

CONTOURS OF BEST INTEREST

2/1/19

9-10a

1. The statutory framework regarding custody.
2. Critical case law on custody.
3. Current court trends in custody.
 - a. Joint as default.
 - b. Relocation issues, and relocation issues that don't violate the relocation statute but disrupt parenting time and custody.
 - c. Rarity and reasons for sole custody determinations, and methodologies for getting to sole.

10 -11a

4. Parent Coordinators Panel. Are the people who PC's serve progressing with joint custody? Or are they using the PC as another battleground? Is joint custody and relatedly that "strong" PC serving the "best interests" of children.

11a-12p

5. Therapist's Panel. How important is preference in custody matters? What are therapists seeing in regard to children whose parents are joint custodians? Is joint from the therapist's standpoint beneficial? Would the children benefit psychologically from a determination of custody? How does the system, from the therapist's standpoint, further the best interests of the children they see? What does the psychological literature say about joint/sole in regard to best interests? What percentage of our population's children benefit from joint custody? What percentage of our population's children suffer as a result of joint custody.

12-1p LUNCH BREAK

1-2p

6. Judicial Panel. What do our judges look at in making a determination of custody? Do they have a bias towards joint, and if so why? If we need to try joint custody in most cases, when do we know its failed. What are the factors that tip the scales for the court on joint or sole? What role does child preference play, and when and why?

2-3p

7. GAL Panel. First, how has the legal change affected the GAL's role in assisting the Court in determining best interests. What is best interest to the GAL. What protocols does each GAL use in arriving at a determination and/or recommendation? How does that further their determinations. What role does preference play in their determinations?

3-4p

8. Evaluator Panel. PhD's who do custody work. Who are we? What personality types comprise the population served in the system on custody cases? How are they harming their children's best interests? What is "psychological best interests of a child"? What does the evaluator look for in making a custody recommendation? What are the protocols of the evaluator in doing their evaluation? How can the system better serve those interests? What role does child preference play?

Conclusion