

# Family Law

Fourth Edition

**Robert E. Oliphant**

**Nancy Ver Steegh**



**Wolters Kluwer**  
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# **Family Law**

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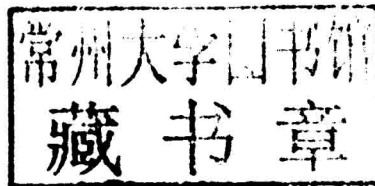
*Fourth Edition*

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# Preface

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We are pleased to provide an updated and revised fourth edition of *Family Law: Examples & Explanations*. Each of the 24 chapters features recent developments in family law, and the book includes hundreds of hypothetical examples and explanations, most of which are based on fact patterns taken from actual cases. Because new developments in family law often reflect underlying societal changes in family structure and demographics, this volume incorporates empirical research and census data that are likely to be of interest to the reader. We also highlight ways that the practice of family law and the role of attorneys have been transformed through the use of processes such as mediation and collaborative law.

This book contains a balanced and in-depth analysis of family law. Because the tapestry of family law is complex, and because we believe that focus is an essential ingredient to learning, we have separated the subject of family law into specific topics that are organized as chapters. Each chapter is subdivided into discrete sections that often include hypothetical examples and illustrative explanations. We have based our analysis and the examples and explanations on nationally accepted legal principles. However, because family law is so often state specific, the text contains contrasting perspectives from various jurisdictions. To eliminate confusion and to assist with family law research, we have included hundreds of citations to relevant state decisions and legislation associated with the principles under consideration.

We believe that this book provides a clear, well-organized, and efficient learning platform that will assist readers in understanding and appreciating the subject of family law.

Robert E. Oliphant  
Nancy Ver Steegh  
January 2013

# Acknowledgments

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We are thankful for the hard work, assistance, and encouragement of the generous people who have helped us complete four editions of this book.

In addition to our Wolters Kluwer editors, William Mitchell College of Law and its administration have remained solid supporters of the project since its beginning. Faculty Publication Specialists Linda Thorstad and Cal Bonde helped with all of the editions and Jennifer Miller and Polly Saul contributed substantial proofreading assistance. For their commitment to the project, we say, "Thank you for all your efforts."

Our respective book widow and widower spouses, Susan Oliphant and Jack Ver Steegh, have been patient, tolerant, and supportive as we worked on the manuscripts for these editions. Thank you!

Robert E. Oliphant  
Nancy Ver Steegh  
January 2013

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