

PREFACE

Professionals in the field of marital dissolution are often faced with the challenging task of combining financial, accounting, and investigatory expertise together with an understanding of the legal process so as to assist in the disposition of legal matters. This book is intended for such practicing professionals, including, but not limited to, Certified Public Accountants, Certified Divorce Analysts, Divorce Financial Planners, Business Valuation specialists, etc., that are involved in litigation support to provide a factual reporting of economic issues associated with existing, pending or contemplated marital litigation. It is in the interest of all parties that the practitioner be properly equipped to deliver services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Matrimonial dissolution is highly sensitive and often emotionally charged. While similarities exist, case specific details can vary greatly. A strong functional expertise, an ability to form case-by-case insight, and a general knowledge of the legal framework in which the professional services are demanded and delivered enables the practitioner to maintain a levelheaded and evenhanded perspective while rendering valuable assistance. This book, commissioned as a special supplement to the *Journal of Forensic Accounting*, has been developed to help practitioners in the field of marital dissolution to effectively and efficiently plan and perform their work. To accomplish this, chapters have been selected so as to provide: 1) a contemporary overview of the field; 2) current information on important aspects of marital dissolution; and 3) insights into complexities which may challenge professional awareness and objectivity.

Within the realm of divorce, those factors that have traditionally played a predominant role are often no longer the dominating pieces of the puzzle. "Forensic Accounting in Matrimonial Divorce" attempts to capture the essence of this evolution in both direction and complexity, and focuses upon some of those challenging or recently emergent issues that practitioners must now face on a regular basis. While much of the book concentrates on the basic, though often intricate, notions of identification, allocation, and valuation of dually claimed assets such as businesses, prop-

erty, and/or other assets. both the breadth and depth of the task at hand calls for the ability to adopt the requisite skepticism and, when circumstances warrant, to act in an investigatory capacity to uncover issues of relevance to client interests. Insight into this attitude of professional skepticism, the resulting suitable level of scrutiny, and the methods of appropriate investigatory approaches, therefore, is another common bond of many of the selected chapters.

This book is intended to be a clear, concise, and informative reference to forensic accounting as a critical component within the process of matrimonial dissolution. In that it is likely that topics covered herein will be central components of some number of important impending engagements, this book is an essential part of every practitioner's library. Moreover, beyond the usefulness of the broad array of relevant topics, it is hoped that this book inspires a mindset which is sharpened to the focus of the realities and passions inherent in marital dispute engagements..

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