

Friday, January 23, 2026

2 – 5:15 p.m.

Family Law Section

3.0 MCLE Credit Hours, 3.0 JCLE Credit Hours for Family Court Judges Supreme Court

Commission on CLE Course #: 260138

Room Location: Columbia 102-104

Family Law CLE

As the title suggests, the focus of the 2026 South Carolina Bar Convention Family Law CLE is on stopping alienating and other behaviors early, before permanent damage to children is done. Dr. Yvonne M. Parnell, Founder of Family Bridges Institute, a globally recognized leader of intervention in alienation cases, and Leslie Armstrong, Esquire of Armstrong Family Law, LLC in Charleston, South Carolina begin this CLE walking us through the progression of behaviors that start as petty and end in permanent damage to children and parental relationships. Dr. Parnell and Ms. Armstrong deliver information based on statistics with an engaging approach focused on providing practical tools for attorneys and courts to recognize and address early the toxic behaviors that build over time. With their passion and charisma, this presentation will be one long remembered by those fortunate enough to attend. The Honorable Mindy W. Zimmerman takes the stage next, providing insight and wisdom for practitioners weighing whether and why to bring an expert on-board. What can an expert provide to our family courts not otherwise available through the facts and testimony in a case? Is an expert a “nice to have” tactical advantage or a “must have” witness for the ultimate decision-maker? Finally, we end our afternoon with the annual Legislative Update. Representatives Bruce W. Bannister and David W. Martin join forces to bring us the latest, greatest, and perhaps not-so-great developments in Columbia family courts and attorneys need to keep on their radars. This is a “can’t miss”, “must attend” presentation for anyone practicing in family law, whether as an exclusive area of practice or as an occasional part of a varied practice. We know this CLE will not disappoint!

Agenda

2 – 3:30 p.m. Nip it in the Bud: Identifying, Stopping and Healing Alienation and Alienating Behaviors Before All is Lost

Dr. Yvonne M. Parnell
Family Bridges Institute
Toronto, Ontario

Leslie Armstrong, Esquire
Armstrong Family Law, LLC
Charleston, SC

3:30 – 3:45 p.m. Break

3:45 – 4:30 p.m. Tell Me What I Want, What I Really, Really Want....When Does The Court Need an Expert Witness?

The Honorable Mindy Zimmerman

*S.C. Family Court
Newberry, SC*

4:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Legislative Update

Representative Bruce Bannister
*Bannister, Wyatt, & Stalvey, LLC
Greenville, SC*

Course Planner/Moderator:

Leigh B. Sellers
*Touchstone Family Law
Charlotte, NC*

Jennifer Creech
*Law Office of Jennifer M. Creech, LLC
Rock Hill, SC*