

Divorce Financial Issues

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Continuing Education on the Role of the Certified Divorce Financial Analyst

On November 1, 2007, the [American Bar Association](#) and the [Institute for Divorce Financial Analyst](#) (IDFA) will hold a Teleconference and Live Audio Webcast titled "How Using a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst Can Strengthen Your Core Divorce Practice."

This is a great opportunity to find out more about how a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst (CDFA) can help you in your practice and fulfill your CLE requirements.

Judge Kathleen McCarthy will give an insight as to how CDFAs have helped the judiciary gain a clearer understanding of financial issues in divorce.

Fred Siegel, a family law practitioner in the New York area who specializes in high net worth divorces and has integrated the services of CDFAs in his practice will also be one of the expert panel in this program.

Best of all, there will not be a moment of time lost traveling as the holidays approach and many of us struggle with balancing the need for Continuing Education and getting clients through the divorce process.

Here is the link to the program:

<http://www.abanet.org/cle/programs/t07hcd1.html>

Alternative Minimum Tax

Created nearly 40 years ago, Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) was intended to disallow many tax breaks that a tiny percentage of wealthy taxpayers used to minimize their taxes. However, Congress never indexed the amount of income exempt from this tax and as a result millions of taxpayers have been snared by the AMT net.

In 2006 Congress enacted a sixth one-year "patch" exempting \$62,550 for joint filers and \$42,550 for single taxpayers. For 2007, the exemptions will fall to \$45,000 for joint filers and \$33,750 for single filers unless Congress enacted another patch.

Without the patch, the estimated number of taxpayers subject to AMT may increase from 5.4 million to 23 million.

AMT is often seen in divorces when significant assets are liquidated. Once a taxpayer is in AMT, the benefits of tax deductions and exemptions can be significantly reduced or eliminated.

It is important to make sure that your financial analysis includes projected taxes, including AMT when appropriate.

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Collaborative Divorce Updates



After working with tax, financial planning and divorce clients since 2001, I finally attended my first 3-Day Collaborative Interdisciplinary Training earlier this year. Since then, I have completed a 40-hour Divorce Mediation Training, participated in a 2-Day Advanced Collaborative Interdisciplinary Training and a Case/Team Manager Training, as well as joined Collaborative Practice Groups in Arizona, Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC.