



**From the Desk of  
LAWRENCE R. JONES**

**Former Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court  
(Retired 2017)**

**AN OPEN LETTER  
TO FAMILY COURT JUDGES, BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS,  
AND LAW SCHOOL DEANS**

Dear Family Court Judges, Bar Association Presidents, and Law School Deans:

Each year, countless energetic men and women apply to law school and set out to pursue professional careers as attorneys. Many ultimately decide to practice family law, a subject which involves highly significant issues concerning custody, parenting rights, and the ever-present goal of determining what is in the “best interest” of a child.

Generally, law students and practicing lawyers receive a vast amount of their professional training in (a) law schools, and (b) continuing legal education courses sponsored by bar associations or other similarly accredited legal organizations. In both instances, the courses are generally developed and taught by experienced educators, attorneys and/or judges. Accordingly, family court judges, bar association leaders, and law school deans all play a highly relevant role in helping shape ongoing legal curriculums regarding family law, with a common goal of educating, enlightening and opening the minds of law students and practitioners alike for the good of the profession and public.

As a recently retired family court judge who has served as a longtime educator in the field of family law, I submit for your review a 5-minute video fable, entitled Point C. This work is intended as educational food for thought for both parents and professionals who participate in overly litigious family court proceedings regarding the “best interest” of a child.

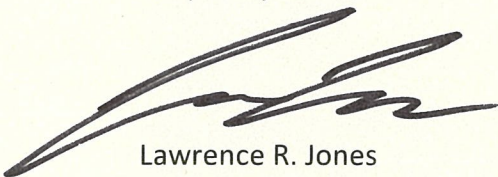
Ironically, a prolonged battle in family court over a child’s “best interest” can itself be detrimental to a child. Conversely, both parents and attorneys may all serve a child’s best interest by jointly calling a cease-fire to endless warfare, and by attempting through flexibility and compromise to constructively forge a path to peace in a respectful and balanced manner. In the long run, the

mutual pursuit of peace is probably far more important to a child than anything else the parents and lawyers are fighting about.

There are many excellent parents and family law attorneys who naturally grasp the fundamental importance of this concept. In doing so, they positively and pro-actively advocate for constructive and good-faith alternatives to highly contentious family court litigation, such as mediation or co-parenting counseling when appropriate. Conversely, however, there are other parents and lawyers who, for whatever reason, take only an overaggressive, "fight first, talk later" approach to nearly every issue imaginable. This type of hostile, scorched-earth method of problem-solving can not only be grossly ineffective, but also emotionally devastating to a child.

Against this backdrop, I have authored Point C for both parents and professionals alike. In my opinion, the message of the story is socially relevant and worthy of discussion in law schools, continuing legal education programs, and other forums designed to educate, train, and fuel the minds of those who will someday participate in family court practice. I offer Point C for your reflection and sharing with professional peers, constituencies and students, as a supplement to more traditional educational materials for those who aspire to a meaningful and insightful career in the field of family law.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lawrence R. Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lawrence R. Jones  
Former Superior Court Judge, State of New Jersey  
United States of America  
Author: Point C

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