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A Seminar on the Marriage Relationship in the Conflict of Laws - Introduction

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SEMINAR

A SEMINAR ON THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP IN THE CONFLICT OF LAWS

INTRODUCTION

If there is any major social change upon which sociologists are in agreement, it is the increased mobility of the American population. Whether it be a vacation, a business trip, or a permanent change in residence, a few hours by modern transportation will move any resident beyond the borders of his home state. The great migrations to the West Coast and Southwestern states are evidence of this trend. The high percentage of population directly or indirectly concerned with the military operations of this country adds to the state of flux.

A second social change, like unto the first, is a relative weakening of the age-old bonds of matrimony. For 1958 reliable statistics list 1,451,000 marriages and 368,000 divorces.* Not included in these figures are the great number of annulments granted.

A legal effect of these two changes is a multiplication of the problems of interstate conflicts regarding the marriage relationship. The great variations in the statutes concerning the status and incidents of marriage, from very strict to very lax, reflect differing state policies regarding a relationship which is of primary importance to the state. With this background in mind, the staff of the *North Dakota Law Review* offers a special project on the marriage relationship in the conflict of laws, covering the problem from the areas of marriage validity, divorce, and marital property.

*See Chart in JACOBS & GOEBEL, *DOMESTIC RELATIONS* 344 (1961).