I. Course and Instructor: **Family Law**
Paul R. Dunkelman
Carlson, Carlson & Dunkelman, LLC
Frisco, CO

Format: Classroom Instruction, Interactive Video (IVS)

Instructor Information:
Name: Paul R. Dunkelman
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1829, Frisco, CO 80443
Phone: (970) 668-1678
Fax: (970) 668-5121
Email: paul@ccdlawyers.com
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Course Information:
Course Title: Family Law Credits: 3

IVS Location:	Course Code:	Synonym Number:
Aspen	PAR-117-AS00	67986
Breckenridge	PAR-117-BK00	67923
Buena Vista	PAR-117-CH00	67985
Edwards	PAR-117-VE00	67984
Glenwood Center	PAR-117-GW00	71761
Leadville	PAR-117-LV00	67983
Rifle	PAR-117-RL00	67982
Spring Valley	PAR-117-SV00	67980
Steamboat	PAR-117-SB00	67981

Semester: Spring Semester Prerequisite: College level reading
Meeting Times and Days: Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.
Class Location: IVS
Start Date: 01/16/13 End Date: 05/01/13
Refund Date: 01/31/13 Withdraw Date: 04/17/13

Computer Access:
Online courses require frequent computer use and access to the internet. It is highly recommended that students have a personal computer for use in online courses. If you need to use a computer at your local Colorado Mountain College location, you will be able to do so during open lab hours. Please check with your local site for times. Labs will not be available for Collaborate web conferencing sessions, if included as part of

your course, due to the verbal interaction involved. Collaborate web conferencing is not anticipated as part of this course.

If you have general questions about online learning, please contact **Colorado Mountain College Online Learning** at 800-621-8559, extension 8341 or virtual@coloradomtn.edu.

No-show reporting and financial aid: If you have not completed your introductory assignment(s) in Canvas by Wednesday, January 23, 2012 you will be reported as a no-show and dropped from the course. The resultant loss in credit hours may cause a reduction and/or cancellation of your financial aid award. Neither financial aid awards nor class reinstatement can occur after this point without significant documented extenuating circumstances. If you have questions or concerns about this please contact your campus financial aid specialist.
(**www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/financial_aid**)

II. Course Description:

Emphasizes domestic law, common property, dissolutions, adoptions, legal separations, and other family law issues. A practice oriented Family Law Class, the course will focus on the practical role of the paralegal in a family law proceeding.

III. Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills:

1. Standard Competencies:

    a. Understand how marriages are formed and dissolved.
    b. Understand legal issues and statutes relating to children.
    c. Be able to draft documents relating to family law issues.
    d. Increase critical thinking and analytical skills.

2. Topical Outline:

    a. Overview of family law in the legal system
    b. Marriage and cohabitation
    c. Invalidity, dissolution and legal separation
    d. Tax consequences

3. Additional Competencies:

    a. Understand the role and duties of a paralegal in a family law proceeding
    b. Develop client interviewing and inter-personal skills
    c. Develop an understanding of the paralegals role in a legal practice.
    d. Understand the procedural steps involved in a domestic relations case.
    e. Review and draft standard family law pleadings
    f. Understand the role of the courts and professionals
    g. Understand the fundamental principles underlying the marital relationship.

IV. IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction:

1. Gaining Factual Knowledge (legal terminology, legal trends)
2. Learning to Apply Course Material to Improve Thinking, Problem Solving and Decisions
3. Developing Skills, Competencies, and Points of View Needed in the Legal Field
4. Developing Skills in Expressing Myself either Orally or in Writing
5. Developing an Understanding of Ethical Dilemmas in the Legal Field and in Family Law.

V. Methods and Class Management:

1. Calculation of Final Grades:

Quizzes and Drafting Assignments	10%
Participation and Attendance	35%
Midterm examination	20%
Final Examination	35%

2. Grading Scale:

90% - 100%	= A
80% - 99%	= B
70% - 79%	= C
60% - 69%	= D
59% or lower	= F

3. Class management:

The class is being taught through interactive video. The students will be expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and case studies. The students will be expected to consider and discuss actual scenario's that occur in family law practice and that are faced by practicing paralegals. Failure to attend classes without providing explanation to instructor will impact the participation and attendance portion of student's grade.

d. Outline of Subject Area to be Covered: See attachment

NOTICE:

A student judged to have engaged in academic misconduct as defined in the "Academic Policies and Requirements" section of the Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook will, at a minimum, receive a "zero" for the work in question. The student may also be removed from the class, resulting in a failing grade. All student course material may be submitted to Turnitin (or another anti-plagiarism program) at the instructor's discretion. "Academic Expectations," the "Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Process" and more information about academic misconduct can be found in the Student Handbook, online version at: **www.coloradomtn.edu/File/student_handbook.pdf.**

Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required.

The instructor may alter any, or all, of this syllabus during the semester as the learning environment requires. Students will be notified of changes in the Canvas course shell.

If you have a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and feel you may need classroom accommodations based on the impact of your disability, please contact the Disability Services Coordinator on your campus.

- Edwards and Steamboat Springs: Deb Farmer at 970-870-4450
- Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs (including Spring Valley), and Rifle: Dr. Anne Moll at 970-947-8256
- Breckenridge, Dillon, Leadville, and Chaffee County: Sandi Conner at 719-486-4200

Students wishing to withdraw from this course must INITIATE the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office.

This class could be cancelled one week prior to the census date if a sufficient number of students are not enrolled by that date.

Attendance at all class meetings is expected.

VI. Grading System & Options:

Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. You will receive a grade report for current semester courses at the end of each term. This grade report is mailed to your permanent mailing address. Reports are mailed approximately two weeks after the end of the academic term. Additional information is available at:
http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=620#Grading_System_and_Options_

VII. Required Course Materials

Ehrlich, Family Law for Paralegals, 5th Ed. (Aspen Publishing), ISBN: 9780735587731

Ordering Books
Colorado Mountain College has chosen to partner with Follett Virtual Bookstores to operate textbook services. You will find the official textbook list at **www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com**. If you ever have any online bookstore questions, you can email coloradomtn@fvb.follett.com or call 800-621-4088.

Students can sell back books anytime online or in-person at Follett's CMC buyback events. Sign up for the online store's email list at **www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email** for more information on future buyback dates/times and to receive other important messages from Follett.

Ordering Textbooks with Financial Aid:
Students wishing to use their Financial Aid to purchase their textbooks from the Colorado Mountain College Online Bookstore (Follett) may be set up with a

CMC Flex Pay account. Contact your local CMC Accounts Manager for instructions and your specific username and password information. If you are not close to a CMC site contact CMC Online Learning at 970-947-8341 or virtual@coloradomtn.edu.

VIII. Other Information:

Canvas
Canvas by Instructure is the online learning management system (LMS) used by Colorado Mountain College. You access Canvas via your web browser, i.e.: Mozilla/Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, etc. Students, faculty and staff members use the CMC Canvas site to access course announcements, documents, research links and library resources, to receive and deliver completed assignments, take tests, and to communicate with each other via email, discussion boards and chat.

For instructions on How to Access your Canvas Account, Canvas How To's, and who to contact for all your Canvas questions and support needs, please visit: **www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/faq-for-students**.

Student Email
All CMC students enrolled in a credit-based class (0.5 hour credit class or more) will be assigned a CMC student email address through Google mail (Gmail). Please allow at least 48 hours after you register for this account to be activated. For more information on your CMC student email account, please visit the Student page of the MyCMC Portal: **mycmc.coloradomtn.edu**.

A Few Words About Microsoft Word
Microsoft Word is the standard word processing program for the majority of CMC instructors. Students without Microsoft Word may use the free software from **www.OpenOffice.org** to create Word-compatible documents. The program also includes spreadsheet, presentation, drawing, and database applications. The program is available for Windows, Macintosh, or Linux operating systems. Microsoft Word is installed on computers available in computer labs at CMC locations.

Virtual Library Information
http://library.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?pid=349163&sid=2891178

The Virtual Library has its doors open 24/7, providing access to thousands of online journals and newspapers, books and art images, downloadable videos and audio books, career resources and practice tests.

If you need help with the Virtual Library, email reference@coloradomtn.edu or call us at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.

Colorado Mountain College Online Learning
Information is available at: **www.coloradomtn.edu/online_learning/.**

Weekly Subject Area and Assignments

Week 1 (January 16th)

Introduction to Basic Procedural Concepts in Family Law.
Basic Steps in the Divorce Process

Reading for Week 2: Chapter 1
Chapter 10, pp. 425 – 436

Written Assignment: Expectations and Roles of Paralegal in a Family Law Practice

Week 2 (January 23rd)

The Concept of Marriage
Client Interviewing

Reading for Week 3: Chapter 2
Chapter 10, pp. 437-503

Week 3 (January 30th)

Premarital Agreements
Divorce Process; The Contested Divorce

Reading for week 4: Chapter 3

Week 4 (February 6th)

Domestic Violence
Ethical Considerations in Working with Clients
Meeting with the Advocates

Reading for week 5: Chapter 4

Week 5 (February 13th)

Divorce, annulment, legal separation
State and local issues
Law practice sessions – Drafting initial divorce documents

Reading for week 6: Chapter 5

Week 6 (February 20th)

Child Custody
Relocation in Child Custody Cases
Law practice session – Drafting custody related documents

Reading for week 7: Chapter 6

Week 7 (February 27th)

Child Support
Law practice sessions – child custody settlement negotiations

Reading for week 8: None; midterm (take home); Enjoy Spring Break

Week 8 (March 6th)

MIDTERM REVIEW

Week 9 (March 13th)

SPRING BREAK

Reading for week 10: Chapter 7 and 8

Week 10 (March 20th)

Spousal Support; Maintenance
Division of Marital Property

Reading for Week 11: Chapter 9
Settlement Statements

Week 11 (March 27th)

Spousal Support; Division of Marital Property, continued
Law practice sessions – Marital Property/Maintenance settlement negotiations
Constitutional jurisdiction
Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act
Emergency Jurisdiction

Reading for week 12: Chapter 10 pages 503 to 517 and Chapter 11
Constitutional jurisdiction material

Week 12 (April 3rd)

Post Trial/Appeal Process
Contempt
Paternity

Reading for week 13: Chapter 12

Week 13 (April 10th)

Child Abuse and Neglect
Law practice sessions – Contempt citations; practical client issues

Reading for week 14: Chapter 13

Week 14 (April 17th)

Adoptions

Reading:

Week 15 (April 24th)

Course Review

Reading: None; Final Study

Week 16 (May 1st)

Final Examination