

MICHAEL T. FLANNERY

Judge George Howard, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Law

Associate Dean for Faculty Development | William H. Bowen School of Law

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law — Little Rock, Arkansas

Judge George Howard, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Law, 2009-present; Professor of Law, 2007-present

Associate Dean for Faculty Development, 2014-2016 and 2024-present; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, 2018-2020

Associate Professor of Law, 2005-2007; Assistant Professor of Law, 2003-2005

Courses: Family Law; Decedents' Estates & Trusts; The Sexual Exploitation of Children; Reasoning, Writing & Appellate Advocacy; The Prudent Investing of Trusts; Sports Law; Animal Law

Texas A&M University School of Law — Adjunct Professor, 2025-present

Teach Family Law remotely and synchronously.

Villanova University School of Law — Professor of Legal Writing, 1996-2003; Adjunct Professor of Family Law

Taught legal research, writing, and appellate advocacy; administered first-year appellate moot court; taught Family Law to sections of up to 80 students.

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Special Judge, Arkansas Twentieth Judicial District Circuit Court, Fourth Division, 2008-2011

Sat intermittently in juvenile-delinquency and Family in Need of Services matters for then-Circuit Judge Rhonda K. Wood.

Wolf, Block, Schorr & Solis-Cohen — Associate Attorney, 1994-1996

Family-law practice involving divorce, support, property distribution, custody, and domestic violence.

City of Philadelphia Law Department — Assistant City Solicitor, 1991-1994

Represented public agencies in child-dependency, mental-health, civil-commitment, and related civil litigation.

EDUCATION

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law — J.D., 1991

Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy; Moot Court Association Board; Judicial Notice, Special Features Editor; Litigation Clinic.

University of Delaware — B.A., Philosophy, 1987

BOOKS AND TREATISES

The Sexual Exploitation of Children (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press, forthcoming 2026), with Teacher's Manual.

Family Law: A Context and Practice Casebook (Carolina Academic Press, forthcoming), with Teacher's Manual.

Arkansas Family Law with Forms (3d ed., Matthew Bender/LexisNexis 2026).

Arkansas Estate Planning and Will Drafting with Forms (Matthew Bender/LexisNexis 2026).

Living Trusts: Forms and Practice (Matthew Bender/LexisNexis, annual revision author since 2009; 2026 revision).

Decedents' Estates: Cases and Materials (3d ed., Carolina Academic Press 2016) (with Raymond C. O'Brien), with Teacher's Manual.

Fundamentals of Elder Law (Foundation Press 2015) (with Raymond C. O'Brien), with Teacher's Manual.

The Prudent Investing of Trusts: Cases and Materials (Carolina Academic Press 2009) (with Raymond C. O'Brien), with Teacher's Manual.

Long-Term Care: Federal, State, and Private Options for the Future (Haworth Press 1997) (with Raymond C. O'Brien).

LAW-REVIEW ARTICLES AND OTHER SCHOLARSHIP

Beyond Ferber and Lawrence: The Child Protection Precautionary Principle and Risk-Based Regulation of Child-Like Sex Dolls (forthcoming).

The 'Uncanny Valley' and the Verisimilitude of Sexual Offenders—Part III: Bridging the Uncanny Valley (forthcoming).

The 'Uncanny Valley' and the Verisimilitude of Sexual Offenders—Part II: Perception Versus Reality (forthcoming).

The 'Uncanny Valley' and the Verisimilitude of Sexual Offenders—Part I: An 'Ethorobotic' Perspective, 6 Tex. A&M L. Rev 501 (2019).

Social Security, Divorce, and the Scope of Federal Preemption, 66 Buff. L. Rev. 1 (2018).

'Rethinking' Embryo Disposition Upon Divorce, 29 J. Contemp. Health L. & Pol'y 233 (2013).

Military Disability Election and the Distribution of Marital Property Upon Divorce, 56 Cath. U. L. Rev. 297 (2007).

The Use of Hair Analysis to Test Children for Exposure to Methamphetamine, 10 J. Med. & L. 143 (2006) (with Jerry G. Jones, M.D., Karen Boyd Worley, Ph.D., Toss Worthington, R.N.P., and Stanley Rauls).

Is 'Bird Nesting' in the Best Interest of Children?, 57 SMU L. Rev. 295 (2004).

Philadelphia, in *From Blueprint to Bricks: A Survey of Current Baseball Stadium Financing Projects*, 34 Urb. Law. 381 (2002).

First, Do No Harm: The Use of Covert Video Surveillance to Detect Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy—An Unethical Means of 'Preventing' Child Abuse, 32 U. Mich. J.L. Reform 105 (1999).

Mandatory HIV Testing of Professional Boxers: An Unconstitutional Effort to Regulate a Sport That Needs to Be Regulated, 31 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 409 (1998) (with Raymond C. O'Brien).

Against All Odds: Representing Fathers in Custody Disputes, 31 Trial 44 (Aug. 1995), reprinted in 9 Minn. Fam. L.J. 49 (1995).

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: Broadening the Scope of Child Abuse, 28 U. Rich. L. Rev. 1175 (1994).

Norplant: The New Scarlet Letter?, 8 J. Contemp. Health L. & Pol'y 201 (1992).

Court-Ordered Prenatal Intervention: The Final Means to the End of Gestational Substance Abuse, 30 J. Fam. L. 519 (1991-1992).

The Pending Gauntlet to Free Exercise: Mandating That Clergy Report Child Abuse, 25 Loy. L.A. L. Rev. 1 (1991) (with Raymond C. O'Brien).

JUDICIAL CITATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP

Documented reach. The eight articles below received 21 documented judicial citations across 20 distinct opinions and fourteen states. Nine of those opinions were issued by state courts of last resort. Full citations are retained to permit ready verification.

'Rethinking' Embryo Disposition Upon Divorce

In re Marriage of Katsap, 2022 IL App (2d) 210706, 214 N.E.3d 945, 465 Ill. Dec. 182 (Ill. App. Ct. 2022) (citing).

Jocelyn P. v. Joshua P., 250 Md. App. 435, 250 A.3d 373 (2021) (quoting).

Karungi v. Ejalu, 501 Mich. 1051, 909 N.W.2d 269 (2018) (citing).

In re Marriage of Rooks, 2016 COA 153, 2016 WL 6123561 (Colo. App. Oct. 20, 2016) (citing), *cert. granted*, 2017 WL 1377942 (Colo. Apr. 17, 2017).

Military Disability Election and the Distribution of Marital Property Upon Divorce

Mattson v. Mattson, 903 N.W.2d 233 (Minn. Ct. App. 2017) (quoting).

Hagen v. Hagen, 282 S.W.3d 899 (Tex. 2009) (citing).

The Use of Hair Analysis to Test Children for Exposure to Methamphetamine

In re Interest of M.M., 556 P.3d 937 (Kan. Ct. App. 2024) (citing).

State v. Friese, 959 N.W.2d 205 (Minn. 2021) (quoting).

State v. Friese, 943 N.W.2d 193 (Minn. Ct. App. 2020) (quoting).

Is 'Bird Nesting' in the Best Interest of Children?

Sadat v. Rahimi, 2022 WL 16545620 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 2022) (quoting).

L.M.L. v. H.T.N., 57 Misc. 3d 1207(A), 68 N.Y.S.3d 379, 2017 N.Y. Slip Op. 51333(U) (N.Y. Sup. Ct. Oct. 3, 2017) (citing).

In re Marriage of Hansen, 733 N.W.2d 683 (Iowa 2007) (citing).

First, Do No Harm

Commonwealth v. Welch, 487 Mass. 425, 167 N.E.3d 1201 (2021) (quoting).

State v. Butler, 1 So. 3d 242 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2008) (citing).

State v. Stott, 171 N.J. 343, 794 A.2d 120 (2002) (citing).

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy: Broadening the Scope of Child Abuse

State v. Butler, 1 So. 3d 242 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 2008) (citing).

In re A.B., 267 Ga. App. 466, 600 S.E.2d 409 (2004) (citing).

Court-Ordered Prenatal Intervention

In re Anonymous, 720 So. 2d 497 (Ala. 1998) (citing).

T.H. v. Dep't of Health & Rehabilitative Servs., 661 So. 2d 403 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1995) (citing).

The Pending Gauntlet to Free Exercise

Perry v. S.N., 973 S.W.2d 301 (Tex. 1998) (citing).

State v. Szemple, 135 N.J. 406, 640 A.2d 817 (1994) (citing).

SELECTED CHAPTERS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTARY

- Affairs of the Heart*, in *Courting the Yankees: Legal Essays on the Bronx Bombers* (Carolina Academic Press 2003), reprinted in 10 Vill. Sports & Ent. L.J. 211 (2003).
- The Pennsylvania Bar Institute Family Law Update (1995-1996).
- An Update on Planning for Pets and the Pet Trust*, LexisNexis Expert Commentary, 2011 Emerging Issues 6068 (Nov. 2011).
- The 'Fiduciary Exception' to Attorney-Client Privilege in Cases Involving Native American Trusts*, 2010 Emerging Issues 5176 (June 2010).
- Considering Post-Death Events in Valuing Deductions for Claims Against the Estate Under I.R.C. § 2053(a)(3)*, 2010 Emerging Issues 5089 (June 2010).
- Special Accounting Issues for All Living Trusts under the Uniform Principal and Income Act*, 2009 Emerging Issues 4336 (September 2009);
- Equating Marital and Probate Interests Through the Elective Share*, 2009 Emerging Issues 4191 (Aug. 2009).
- Professor Michael T. Flannery on Adult Adoptions*, 2009 Emerging Issues 3980 (July 2009).
- The Appointment of Probate Administrators and Estate of Garrett*, LexisNexis Expert Commentary, 2009 Emerging Issues 3561 (July 2009);
- Let No Bad Deed Go Rewarded: The Case of In re R.W.*, LexisNexis Expert Commentary, 2009 Emerging Issues 3556 (April 2009);
- The Division of Assets Owned by Decedents Who Were Engaged in a "Committed Intimate Relationship": Olver v. Fowler*. LexisNexis Expert Commentary, (April 2008);
- Revoking a Valid Will, Even When the Revocation Frustrates the Clearly-Established Intent of the Testator: Langston v. Langston (Ark.)*. LexisNexis Expert Commentary, (April 2008);
- State Bar of California Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, Formal Opinion No. 2007-173*. LexisNexis Expert Commentary, (May 2008);
- The Intestacy Rights of a Child Created as an Embryo by In Vitro Fertilization During the Parents' Marriage, but who is Implanted in the Mother's Womb After the Father's Death: Finley v. Astrue (AR Sup. Ct. 2008)*. LexisNexis Expert Comment., (May 2008).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Arkansas Family Law with Forms and Other Publications and Updates,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Oct. 10, 2025).
- "Three Points of Family Law You May Not Know,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (May 6, 2024).
- "Social Security, Divorce, and the Scope of Federal Preemption,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquia (Mar. 31 and Oct. 13, 2017).
- "The Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Course Worthy of a Law School Curriculum,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Apr. 25, 2016).
- "The Fundamentals of Elder Law"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Apr. 19, 2015);
- "The Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Case Book,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Apr. 18, 2014).
- "Estate Planning: Providing for Your Pets,"* The Fifth Annual Practical Animal Law CLE, The Humane Society of Pulaski County and the Student Chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (Apr. 12, 2013);
- "Rethinking' Embryo Disposition Upon Divorce,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Apr. 19, 2012).
- "Estate Planning: Providing for Your Pets,"* The Fifth Annual Practical Animal Law CLE (Apr. 8, 2011);
- "The Prudent Investing of Trusts,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Mar. 9, 2010).
- "Providing for Pets Through Inter Vivos and Testamentary Trusts,"* Elder Law Task Force 2009 Symposium (Sept. 1, 2009).
- "The Continuum of Childhood Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence (with a Legislative Focus on Cross-Reporting)"* Practical Animal Law Symposium (Apr 24, 2009).
- "One Less,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Apr. 16, 2008).
- "Military Disability Election and the Distribution of Marital Property Upon Divorce,"* Bowen School of Law Faculty Colloquium (Nov. 16, 2007).
- "The Use of Hair Analysis of Children Exposed to Methamphetamine Laboratories,"* Law & Society Annual Meeting, Las Vegas (June 2005).
- "The New Forensics: The Use of Hair Analysis of Children Exposed to Methamphetamine Laboratories,"* Panel discussion, Law & Society 2005 Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nev. (June 2-5, 2005).
- "Family Law Reforms: New and Not-So-New: Is Bird Nesting In the Best Interest of Children?,"* Panel discussion, Law & Society 2005 Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nev. (June 2-5, 2005).

SELECTED MEDIA COMMENTARY

KPBS (NPR/PBS San Diego), expert interview regarding hospital's covert surveillance in case alleging Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (Nov. 7, 2023).

KATV News 7 (Little Rock), expert interview concerning reports of sexual abuse within the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock (Oct. 25, 2018).

KARK 4 News (Little Rock), expert interview regarding unlawful disclosure of pornography in Arkansas (Oct. 26, 2017).

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, expert interview regarding Arkansas Court of Appeals decision on prenatal drug exposure (Feb. 2, 2015).

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, expert interview discussing divorce settlement involving photo archive businesses in Arkansas (Feb. 2, 2015).

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, expert interview regarding sealing of divorce records (Sept. 11, 2014).

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, expert interview about implications and parameters of marital testimonial privilege (June 20, 2014).

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, expert interview discussing marital testimonial privilege and valuation of intangible good will in Brave New Restaurant in divorce (Oct. 3, 2013).

Huffington Post, expert interview regarding 'bird nesting' custody arrangements (Nov. 11, 2010).

KTHV, CBS Channel 11, expert interview about probate process and last will and testament of performer Michael Jackson (July 7, 2009).

KTHV, CBS Channel 11, expert interview regarding consequences of posting explicit photos on the internet (June 25, 2009).

San Diego Union Tribune, expert interview regarding celebrities Jon and Kate Gosselin's divorced and bird nesting custody arrangement (June 23, 2009).

KARN News Radio, expert interview about legal issues involving on-line social networking forums (June 19, 2009).

The Wall Street Journal, expert commentary concerning 'bird nesting' custody arrangements (Sept. 17, 2003).

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Associate Dean for Faculty Development, 2014-2016 and 2024-present.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, 2018-2020.

Chair, Faculty Appointments Committee, 2008-2014 and 2016-2024; member, 2004-2024.

Chair, Admissions Committee, 2025-present; member, 2023-present.

Chair, Faculty Development Committee, 2014-2016 and 2025-present.

Chair, Faculty Excellence Award Committee, 2007, 2011, 2012, and 2018.

Chair, Publications Committee, 2007-2008; member 2003-2014.

Admissions Committee, 2025-present; member, 2023-present.

Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2007-present;

University Honors and Awards Committee, 2012-present.

University Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC), 2018-2020.

University Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Committee, 2018-2019.

University Calendar Committee, 2018-2020.

Academic Conduct Committee, 2021, 2023.

Curriculum Committee, 2018-2022.

Assessment Committee, 2018-2022.

Dean's Management Team, 2018-2020.

University Provost Faculty Advisory Board, 2013-2016.

Dean's Administrative Advisory Committee, 2014-2016.

Scholarship Committee, 2003-2004.

Readmissions Committee, 2003.

Editor, Journal of Appellate Practice and Process.

Legislative Expert Liaison, Arkansas Bar Association Legislative Committee on Family Law.

Elder Law Task Force.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Academic Leadership Academy, Dean's Appointee (2025).

Faculty Excellence Award for Research and Creative Endeavors (2017)

Faculty Excellence Awards for Research (2006, 2010).

John DiPippa Scholarship Award for Fundamentals of Elder Law (2015); nomination for The Sexual Exploitation of Children (2016).

Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching (2011).

Judge George Howard, Jr. Distinguished Professorship (2009-present).

Selected by graduating students for ceremonial faculty roles on thirteen occasions, including graduation announcer, marshal, and hooder (2006-2024).

Faculty Agent of Change, National Public Radio (2006).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association; Arkansas Bar Association; Pennsylvania Bar Association; Legal Writing Institute; Association of Legal Writing Directors.