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The Use of Experts in Family Law Cases: An Annotated Bibliography

by Allen Rostron*

This bibliography covers significant issues relating to the use of experts in family law cases. For some topics, like the use of experts in child custody cases, it focuses on literature that is specific to the family law field. For topics that relate broadly to experts in all kinds of legal matters, it includes articles that shed valuable light on issues and concerns about the use of experts in general as well as articles that specifically relate to the use of experts in the family law realm.

Attorney's Fees Experts	672
Child Custody, Protection, and Support	672
Computer or Digital Forensics Experts	676
Concurrent Presentation (or "Hot Tubbing") of Experts	678
Consultants (Non-Testifying Experts)	679
Cost of Experts	680
Court-Appointed Experts	681
Dementia	682
Employee Benefits and Pension Experts	683
Foreign Law Experts	683
Forensic Accounting Experts	685
General Considerations for Use of Experts in Family Law	
Cases	685
Impact, Reliability, and Bias of Experts	686
Impeaching Experts	687
Indigent Clients	688
Instructional Use of Experts	689
Legal Experts	689
Malpractice Claims Against Expert Witnesses	690
Mediation	691

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ocial Workers as Experts	
Tax Experts	
Valuation Experts	692
Vocational Experts	695

Attorney's Fees Experts

Scott Brister, Gatekeeping Attorney's Fees: How Judges Admit or Exclude Expert Testimony on Attorney's Fees, ADVOC. (Texas), Winter 2017, at 27 (reviewing rules that govern the use of expert testimony to prove the amount and reasonableness of attorney's fees).

Melvyn B. Frumkes & Jack A. Rounick, An Expert as to Attorney's Fees, Fam. Advoc., Spring 2007, at 12 (discussing situations in divorce litigation where an attorney should be hired to testify as an expert on legal work and attorney's fees in order to render opinions about the number of hours billed, the complexity of the issues, and the reasonableness of the fee amounts).

Child Custody, Protection, and Support

Jon Amundson & Glenda Lux, *Tippins and Wittmann Revisited: Law, Social Science, and the Role of the Child Custody Expert 14 Years Later, 57* FAM. CT. Rev. 88 (2019) (building on an influential 2005 article by Timothy Tippins and Jeffrey Wittman, which described four levels of inferences made in opinions offered by child custody evaluators, and arguing that evaluators continue to make speculative inferences that go beyond what should be the proper role for mental health professionals in child custody cases).

Stephen J. Anderer, *Working with Your Expert Witness*, FAM. ADVOC., Summer 2000, at 21 (providing a basic primer on the use of experts in child custody cases, from selecting an expert to establishing the admissibility of the expert's testimony, along with a list of "Do's and Don'ts" for experts).

Nicholas Bala, Tippins and Wittmann Asked the Wrong Question: Evaluators May Not Be "Experts," but They Can Express Best Interests Opinions, 43 Fam. Ct. Rev. 554 (2005) (arguing that evaluators in child custody cases should be permitted to express

opinions about what would promote the best interest of children, because family courts should not treat evaluators as experts subject to *Daubert* evidentiary standards and should instead apply more flexible standards that reflect the issues, standards, and goals of the family law context).

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without adequately testing its reliability, validity, and relevance, with an examination of Parental Alienation Syndrome as an example of this problem).

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