

Acknowledgements	p. ix
Author's Note	p. xi
Introduction	p. 1
Taking a Look at Ourselves: The Emotional Stages of Marriage Breakdown	p. 11
The Five Emotional Stages of Marriage Breakdown	p. 13
Marriage: A Note	p. 17
Marriage Counselling	p. 18
Transition People	p. 19
Taking a Look at Lawyers: Take Charge of the Relationship	p. 23
Family Law Lawyers	p. 24
Hiring a Lawyer	p. 24
The Ideal Lawyer	p. 24
Family Law and Legal Aid	p. 26
The Retainer (or What Everyone Else Calls a Contract)	p. 27
Confidentiality	p. 29
If You Are Dissatisfied with Your Lawyer	p. 30
Firing Your Lawyer	p. 32
What to Do When You Are Unhappy about Your Lawyer's Bill	p. 35
Taking a Look at the Process: Understanding Family Law and the Legal System	p. 39
The Legal System	p. 41
Family Law and the Courts	p. 43
The Personnel of the Courts	p. 43
The Rules of Court	p. 47
Divorce: Dissolving the Marriage Vows	p. 57
Grounds for Divorce	p. 58
Reconciliation	p. 62
The Procedure for a Divorce	p. 63
Uncontested Divorces	p. 64
Joint Application for Divorce	p. 65
Contested Divorces	p. 65
Bars to Divorce	p. 66
Marriages of Convenience	p. 67
Legal Fees for Divorce	p. 68
Dividing the Family's Property: Get Your Fair Share from the Marriage Partnership	p. 71
What is "Property?"	p. 73
What is Divided?	p. 74
What is Not Divided? Exempt Property	p. 74
How is Value Determined?	p. 75
Date of Valuation	p. 78

Unequal Division of Property Values	p. 78
The Matrimonial Home	p. 79
Pensions	p. 80
Financial Statements	p. 83
Paying the Judgement	p. 84
Some Tax Considerations	p. 84
Some Strategic Considerations	p. 86
The Children: Every Parent's Top Priority	p. 91
Custody and Access	p. 92
Who Is a Child?	p. 93
The Child's Best Interests	p. 94
Other Considerations	p. 95
Assessments	p. 99
Custody	p. 100
Joint Custody and Child Support	p. 102
Advice on Joint Custody	p. 104
Conditions on Sole Custody	p. 104
Access	p. 106
Strategic Considerations	p. 107
Paternity	p. 111
Paternity Agreements	p. 113
What Will We Tell the Children?	p. 114
Stepfamilies	p. 121
A Warning	p. 122
Support: Financial Assistance After Separation	p. 125
Child Support	p. 127
When Is a Child Eligible for Support?	p. 132
Spousal Support	p. 138
Parental Support	p. 147
Common-Law Spouses Have Rights, Too	p. 151
The Meaning of "Common Law"	p. 151
Children in Common-Law Relationships	p. 153
Spousal Support	p. 153
Property Division for Common-Law Couples	p. 155
Federal Legislation	p. 159
Cohabitation Agreements	p. 160
Legal Advice	p. 160
Settling Your Differences: Avoiding the Courtroom	p. 163
Offers to Settle	p. 165
Minutes of Settlement	p. 167

Orders on Consent	p. 168
Separation Agreements	p. 168
Not Settling Your Differences: Going to Court	p. 177
The Courtroom	p. 179
The Paper Chase	p. 181
The Trial Itself	p. 181
Appeals	p. 188
Alternatives to Court: Mediation, Arbitration and Collaborative Family Law	p. 191
Mediation	p. 192
Arbitration	p. 198
Mediation/Arbitration	p. 199
Religious Arbitration	p. 199
Collaborative Family Law	p. 200
Strategic Considerations for Alternatives to the Court	p. 201
Enforcing Family Law Orders: Making an Order Stick	p. 205
Custody Enforcement	p. 206
More on Abductions	p. 209
Canada Customs and Travelling Outside Canada	p. 210
Access Enforcement	p. 212
Support Enforcement	p. 214
The Support Enforcement Offices	p. 216
Property Enforcement	p. 218
Personal Restraining Orders	p. 220
Contempt	p. 221
Grandparents and "Other Interested Persons"	p. 225
Grandparents	p. 226
Strategic Considerations	p. 231
"Other Persons"	p. 233
Domestic Violence: A Problem that Just Won't Go Away	p. 235
Violence: The Myths	p. 237
Why Are Women Assaulted?	p. 238
Why Do Men Do It?	p. 239
What Can Be Done?	p. 240
Strategic Considerations and Domestic Violence	p. 242
Marriage Contracts and Cohabitation Agreements: Managing Your Relationship-Contractually	p. 247
Marriage Contracts	p. 248
Cohabitation Agreements	p. 251
Setting Aside Domestic Contracts	p. 252
Family Law and Your Will	p. 257
Making a Will	p. 257

Divorce and Your Will	p. 260
Self-Help Advice: Going It Alone?	p. 265
How to Complain	p. 265
How to Do Your Own Research	p. 266
How to Represent Yourself: Eyes Wide Open	p. 269
Some Important Paperwork	p. 275
The Retainer Form	p. 275
A Separation Agreement	p. 277
The Family Law Client History Form	p. 297
Canadian Child Support Guidelines	p. 299
Glossary	p. 305
Index	p. 313

*Table of Contents provided by Blackwell's Book Services and R.R. Bowker. Used with permission.*