

2026 Palm Beach County Bar Association's Bench Bar Conference
March 6, 2026



"Expert Strategies on Any Budget: Maximizing Value in Family Law Cases"
Family Law Session II
Time: 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

Financial experts play a crucial role in family law cases, but limited budgets and unclear expectations can often prevent attorneys from using them effectively. This CLE explores practical strategies for making financial experts more accessible and for maximizing their value throughout the life of a case. Experienced practitioners and members of the judiciary will share insights on how to collaborate with experts efficiently, even in resource-constrained cases, and how to integrate their findings into a compelling overall presentation at trial.

The program will also examine the specific findings family courts are required to make regarding financial issues—such as income determination, asset valuation, and support calculations—and how expert input can influence those determinations. With perspectives from the bench, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how courts assess expert evidence, what judges find most persuasive, and how effective use of financial experts can shape outcomes and enhance case credibility from start to finish.

Panelists:

Judge Cheryl Caracuzzo
Judge Rosemarie Scher
John Schutz, Esq.
David L. Gersen, CPA/ABV/CFF, CFE

Session Moderators: Dominique Sciullo, Esq., and Carolyn Ware, Esq.

A. Overview of the Session and Introduction of Panelists

B. Accounting Issues

- i. Business Valuations
- ii. Production Control
- iii. Forensic Work

C. Using Financial Experts at Every Budget

D. Questions & Answers

- i. Panelists will answer questions from the audience