

Family Law Update

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### 1. Appeals to Judge: Q.B. Rule Change

Recent amendments to <u>Queen's Bench Rule 62</u> (Appeals to a Judge) limit the evidence that parties may file on an appeal to a judge from a ruling by a master. The appeal hearing remains a fresh hearing; however, for appeals filed as of January 1, 2007, further evidence may not be adduced without leave of the judge hearing the appeal. The amendments are found in <u>Manitoba Regulation</u> <u>199/2006</u> and further explanation can be found in the <u>October 20, 2006 Notice</u> from The Honourable Mr. Justice Jewers.

#### 2. Grandparent Access

Bill 9, *The Grandparent Access and Other Amendments Act (Child and Family Services Act Amended)* was introduced on November 27. For further information on other aspects of the Grand Relations strategy (including services) read the <u>news release</u> and backgrounder. You can also <u>download pamphlets</u> on extended family access for your clients or obtain print copies through Family Conciliation at 945-7236 or 1-800-282-8069, Ext. 7236 (toll free).

### 3. Piercing the Corporate Veil: ON C.A.

In the recent decision in <u>Wildman v. Wildman</u>, 2006 CanLII 33540, the Ontario Court of Appeal pierces the corporate veil and upholds the lower court order that support payable by the husband could be enforced against a corporation and related entities in which the husband is the sole director, shareholder and officer. The court states that:

...although a business person is entitled to create corporate structures and relationships for valid business, tax and other reasons, the law must be vigilant to ensure that permissible corporate arrangements do not work an injustice in the realm of family law. In appropriate cases, piercing the corporate veil of one spouse's business enterprises may be an essential mechanism for ensuring that the other spouse and children of the marriage receive the financial support to which, by law, they are entitled.

#### 4. Self-Represented Litigants

The issue of dealing with self-represented litigants at trial is addressed by Elizabeth Jollimore, Q.C. of Stewart McKelvey in her article *Unrepresented Parties: Trial and Beyond*. She addresses

the following two recent decisions from the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal:

- *Family and Children's Service of Cumberland County v. M.(D.M.0 and M.(D.), and M.(S.D.) and F.(J.)*, 2006 NSCA 75
- <u>MacKay v. Murray</u>, 2006 NSCA 84 (CanLII)

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## 5. Family Orders for Support Staff: CLE

To keep your support staff abreast of changes in preparation of Family Division Orders, encourage them to attend the upcoming CLE program, <u>Family Division Court Orders and the Mandatory</u> <u>Standard Clauses: A Program for Legal Support Staff</u> to be held on January 19, 2007 at 12:00 noon. Support staff programs frequently sell-out so be sure to register your staff early.

# 6. New CLE Materials on Child Support

Materials are now available from the October 11, 2006 CLE program, *How Much and How Far? A Review of Recent Supreme Court of Canada Decisions on Child Support*. This exceptionally good set of materials includes papers by Professor Lisa Fainstein, Randall Horton and Michael Williams. <u>Click here</u> for further information and to order.

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