

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-use-of-family-law-assessments-as-a-vehicle-for-skills-development/>

The speaker discusses their contribution to an upcoming book focused on teaching family law, emphasizing the importance of using practical assessments to enhance legal education. They note that students often only engage with short, simplified scenarios, which do not reflect the complexities of real-life legal cases. To address this, the speaker has developed assessments that require students to analyze complex cases, like parenting decisions and property settlements, and produce detailed judgments.

The pedagogical approach aims to move students from passive learning to active decision-making, fostering deeper understanding and retention of knowledge. They highlight the challenges inherent in family law, such as navigating discretionary judgments and applying subjective standards, which are crucial for developing advanced legal reasoning skills.

The speaker argues that these real-world assessments encourage critical thinking about ongoing tensions and biases within family law, such as gender biases and the balance between rules and discretion. They contend that their assessment method is not only effective but resistant to academic dishonesty, particularly with the rise of AI technologies that could facilitate cheating.

Overall, the speaker advocates for a broader adoption of their assessment approach in legal education, emphasizing the long-term benefits for students and their future practice as lawyers.