

## 30 For 30

### Campaign Completed — Goal Exceeded!

One year ago, the Women's Law Center kicked off the 30 for 30 Campaign, an ambitious fundraising effort to honor the organization's 30 years of advocating for the legal rights of women. The goal was to raise 30 donations of \$1,000. With the help of many generous friends and supporters, we reached and **exceeded** our goal! The campaign was so

popular that we added four years. Each 30 for 30 Campaign individual donor or donor group "purchased" a year of the Women's Law Center's history. Many contributors commemorated a personal event or accomplishment with their donation to the Women's Law Center. Their reasons were as varied as the individual donors and reflected many of the achievements of women in the legal profession during the past 30 years. They included: graduation from law school, appointment to the bench,

the creation of the Family Law Hotline, winning an important case, and the birth of a child. The names of the 30 for 30 contributors are listed below and will be displayed in the WLC office. The funds raised through the 30 for 30 Campaign will support and expand the Women's Law Center's efforts to serve as a leading voice for women's legal rights through direct legal services, education, research and advocacy. We are very grateful to the following donors who participated in the 30 for 30 Campaign.

1971	Judge Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman	1987	Susan Elgin
1972	Sally Gold	1988	Linda Barclay
1973	Sheila Sachs	1989	Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP
1974	Judge Lynne Battaglia	1990	Kathleen Shemer
1975	Bonnie Messina	1991	Jana Singer
1976	Emily Rody	1992	Pamela Marks, Beveridge & Diamon, PC
1977	Judge Ellen Heller	1993	Lynne Durbin
1978	Deborah Bacharach, Judge Ellen Hollander, Michele McDonald, Alexandra Strubing, Judge Jamie Weitzman	1994	Peter Angelos
1979	L. Tracy Brown	1995	Sayra Meyerhoff
1980	Dorothy Fait	1996	Cheryl Hystad, Marla Hollandsworth, Judge Brooke Murdock, Christyne Neff
1981	Bobbie Steyer	1997	Gustava Taler
1982	Judge Carol Smith, Judge Mary Ellen Rinehardt	1998	Susan Elgin
1983	Judge Charlotte Cooksey	1999	Elisabeth Sachs
1984	Mimi Azrael	2000	Elizabeth Caplan
1985	Ann Sjoerdsma	2001	Venable Foundation
1986	Lisa Jose Fales, Jeannette Karpay, Dorothy Lennig, Cheri Levin	2002	Gwen Tromley
		2003	Claudia Diamond, Rhonda Combs, Cheryl Jacobs, Anonymous
		2004	Francine Krumholz

***Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!***

## Message from the President

### **The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.**

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#### **WLC Officers & Board Members**

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##### **Vice President**

*Francine Krumholz*

##### **Treasurer**

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*Bobbie Steyer*

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##### **MEDOVI Attorneys**

*Eugenia Ordynsky*

*Brooke Do*

##### **Research Project Director**

*Jeannette Karpay*

##### **Data Entry Clerk**

*Donna Pasko*

The Women's Law Center offers its members countless opportunities to support and participate in advocacy on behalf of women and families. Under the innovative leadership of its Chair, Jessica B. Kaufman (See Board Focus), the Law Center's **Membership Committee** has significantly increased membership since 2002. In the coming months, we hope to inaugurate WLC Law Student Committees in each of Baltimore's law schools. Throughout this Newsletter, you will see evidence of the joint efforts of the Law Center's membership, staff and Board. Working through our standing committees, we are breaking new ground with several projects. If you have not taken the opportunity to join us in this exciting work, I hope you will not wait any longer!

This month, thirteen experienced employment law practitioners---WLC members and friends--joined eight Board members to form our new Employment Law Advisory Group, convened by the Law Center's **Employment Law Committee**. This Advisory Group is moving us swiftly toward the creation of a first-rate employment law initiative.

In January, our energetic **Judicial Selections Committee**, chaired by Law Center member Elizabeth Gaudio and Board member Alex Strubing, reached out to *all* of the

candidates for the recent vacancy in the Baltimore County District Court, ultimately interviewing 33 applicants for the position. This Committee has created an objective judicial selections process in which committee members sign a confidentiality pledge. The **Development Committee**, under the leadership of Vice-President Francine Krumholz, joined with WLC members, supporters, Board and staff to exceed the challenge of the *30 for 30 Campaign*.

At the WLC's 2002 *Annual Meeting and 30th Anniversary Celebration*, I promised that in the coming years we would ask those in attendance--members and friends-- to work with us. When you read this newsletter, you will see that we have done exactly that. In reading what we have accomplished, I hope you will recognize the collaborative roles of our committed Board, staff, membership and friends. Now, more than ever, when I say "we" and "our", I mean not only the superb WLC staff and Board of Directors, but also the many generous women and men who comprise the Law Center's membership and loyal supporters. To our members and friends, I know that I speak for the staff and Board of Directors in thanking you for your support and partnership with us.

**Gwen Tromley**

## Board Focus on Jessica Kaufman

Jessica B. Kaufman joined the Board of Directors of the Women's Law Center in June 1999. Since 2002, when she became chair of the Membership Committee, Jessica's analytical approach has resulted in a significant increase in Law Center membership. She has spearheaded our effort to establish--for the first time--WLC Law Student committees at our two local law schools. An honors graduate of Brandeis University and the University of Maryland Law School, Jessica served as a Law

Clerk for Judge John F. Fader, II, in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. After practicing family law at Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger and Hollander, Jessica joined the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland. Currently, Jessica serves as an Assistant AG for the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Jessica's legal experience - in both family and employment law - and her goal-focused approach, have made her an invaluable member of our Board.

## WLC Committee Updates

The *Employment Committee* convened a short term Employment Law Advisory Group to provide advice about the development of an employment program. The Advisory Group is comprised of attorneys who have extensive employment law experience and represent of broad range of practice backgrounds in the private and public sector and representing employers and employees. The Advisory Group, which has met once, will identify critical employment issues that affect women and gaps in current services. The Advisory Group will also help the Employment Committee to identify and prioritize possible direct service, advocacy or educational efforts that will address employment issues for women.

The *Judicial Selections Committee* has been particularly busy recently. The Committee interviewed 33 candidates for the District Court for Baltimore County. This was an arduous but rewarding process! The Committee also in-

terviewed candidates for the Court of Appeals, and the Circuit Courts for Wicomico and Prince George's Counties. The Judicial Selections Committee evaluates and rates each judicial candidate based on specific criteria. A letter summarizing the Committee's evaluation of the candidate is forwarded to the appropriate Nominating Commission and the Governor. Many thanks go to the dedicated Committee members who participate in this important process.

The *Membership Committee* is exploring the possibility of establishing Student Committees at University of Baltimore and University of Maryland Law Schools. This is a great opportunity for members to get involved in a new project that will give law students a forum to network with experienced attorneys and discuss legal issues important to women. If you would like to be involved with this or any Committee, please contact Tracy Brown at 410-321-8761.

## Member Kudos

Several WLC members recently received well-deserved recognition for their contributions to the legal community. Congratulations to:

*Judge Lynn Battaglia, Sharon Goldsmith and Dean Karen Rothenberg* who were winners of the Daily Record's 2003 Maryland Leadership in Law award.

*Susan Bayly*, who received the Rita C. Davidson Award from the Women's Bar Association for her years of service to the legal community.

*Winnie Borden*, who received the William L. Marbury Award for Outstanding Advocacy from the Maryland Legal Services Corporation for her leadership as Executive Director of the Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service.

*Susan Erlichman*, who was appointed as the Executive

Director of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation.

*Leah Lewis*, WLC member, Family Law Hotline volunteer and Legal Forms Helpline attorney, who received a ten year volunteer award from Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service. Leah has represented at least one MVLS client each year for the past 10 years.

*Professor Jane Murphy* received the University of Baltimore Board of Regents' Faculty Award for public service.

### Special Thanks...

Special thanks go to *Christopher Nicholson*, Kaufman, Ries and Elgin, who was responsible for securing a generous contribution to the WLC as a part of a fee payment from the opposing party in a contested divorce case.

## Thank You Volunteers!

Each year the Family Law Hotline provides more than 2,500 low-income Maryland residents with free legal information. This accomplishment would not be possible without the service of our many dedicated volunteer attorneys. We would like to thank the following volunteers who worked on the Family Law Hotline between October 1 – December 31, 2003.

Shea Baggett  
Rubin Ballesteros  
Catherine Drummond  
Keith Eckloff  
William Fanning  
Elizabeth Farquhar  
William Ferris  
Jennifer Goolie  
Judith Hamilton  
Roanne Handler  
Michele Ferris Hansen  
Dorothy Haynes  
Judith Helfman  
Blaine Hoffman  
Suzanne Hood  
Kris Howanski  
Fred Kobb  
Mary Kramer  
Albert Laisy  
Martin Lessans  
Leah Lewis  
V. Peter Markuski  
Robbyn McIntosh  
Ann Miller  
Charles Rand  
Edythe Schneider  
Judith Shub-Condliffe  
M. L. Smith  
Linda Spevack  
Bobbie Steyer  
Barbara Strong  
Rebecca Taylor  
Katherine Thompson  
Randy Wase



## WLC Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony a Success!

The Women's Law Center's Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony was a great success. Friends and colleagues enjoyed the opportunity to socialize and joined the Women's Law Center in honoring the award recipients.

Judge Marcella Holland was presented with the Rosalyn B. Bell award. Chief Judge Robert Bell provided a warm introduction of Judge Holland that reflected his high esteem for her work and her integrity. In her comments, Judge Holland discussed the impact of family law on women and children. Her comments demonstrated the sensitivity and creativity that have helped the Family Division in Baltimore City flourish under her leadership.

Lee Meyerhoff Hendler accepted the Dorothy Beatty award on behalf of the Lyn P. Meyerhoff Fund, which is named for Ms. Hendler's

mother. The Fund supported the Women's Law Center's research project regarding financial distribution in divorce. Ms. Hendler described her mother's commitment to justice and her "hatred of bullies." She explained that it was this spirit that prompted the Trustees of the Fund to support the research and advocacy project to address the challenges facing women in divorce proceedings. Ms. Hendler's remarks were inspiring and reflected her strong dedication to improving the legal rights of women.

The Access to Justice Award was presented to Maryann Fiebach for her volunteer consulting services to the research project. Ms. Fiebach was touched by her selection to receive the award and said that she was delighted to have contributed her special skills to the project.

The evening also included special recognition for Women's Law Center member Judge Ellen Heller on her retirement from the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Her contributions to the Circuit Court and her loyal support for the Women's Law Center were warmly noted.

As a part of the evening's festivities, the Women's Law Center proudly released its newest publication *Your Money Matters: A Guide to Financial Independence for Women*. Board President Gwen Tromley pointed out that without financial independence it is difficult for women to fully exercise the other legal rights that have been won during the past 30 years. *Your Money Matters*, which was distributed to all attendees, provides practical information and tips to help women achieve and maintain financial independence at all stages of life.



Chief Judge Robert Bell (left) presented the "Rosalyn B. Bell Award" to Administrative Judge Marcella Holland (right). WLC President, Gwen Tromley (center) presided over the Annual Meeting.



Maryann Fiebach (left) receives the "Access to Justice Award" presented by Research Project Director, Jeannette Karpay (right).



Gwen Tromley (left) with Lee Meyerhoff Hender (center) who accepted the "Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award" on behalf of the Lyn P. Meyerhoff Fund. The award was presented by WLC Board Member, Susan Elgin (right).



## Job Announcement: Project Director

We are seeking a part time contractual attorney to serve as the Project Director for the Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence (MEDOVI) Project. The MEDOVI project provides direct legal services and outreach for foreign-born victims of domestic violence by representing them in Temporary and Final Protective Order and Peace Order Hearings. The project also assists victims with related immigration issues, such as filing battered spouse self-petitions. Clients contact the MEDOVI project through a multi-lingual hotline. The Project Director retrieves and responds to all calls to the MEDOVI hotline by providing legal services, advice or information and referral. The Project Director identifies and coordinates interpreter services to non-English speaking clients. The position requires approximately 16 – 20 hours a

week. The schedule is flexible and depends on what is necessary to meet client needs and accomplish effective outreach efforts. The office is located in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

### REQUIREMENTS:

J.D. from accredited law school and admission to Maryland Bar; Family law and immigration law experience or knowledge; Strong understanding of issues facing foreign-born victims of domestic violence and sensitivity to the role of a victim's culture or ethnicity; Strong organizational skills and ability to take initiative and complete tasks without close supervision; Proficiency in a foreign language is strongly preferred.

*Fax Resume and Cover Letter to: 410-321-0462.*



## For Your Information...

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) issued a Call for Workshop Proposals to be presented at the 2004 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Conference titled Building Bridges: Connecting Communities. The conference is scheduled for November 12, 2004. For more information about submitting an abstract, contact MCASA at 800-983-7273.

The America Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession released a new publication, *Empowerment and Leadership: Tried and True Methods for Women Lawyers*. The manual provides practical advice and "effective practices that have facilitated women's rise to roles of influence and power within their organizations." The guide can be ordered at [www.abanet.org/women/bestpracticesordermf.html](http://www.abanet.org/women/bestpracticesordermf.html).

To demonstrate overwhelming majority support for a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion and birth control, the largest pro-choice majority in history will march on Washington on Sunday April 25, 2004 - **The March for Women's Lives**. The march will begin at noon on the national mall in DC, although participants may begin assembling on the mall, between the Smithsonian museums (between 3rd St. and 14th St.), as early as 10 a.m. After marching on Washington, a rally will be held from 1-4 p.m. on the National Mall. Special seating will be available for people with disabilities. The rally program will be signed for the hearing impaired. The route is wheelchair accessible and transportation will be provided for those who cannot negotiate the route. For more information, visit [www.marchforchoice.org](http://www.marchforchoice.org). If you are interested in attending as part of a Women's Law Center delegation, or would like more information about local organizing efforts, contact the WLC at 410-321-8761.

**CHOICE • JUSTICE • ACCESS • HEALTH**

**MARCH  
FOR WOMEN'S LIVES**

**Washington DC April 25, 2004**

**ABORTION • GLOBAL • FAMILY PLANNING**

**10:00am: Assembly on Mall**

Organizers: Black Women's Health Imperative, Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, National Organization for Women (NOW), Planned Parenthood Federation of America, American Civil Liberties Union

Cosponsoring Partners: Center for Reproductive Rights, National Abortion Federation, National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, National Partnership for Women and Families, National Women's Law Center

and nearly 1,000 Co-sponsors and still growing!

Join us!

**[www.MarchforWomen.org](http://www.MarchforWomen.org)  
202-349-3838**

**For info about March organizing in Maryland, contact Jessica at the Women's Law Center at 410-321-0462.**

## WLC's 2004 Legislative Agenda



The 2004 General Assembly Session is underway and the Women's Law Center is actively tracking and taking positions on bills that would have an impact on women and families.

### Funding:

HB706/ SB316 would increase the filing fees in civil cases. The additional funds would be allocated to Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) to fund legal services programs throughout Maryland and would provide a stable source of funding for legal services for the poor. This bill is extremely important to the Women's Law Center because MLSC funds the Family Law Hotline.

### Family Law:

Several bills would address family law issues that are important to women and families. SB418/ HB836 would allow a judge to transfer ownership of an interest in tangible personal property as a part of an annulment or absolute divorce. HB1217 could create a preference for joint legal custody and SB602/HB1092 would allow a primary caretaker or "de facto parent" to petition for custody. SB269/HB400 would repeal the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act and replace it with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act. Two bills (HB1059 and HB980) address financial obligations for a child who is attending a post secondary educational institution. HB1216 would prohibit a relative from harboring or hiding a child in violation of a visitation order. A series of bills address child support enforcement (SB217/ HB403, SB249/HB402, SB 277/ HB366, SB329/HB605) and child support guidelines (SB328/HB604).

### Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault:

HB623 would amend the stalking statute to adequately cover cyber stalking. HB923 would amend the sex offense statute to provide that the term "force" does not require that the victim physically resisted and that marriage is not a defense against a rape or sex offense. HB497 would prohibit the expungement of a spousal assault offense when the victim has invoked the spousal privilege not to testify. SB152 would establish within the Attorney General's Office an Address Confidentiality Program for victims of domestic violence. In criminal cases of child sexual abuse, SB718/HB401 would allow evidence of prior acts of sexual abuse, even if those acts are against a different victim and the alleged offender is not charged with those incidents.

### Economic Issues:

SB250 would establish an Equal Pay Commission to study the extent and consequences of pay disparities and to make recommendations to address the issue. (*As of the date of this writing, SB250 passed out of the Senate Committee and will be voted on by the full Senate.*) HB25 would require employers to allow employees up to 16 hours of unpaid leave to attend school related activities for the employee's child.

### Reproductive Rights:

Several bills (SB247/HB203 and SB248/HB204) would allow pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception. SB265/HB1156 and SB471 would increase the regulation of facilities which provide abortion services. HB621 and SB351 would increase the requirements for parental notification before performing an abortion on a minor. HB520 and SB349/HB802 would expand certain crimes to include a viable fetus. HB1267 would increase the penalties for violent crimes against a pregnant woman.

### Civil Rights:

Several bills address issues relating to sexual orientation and the rights of same sex couples. SB698/HB365 would expand hate crimes to include sexual orientation and gender identity. HB1284 would create domestic partnerships and would grant registered domestic partners rights to make medical decisions and to hospital visits. Several bills (SB746/HB728, SB673/HB16) would prohibit recognition of same sex marriages.

If you would like to be added to the Women's Law Center's legislative alert list, please send us an email to [legislative@wlcmd.org](mailto:legislative@wlcmd.org) and ask to be added to the list.

SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTER—  
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#### RATES:

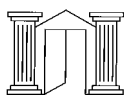
\$200 per page

\$175 per 1/2 page

\$75 per 1/4 page

\$40 per business card

For more information, contact Jessica Morgan  
at 410-321-8761 or [jmorgan@wlcmd.org](mailto:jmorgan@wlcmd.org).



THE WOMEN'S LAW CENTER OF MARYLAND, INC.

## Litigation Round Up: A Summary of Noteworthy Cases

**Sexual Harassment Update from the Supreme Court:** By denying its Petition for a Writ of Certiorari this month, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the efforts of Scollon Production Company to appeal the 4th Circuit's ruling in *Ocheltree v. Scollon Productions*. If you recall, this was a sexual harassment case in which the court addressed the meaning and context of the "because of sex" provision of Title VII. In its summer ruling on the case, the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit stated that a "reasonable jury could find that much of the sex-laden and sexist talk and conduct in the production shop was aimed at Ocheltree because of her sex – specifically, that the men behaved as they did to make her uncomfortable and self-conscious as the only woman in the workplace." The Women's Law Center of Maryland signed onto the friend-of-the-court brief filed by the Public Justice Center of Maryland.

### **Paternity**

*Stubbs v. Colandrea*, 2004 WL 189774, -- A.2d-- (Md. App.) – The appellant (Stubbs) brought this paternity action alleging he was the biological father of, and seeking visitation with, a child born during the marriage of the appellees (the Colandreas). The trial court denied the blood test and the request for declaration of paternity. In affirming the lower court ruling, the Court of Special Appeals noted that the child was not born out of wedlock and that caselaw established that the best interest of the child standard was the appropriate test for determining whether to order a blood test when a putative father claimed that a child born during a marriage was not a product of the marriage.

### **Grandparent Visitation**

*Herrick v. Wain*, 154 Md. App. 222, 838 A.2d 1263 (2003) - Prior to the mother's death in this case, the parents had joint legal custody with

primary physical custody to the mother. At that time, the children's grandmother (Wain) lived with the children and their mother (her daughter) after the divorce. The grandmother cared for the children during the mother's terminal illness. By agreement of the parents, the children were transferred to their father's custody after their mother's death. The grandmother petitioned for visitation and was granted such in a *pendente lite* hearing. Later, after the merits hearing, the Circuit Court found such visitation was not in the children's best interest (in part due to the hostility between the father and the grandmother) and suspended visitation until the parties attended meetings with the children's therapist. The Court established a modified visitation schedule to take effect after the meetings with the therapist. In affirming the trial court's ruling, the CSA rejected the father's arguments that 1) by ordering visitation with the grandmother over his objections, the trial court violated his 14<sup>th</sup> amendment rights to make decisions about his children and 2) the trial court should have applied - but did not -- a presumption in favor of his decision to limit the visitation. The CSA found that not only was the grandparent visitation statute not unconstitutional or "impermissibly broad" but also that the trial court fashioned a visitation schedule that served the best interests of the children, while also providing a "constructive approach" to resolving the hostility between father and grandmother.

### **Indefinite alimony**

*Goshorn v. Goshorn*, 154 Md. App. 194, 838 A.2d 1247 (2003) – The parties sought a divorce after 20 years of marriage. They had three children, the eldest of whom was no longer a minor, but suffered from Down Syndrome. The circuit court granted the divorce, but reserved other issues for a future

hearing. At that later hearing, the court awarded the wife indefinite alimony, despite the husband's arguments that the issue of alimony had not specifically been reserved. The CSA stated that the circuit court has inherent power to reserve the issue of alimony when it enters a divorce decree, and in fact, the trial court here did just that by stating in the judgment for divorce that "all other issues, including child support custody and marital property have been reserved." In so ruling, the court stated that the inclusion of "all other issues" indicated a clear intent to reserve issues beyond the three enumerated ones. In addition, the CSA also held that the trial court's failure to use the word "unconscionable" when referring to the relative disparity in the parties' incomes did not invalidate its award of indefinite alimony. Despite these findings, the court vacated the alimony award on the grounds that the court had over estimated the husband's income. The court also vacated the marital property award because "any significant change in alimony requires the court the reassess its monetary award," and vacated the child support award because it was calculated without any consideration that SSI benefits for the child with Down Syndrome would terminate at age 21.

### **Alimony & Use and Possession**

*Kelly v. Kelly*, --A 2d --, 2003 WL 22469720 (Md.App.): In this divorce case, the Court of Special Appeals addressed the issue of use and possession of the family home in light of recent legislative changes in the child support statute extending the child support obligation if the child is still enrolled in high school. The Court also addressed the proper foundation for an award of indefinite alimony. However, the opinion was "recalled" by the court, stay tuned to find out whether the opinion is re-issued.

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## Your Money Matters

### A Guide to Financial Independence for Women

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is pleased announce the release of its newest publication, **Your Money Matters**, which provides straightforward information about women's financial independence at all stages of life.

Advertisement



Yes! Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of Your Money Matters at \$7.50 each (includes tax) + \$1.75 postage (\$9.25 total). Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail along with your check to: Women's Law Center of Maryland, 305 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 201, Towson, MD 21204. To order with a VISA or MasterCard, or for bulk order prices, call 410-321-8761.

**Your Money Matters** provides practical tools and tips including:

- ⌘ Establishing yourself as a financially independent woman
- ⌘ Assessing your financial situation
- ⌘ Dealing with divorce
- ⌘ Budgeting
- ⌘ Tear-out planning worksheets

**Makes a Great Gift!**

**Order Today!**

