

Use of Videos and other Media in Family Law

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- 1) Why?
 - a) It is fun,
 - b) students may know (or not) the films,
 - c) adds variety to the classroom
 - d) helps students recognize and understand:
 - i) varying familial relationships and their tensions
 - ii) legal implications and perceptions
 - e) provides evidence of cultural norms concerning the family
- 2) Why not?
 - a) TECHNICAL issues
 - b) Time-consuming to prepare
 - c) Time-consuming in class
 - d) Potentially trivializes the topic – too light-hearted
- 3) Whole films or shorter clips?
 - a) If use the whole film,
 - i) can stop and ask questions, or
 - ii) discuss film later
 - iii) either way, should help focus students on specific scenes
 - b) If use shorter clips, then integrate into class
 - i) Dramatize point already made
 - ii) Focus questioning
- 4) Types of video
 - a) Commercial movies
 - b) Documentaries
 - c) Specially made videos (by instructor, students, etc.)
- 5) Songs
 - a) Background for each class
 - b) Helps students see pervasiveness of family law issues in popular culture, examine images and stereotypes
- 6) Fair use?
 - a) For suggested guidelines, see http://fairuse.stanford.edu/Copyright_and_Fair_Use_Overview/chapter7/7-c.html#2
 - b) Your institution's guidelines

Source List

Family Law Movies

Compiled by: Kasia Solon (GW), Barbara Glesner-Fines (UMKC), Nancy Ver Steegh (Wm. Mitchell), and Naomi Cahn (GW)

Divorce

The Awful Truth (1937) Cary Grant & Irene Dunne [custody of pet]
Divorce American Style (1967) Dick Van Dyke and Debbie Reynolds
Divorce Italian Style (1962) Marcello Mastroianni
Le Divorce (2003) Naomi Watts, Kate Hudson
One More River (1934) Diana Wynyard, Colin Clive
Intolerable Cruelty (2003) George Clooney, Catherine Zeta Jones
Squid and the Whale (2005) Laura Linney, Jeff Bridges
Sweet Home Alabama (2002) Reese Witherspoon
An Unmarried Woman (1978) Jill Clayburgh

Alimony

First Wives' Club (1996) Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn

Division of property

The War of the Roses (1989) Kathleen Turner, Michael Douglas, and Danny DeVito
The Break-Up (2006) Jennifer Aniston, Vince Vaughn [unmarried couple]

Divorce and effect on children

The Decision of Christopher Blake (1948)

Divorce scene

All Of Me (1984) Lily Tomlin & Steve Martin
Laws of Attraction (2004) Pierce Brosnan Julianne Moore [married lawyers]

Psychology

Scenes from a Marriage (1973)

Single parenting after divorce

The Champ (1931 and 1979)
Hope Floats (1998) Sandra Bullock
An Unmarried Woman (1979) Jill Clayburgh

Domestic violence

The Burning Bed (TVM 1984) Farrah Fawcett
Enough (2002) Jennifer Lopez
The Gift (2000) Cate Blanchett
Sleeping With the Enemy (1991) Julia Roberts

What's Love Got to Do With It (1993) Angela Bassett, Laurence Fishburne

Police response

A Cry For Help: The Tracy Thurman Story (1989) Nancy McKeon, Bruce Weitz

Psychological abuse

Gaslight (1944) Ingrid Bergman, Charles Boyer

Diary of a Mad Housewife (1970) Carrie Snodgrass, Richard Benjamin

Marriage regulation: substantive requirements

Heterosexual, not same sex, marriage

Brokeback Mountain (2005) Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal

Wedding Banquet (1993) Winston Chao, Sihung Lung

Monogamous marriage

The Bigamist (1953) Joan Fontaine, Edmund O'Brien

Big Love (HBO 2006-) Bill Paxton, Jeanne Tripplehorn

Marriage

Fun with Dick & Jane (2005) Jim Carrey, Tea Leoni

Kinsey (2005) Liam Neeson, Laura Linney

Antenuptial Contracts

Intolerable Cruelty (2003) George Clooney, Catherine Zeta-Jones

Married lawyers

Adam's Rib (1949) Spencer Tracy & Katharine Hepburn

Laws of Attraction (2004) Pierce Brosnan Julianne Moore [divorce case scene]

Marital difficulties

American Beauty (1999) Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening [great scene on potential bases for divorce]

I Think I Love My Wife (2007) Chris Rock [committed "family" man who flirts with old friend]

Little Children (2006) Kate Winslet

Polygamy

Big Love (HBO 2006-) Bill Paxton, Jeanne Tripplehorn

East Is East (1999) Om Puri, Linda Bassett

Void marriages

We're Not Married (1952) Ginger Rogers, Marilyn Monroe, and Eve Arden

Getting children

Adoption

Casa de los babys (2003) Marcia Gay Harden, Maggie Gyllenhaal
Cider House Rules (1999) Tobey Maguire
Happy Endings (2005) Lisa Kudrow
Losing Isaiah (1995) Jessica Lange, Halle Berry [custody]
Penny Serenade (1941) Cary Grant, Irene Dunne
Woman of the Year (1942) Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy

Assisted Reproduction

Forget Paris (1995) Billy Crystal, Debra Winger [scene]
Hannah and her Sisters (1986) Woody Allen, Mia Farrow [scene]
Made in America (1993) Whoopi Goldberg, Ted Danson [sperm-produced child finds sperm provider]
Shut Up and Sing (2006) Dixie Chicks [scene]

Raising children

Children and schools

Freedom Writers (2007) Hilary Swank
Half Nelson (2006) Ryan Gosling
The Winslow Boy (1999) Robert Morton

Child abuse

A Map of the World (1999) Sigourney Weaver
Monsoon Wedding (2002) [incestual child abuse set in India]

Foster care

Aging Out (2004) [documentary]
Running with Scissors (2006) Annette Bening
White Oleander (2002) Michelle Pfeiffer, Alison Lohman

Sex predators

Little Children (2006) Kate Winslet
Mystic River (2003) Sean Penn
The Woodsman (2004) Kevin Bacon

Child protection

A Thousand Clowns (1965) Jason Robards

Custody

Daddy's Little Girls (2007) Idris Elba, Gabrielle Union
Evelyn (2002) Pierce Brosnan [custody set in Ireland]
The Good Mother (1988) Diane Keaton and Liam Neeson [sexual abuse allegations]
Hollow Reed (1995) Martin Donovan, Joely Richardson, Ian Hart [abuse/same-sex parents]
I Am Sam (2001) Rita Harrison & Sean Penn

Immediate Family (1989) Glenn Close, Mary Stuart Masterson [adoption]
Irreconcilable Differences (1984) Drew Barrymore [daughter seeks divorce from parents]
Kramer vs. Kramer (1980) Dustin Hoffman, Meryl Streep
Losing Isaiah (1995) Jessica Lange and Halle Berry [adoption]
Next Best Thing (2000) Madonna, Rupert Everett
Not Without My Daughter (1991) Sally Field [international relocation]
Parent Trap (1961) Hayley Mills
Pursuit of Happyness (2006) Will Smith
Raising Helen (2004) Kate Hudson
SherryBaby (2006) Maggie Gyllenhaal
Squid and the Whale (2005) Laura Linney, Jeff Bridges
Stepmom (1998) Julia Roberts, Susan Sarandon
Transamerica (2005) Felicity Huffman

Juvenile delinquency

Gridiron Gang (2006) The Rock
Juvies (2004) [documentary]
River Red (1998) Tom Everett Scott, David Moscow, Cara Buono
Thirteen (2003) Holly Hunter, Evan Rachel Wood

Sexual abuse allegations

The Good Mother (1988) Diane Keaton, Liam Neeson [custody]

Visitation

Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) Robin Williams

For additional movies, see <http://litmed.med.nyu.edu/Keyword?action=listann&id=66>
(site includes art and literature with a family relationship theme) and
<http://litmed.med.nyu.edu/Keyword?action=listann&id=100> (same, with focus on
gay/lesbian/bisexual issues)

For reviews, check www.imdb.com

Resources:

Family Law Movies, http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/family_law/films.html

Family Law Themes in Popular Music

Compiled by Barbara Glesner Fines, UMKC School of Law,
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/profiles/glesnerfines/music.htm>

Classroom Use of Movie Clips or Banishing Boredom: How Hollywood Can Help By Steven Rosenberg

<http://www.law.suffolk.edu/faculty/addinfo/golann/VideoTeaching/videoRoom.cfm>