

Presented:

Innovations—Breaking Boundaries in Custody Litigation

June 12, 2014
Dallas, TX

What You Think You Know and What You Should Know about Custody Litigation

Facilitated Table Discussion Exercise

Moderator: Susan Myres

Discussion Leaders:

Hon. James Martin

Hon. Drew Ten Eyck

Hon. Scott A. Beauchamp

Hon. Dennise Garcia

Hon. Mary C. Brown

Hon. David D. Farr

Hon. Dean Rucker

Hon. Graham Quisenberry

Hon. Chris Oldner

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Facilitated Table Discussion

Moderator:

- Susan Myres

Discussion Leaders:

- Hon. James Martin, 254th District Court, Victoria, TX
- Hon. Drew Ten Eyck, Associate Judge, 255th District Court, Dallas, TX
- Hon. Scott A. Beauchamp, Associate Judge, 301st Family District Court, Dallas, TX
- Hon. Dennise Garcia, 303rd Family District Court, Dallas, TX
- Hon. Mary C. Brown, Associate Judge, 303rd Family District Court, Dallas, TX
- Hon. David D. Farr, 312th Family District Court, Houston, TX
- Hon. Dean Rucker, 318th Family District Court, Midland, TX
- Hon. Graham Quisenberry, 415th District Court, Weatherford, TX
- Hon. Chris Oldner, 416th District Court, McKinney, TX

1. **Introductions:** Round the table (profession, area of practice, of interest, etc.)
 2. **Discussion:** Facilitated discussion
 3. **Notes:** Take notes OR have someone else take notes.
 4. **Debrief:** Share ONE or TWO key points/ take away from your discussion
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Discussion Points:

What are the mental health diagnosis labels that give you the most distress and why:

Discussion Summary:

- Borderline Histrionic
- Un-medicated/denial illness
- Narcissistic
- Bipolar- behavior never changes, addiction/can't change the meds
- Personality disorders- paranoids, sociopaths, things that can't be fixed w/ therapy or meds
- Substance and alcohol abuse
- Untreated diagnoses. Treatment is so important. Treatment is a good thing
- Borderline because they are tricky; hard to recognize and diagnose; resistant

If there is a severely limited budget, what are the custody issues of the most importance? (Social Studies/Amicus/Psychological Evaluation/ other witnesses):

Discussion Summary:

- Depends on issues—maybe social study, who will actually interview teachers/etc.? or Amicus who actually does their investigation.
- Social study is the most cost efficient, possibly Amicus attorney if you can get a good one. Parenting facilitator would help a lot. Use caution when bringing in other witnesses, ie., therapists because then you have poisoned the well.
- Education; quick intervention; social study when cost is an issue. If no budget limitations; forensic psychological evaluation—evaluator develop conclusions while gathering data and information. Appoint facilitator for parenting.

Reoccurring substance abuse: What types of possession options are possible?:

Discussion Summary:

- See paper for today = use a monitor service/limit length of access/ counseling.
- Monitored access/not allow parent to drive/ keep cell phone with older kids
- Educate children about substance abuse signs and what to do
- Random testing
- Ankle bracelet
- Supervision
- SoberLink
- Mutual injunction stair step possession based on sobriety or clean drug tests or counseling, etc.
- Also depends on the facts—i.e. what kind of drug? Meth or Marijuana

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Custody Litigation Panel](#)

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2014 Innovations—Breaking Boundaries in Custody Litigation session

"I Heard It through the Grapevine—What You Think You Know and What You Should Know
about Custody Litigation"