusta.

**Photography:** Registrants, instructors and exhibitors attending a MSBA CLE event agree they may be photographed during the event. Photographic materials are the sole property of the MSBA. The MSBA reserves the right to use attendees' names and likenesses in promotional materials without any monetary compensation.

## Registration Form | The Financial Divorce

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Bar # \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### CLE Seminar Pricing

|                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MSBA Member .....                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$295 |
| CLE Club Member .....               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$220 |
| Support Staff of CLE Club Member .. | <input type="checkbox"/> \$220 |
| Paralegals and Support Staff .....  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 |
| Non-Member .....                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$350 |
| MSBA Student Member .....           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30 |

### CLE Club: MSBA Members Only

Celebrate the MSBA's 135th anniversary with a prorated CLE Club rate.

July 1–December 31 ..... ☐ \$67.50

### Family Law Achievement Dinner

☐ Yes, I would like to attend the dinner.

|              | PRICE | QTY (#) | TOTAL |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Dinner ..... | \$70  | _____   | _____ |

Names of Guests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Information

☐ Check Enclosed



CLE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSC Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW TO REGISTER

**Online:** [mainebar.org/event/family26](http://mainebar.org/event/family26)

**Mail:** Attn: Katie Dunn  
Maine State Bar Association,  
124 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330

**Phone:** 207-622-7554 | **Fax:** 207-623-0083

**Email:** [kdunn@mainebar.org](mailto:kdunn@mainebar.org)

**Questions regarding the dinner?** Please contact Colin Marquis-Boutin at (207) 622-7523 or [cmarquisboutin@mainebar.org](mailto:cmarquisboutin@mainebar.org).