

**FAMILY LAW AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
PROPERTY**

Tab 1 – Characterization of Property

I.	Separate Property and Community Property	1
A.	Separate Property Defined	1
B.	Community Property Defined	1
C.	Community Property Presumption	1
D.	Jury Trial	1
E.	Clear and Convincing Evidence	1
F.	Evidence Required	2
G.	Income from Separate Property	2
H.	Quasi-Community Property	3
I.	Community Debt Presumption	3
J.	Effect of Premarital and Postmarital Agreements	3
K.	Agreements to Convert SP to CP	3
L.	Court Cannot Divest SP Owner	4
M.	Inception of Title Rule	4
N.	Property Owned Before Marriage	4
O.	Property Acquired After Marriage	5
P.	Property Acquired During Separation	5
Q.	Proportional Ownership Interests/Mixed Character	5
R.	Form of Title	5
II.	Gifts	6
A.	Gifts are Separate Property	6
B.	Elements of a Gift	6
C.	Promise to Give in the Future	6
D.	Burden of Proof	6
E.	Delivery of Property	6
F.	Encumbered Property	7
G.	No Consideration	7
H.	Gifts to Both Spouses	7
I.	Gifts from Parents or Grandparents	8
J.	Interspousal Gifts	9
III.	Devise or Descent	11
IV.	Personal Injury Recoveries and Tort Damages	11
A.	Personal Injuries	11
B.	Medical Expenses, Lost Wages and Loss of Earning Capacity	11
C.	Loss of Consortium	11
D.	Tort Damages	11
E.	Burden of Proof	11

V.	Tracing/Mutation	13
A.	Generally	13
B.	Tracing	13
C.	Commingled Property	13
D.	Funds on Account	13
E.	Tracing Approaches	14
F.	Reimbursement or Disproportionate Division an Alternative to Tracing When Tracing Fails	15
VI.	Business Interests	16
A.	Sole Proprietorships	16
B.	Partnerships	16
C.	Corporations	17
VII.	Employment Compensation Benefits (Non-Retirement), Wages, Future Income and Bonuses	20
A.	Termination Payments	20
B.	Early Retirement Incentives	20
C.	Current Wages	20
D.	Future Income	20
E.	Bonuses	21
F.	Signing Bonuses	21
VIII.	Insurance	22
A.	Insurance Other Than Life Insurance	22
B.	Life Insurance	22
IX.	Real Property	24
A.	Inception of Title Rule	24
B.	Contract Before Marriage	24
C.	Character Not Changed	24
D.	Mixed Title	24
E.	Property Improved or Refinanced	24
F.	Deed Delivered After Marriage	24
G.	Fixtures	25
H.	Crops	25
I.	Timber	25
X.	Mineral Interests	26
A.	Royalties	26
B.	Bonus Payments	26
C.	Delay Rentals	26
XI.	Retirement Benefits	27
A.	Defined Benefit Plans	27
B.	Defined Contribution Plans	27

C.	Military Retirement Benefits-Calculation of Community Interest	28
XII.	Stock Options/Restricted Stock	29
XIII.	Miscellaneous Assets	30
A.	Pets	30
B.	Prejudgment and Postjudgment Interest	30
C.	Professional Degrees and Licenses	30
D.	Lottery Winnings	30
E.	Patents	30
F.	Children	30
G.	Disability Benefits/Worker's Compensation Benefits	30
H.	Social Security Benefits	31
I.	Stock	31
XIV.	Trusts	32
A.	Trust Definitions	32
B.	Interests in a Trust.....	32
C.	Trust Corpus	32
D.	Trust Income	33
E.	Alter Ego-Trusts.....	35
F.	Jurisdiction.....	35

Tab 2 – Reimbursement, Fraud, and Division of Property

I.	Reimbursement	1
A.	Reimbursement Generally	1
B.	Claims for Reimbursement	1
C.	Proving a Claim for Reimbursement	2
D.	Offsets	4
E.	Reimbursement for Payment of Unsecured Liabilities	4
F.	Marital Estate Defined	4
G.	Reimbursement for Separate Property Lost to the Community Estate	5
H.	Ownership Interest Not Created	5
I.	Inception of Title Rule Not Affected	5
J.	Nonreimbursable Claims	5
K.	Equitable Lien	5
L.	Disposition of Claim for Reimbursement	6
M.	Jury Issues	6
II.	Fraud on the Community	7
A.	Claim for Fraud on the Community	7
B.	No Independent Cause of Action for Fraud on the Community	7
C.	Independent Tort for Actual Fraud Concerning Separate Estate	7
D.	Actual Fraud	7
E.	Constructive Fraud/Waste.....	8

F.	Reconstituted Estate for Fraud on the Community	13
G.	Examples of a Reconstituted Estate	15
H.	Case Law Involving Fraud on the Community and Reconstituted Estate ..	17
III.	Fraud Against a Spouse's Separate Property	22
A.	Independent Tort Cause of Action to Injury to Separate Estate	22
IV.	Just and Right Division of the Marital Estate	23
A.	Texas Family Code	23
B.	Factors in Making Just and Right Division	23
C.	Trial Court Has Broad Discretion	23
D.	Methods of Dividing Property.....	23

Tab 3 – Premarital and Marital Property Agreements

I.	Generally.....	1
A.	Uniform Premarital Agreement Act.....	1
B.	Purpose	1
C.	Premarital Agreement - Definition	1
D.	Property - Definition	1
E.	Texas Constitution	1
II.	Premarital Agreements	2
A.	Formalities	2
B.	Content of Premarital Agreement	2
C.	Child Support May Not Be Adversely Affected	2
D.	Common Provisions in Premarital Agreements.....	3
E.	Effect of Marriage.....	4
F.	Amendment or Revocation	4
G.	Void Marriage	4
III.	Marital Property Agreements	6
A.	Partition or Exchange of Community Property	6
B.	Future Earnings.....	6
C.	Income or Property from Separate Property	6
D.	Formalities	7
IV.	Enforcement of Property Agreements	8
A.	Presumption in Favor of Enforceability.....	8
B.	Voluntariness	9
C.	Unconscionability	10
D.	Disclosure of Property or Financial Obligations	12
E.	Fiduciary Duty	13
F.	Statute of Limitations	13
G.	Laches and Estoppel	13

H.	Contractual Interpretation	14
I.	No-Contest/Forfeiture Clause	15
V.	Creditors Rights	17
VI.	Summary Judgment.....	17
VII.	Arbitration.....	17
A.	Agreements to Arbitrate.....	17
B.	Arbitration Procedures	18
C.	Determination of Validity of Contract Containing Agreement to Arbitrate	18
VIII.	Agreements to Convert Separate Property to Community Property (Conversion Agreements).....	19
A.	Conversion Agreements.....	19
B.	Formalities of Conversion Agreements	19
C.	Property to Be Converted	19
D.	Enforcement.....	19
E.	Rights of Creditors.....	20
F.	Deed Records	20

Tab 4 – Alimony

I.	Maintenance/Alimony Defined	1
A.	Maintenance	1
B.	Alimony	1
II.	Eligibility for Maintenance	1
A.	Statutory Eligibility.....	1
B.	Protective Order Not Sufficient	2
C.	Minimum Reasonable Needs	2
D.	10-Year Requirement	2
E.	Request for Findings	2
F.	Presumption	3
G.	Pleadings for Maintenance	3
III.	Factors in Determining Maintenance	4
IV.	Duration of Maintenance	5
A.	Duration of Maintenance	5
B.	Shortest Reasonable Period, Unless Disability	5
C.	Disability	5
D.	Disability Cases	6

V.	Amount of Maintenance	7
A.	Amount	7
B.	Gross Income Includes	7
C.	Gross Income Does Not Include	7
D.	Obligor's Ability to Pay	7
VI.	Termination	8
A.	Death or Remarriage	8
B.	Cohabitation	8
C.	Accrued Maintenance Not Terminated	8
D.	Termination of Contractual Alimony	8
VII.	Modification	9
A.	Maintenance May be Modified	9
B.	Standard for Modification	9
C.	Maintenance May Not Be Instituted After Divorce	9
VIII.	Enforcement of a Maintenance or Alimony Order	10
A.	Enforcement by Contempt	10
B.	Not Enforceable by Contempt	10
C.	Suit to Enforce	10
D.	Affirmative Defense	10
E.	Arrearages	10
F.	Contractual Defenses Not Available	11
IX.	Putative Spouse	11
X.	Unmarried Cohabitants	11
XI.	Income Withholding	11
A.	Income Withholding for Agreed Payments	11
B.	Contractual Payments	11
C.	Combining Withholding for Maintenance with Child Support	11
XII.	Maintenance Qualified Domestic Relations Order	12
XIII.	Temporary Spousal Support	12
A.	Generally	12
B.	Procedure	12
C.	Amount of Support	12