

— THE 2022 —
POWERLIST
— THE DAILY RECORD —
FAMILY LAW

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Introducing our 2022 Family Law Power List



The issues that family law attorneys handle are among the most sensitive imaginable. And the clients they represent are going through what may be one of the most painful experiences in their lives.

Divorce. Child custody. Support. The 25 men and women you'll meet on these pages are among the finest practitioners in this complex legal field in Maryland.

This list was chosen by our editorial leadership team. We reached out to readers and others in the legal community for input and perspective.

In these pages, we explore how these attorneys view their profession, what they

would change if they could and what they might be doing if they hadn't chosen this career. We're hoping to offer a glimpse into the kind of people they are and how they see their accomplishments.

This list is part of a series of Power Lists throughout 2022 that will showcase the most influential figures in law, higher education, health care, business, financial services and other fields. At the end of the year, we'll offer a special Power Book that pulls these lists together and provides other information about critical sectors of Maryland's economy.

You can find this and all our Power Lists on our website, TheDailyRecord.com.

We hope you enjoy this publication, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Thomas Baden Jr.
Editor

SUE ANN LEWIS ARMITAGE

MANAGING PARTNER
ARMITAGE & ARMITAGE



Managing partner of the Lexington Park law firm of Armitage and Armitage, Sue Ann Lewis Armitage has long been an advocate for women who were victims of domestic violence.

She worked with such women for decades at the St. Mary’s Women’s Center (now the Family Advocacy Center) and with Judicare, a reduced-fee family law center.

What is the most important thing you do in your job?

My honest answer is to help people. It is very rewarding when you can liberate someone from an abusive or bad relationship. It is an even better feeling when you can extricate children from a hostile environment.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

I wish there was more collegiality among the members of the family law bar. There is so much inherent animosity between the parties; the attorneys certainly could do a better job in approaching and working with the opposing counsel.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I would enjoy going back and being a professor at the college level. I was an adjunct professor early in my career and I enjoyed the intellectual banter with the students. For extra credit, I would allow the students to argue in support of their incorrect answers on exams. It was rewarding to watch young adults passionately argue their positions, just like being in the courtroom!

TAMMY BEGUN

HEAD OF CAPITAL FAMILY LAW GROUP
PRICE BENOWITZ



As head of the Washington-based Capital Family Law Group of Price Benowitz, Tamar “Tammy” Begun’s focus is on preserving the family and getting clients, according to her LinkedIn account, “through a less than perfect system.”

She handles a variety of cases, among them divorce, separation, child custody, alimony and marital property and support.

Begun practices in courts throughout the state, with a heavy concentration in Frederick, Montgomy and Prince George’s counties.

Besides handling cases as a litigator, she is certified as a mediator for both child custody and marital property matters.

Before joining Price Benowitz in 2019, Begun worked for nearly 20 years at several other law offices in the area.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park and the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, she is licensed to practice law in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

She is a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association, the Frederick County Bar Association and the Maryland State Bar Association.



Congratulations to
Our Colleague

Kathryn E. Deckert

for being selected to
The Daily Record’s Power List as a
*2022 Power Player in the area of
Family Law*



steinsperling.com

TRACEY J. COATES

PARTNER AND CO-CHAIR, DMV FAMILY LAW PRACTICE GROUP
CIPRIANI AND WERNER



A partner in the law firm of Cipriani & Werner, Tracey Coates also heads the firm’s family law practice group in the Washington metropolitan area.

Her practice includes a variety of domestic relations matter and she also is a certified mediator.

Coates earned her Bachelor of Arts from Smith College in 1998 and her Juris Doctor from Hamline University School of Law in 2005.

What is the most important thing you do in your job?

The most important role that I play in my client’s lives, during what can be an emotional roller coaster in any area of family law, is the ability to be a fierce advocate and at the same time also being an emotional support system while bringing resolution to one chapter of their lives and opening the doors to another.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to see changed?

One aspect of my profession that needs to continue to evolve is the unfortunate reality for many individuals with limited financial means. For those individuals, access to legal representation is often unobtainable and thus they are left unrepresented and unable to adequately represent themselves zealously in court.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I would turn my current passion, as a life and business coach, into a full-time career. I would continue to support high-achieving, professional moms, navigate life and business by healing the root cause of what’s not working.

DAVID S. COAXUM

MEMBER
GORDON FEINBLATT LLC



A graduate of Howard University and the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, David S. Coaxum has more than 25 years of experience in the field of family law.

He joined the 60-lawyer, Baltimore-based firm of Gorden Feinblatt LLC earlier this year.

In addition to his family law practice, Coaxum works as a legal counsel and adviser to business clients and has handled complex business disputes and litigation.

What is the most important thing you do in your job?

The most important thing I do is help people and clients solve difficult, life-changing problems. The greatest satisfaction I have is being able to help clients navigate to the light at the end of the tunnel, especially when the client cannot yet imagine or see their way past the struggle.

What is one aspect of your profession you would lie to change?

That is a difficult question. I think one aspect would be to create a more systematic way to provide training to new lawyers or lawyers new to the field, on the nuances of family law and client relations. To properly represent clients, one must intentionally work to increase knowledge on marital property issues so that you can engage in creative lawyering, if the facts of your case justify the position.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

Though my talent is certainly subject to opinion, I would have likely worked as a professional musician, or in the field of journalism.

KATHRYN DECKERT

PRINCIPAL
STEIN SPERLING BENNETT DEJONG AND DRISCOLL PC



Before joining the Rockville-based law firm of Stein Sperling Bennett DeJong and Driscoll PC, Kathryn Deckert was a staff attorney for the House of Ruth in Montgomery, Baltimore and Prince George’s counties, where she represented hundreds of victims of domestic violence in divorce, custody and protective order matters.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland in 2001 and her law degree from American University in 2006.

What’s the most important thing you do in your job?

I think the most important thing I do in my job is help my custody clients navigate the uncertainty and emotion involved with making significant custody decisions concerning their children. As a parent, I understand how important it is for my clients to protect their relationships with their children.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

As someone that frequently litigates high-conflict family cases, I would like to see the courts have specially designated family law judges instead of rotating judges through family law dockets. I think implementing such a model would be beneficial to litigants in family cases, as I believe it would provide more predictability in outcomes.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I would be a psychologist. It has been ingrained in me since I was a child that I need to use my strengths to help people, which is what drove me to family law and has always interested me in the field of psychology. Also, quite frankly, I think there are some similarities between the professions.

Brodsky Renehan Pearlstein & Bouquet



BRP Family Law would
like to congratulate
Brian Pearlstein
on being named a Power List
Family Law Honoree!

DAVID V. DIGGS

OWNER/OPERATOR
LAW OFFICE OF DAVID V. DIGGS LLC



A graduate of Towson University and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, David V. Diggs has owned and operated his own Millersville law office since 2017.

He represents clients in divorce actions child custody, visitation and support cases, among others, and works as a mediator for the Circuit Court of Baltimore City.

What is the most important thing you do in your job?

The most important part of my job is navigating good folks through any and all challenges posed by their circumstances. Each case is different and every client brings a unique set of expectations, challenges and goals.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

I have been doing this for 35 years and, for the most part, the family bar remains collegial. There are a few exceptions to this general rule, unfortunately. While the process may be adversarial, it need not be uncivilized. We can battle in the courtroom and still have lunch afterward.

If you weren't in this industry, what would you be doing?

When I was younger, I thought I would end up playing shortstop for the Baltimore Orioles. I actually followed a one-year older gangly teenager from Aberdeen as the shortstop for Putty Hill Optimist in the summer of 1975, but thereafter our paths diverged. So, there is not much of a demand for 61-year-old shortstops with a sore throwing arm.

MORGAN E. FOSTER

PARTNER
MCALLISTER, DETAR, SHOWALTER & WALKER



Morgan E. Foster joined the Maryland law firm of McAlister, DeTar, Showalter & Walker, which has offices across the state, in October 2019. She practices family law with a concentration in divorce, division of property, alimony, custody, visitation and child support.

Foster earned her Bachelor of Arts from Brown University in 2001 and her Juris Doctor from Emory University Law School in 2005.

What is the most important thing you do in your job?

The most important thing I do every day is really listen to and seek to understand my clients. I make sure to consider their priorities so that I can think creatively in order to craft an appropriate strategy to help them achieve the best possible result. When a client feels heard and understood, we are able to work

as a team, which is essential to achieve the best results.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

I would like to see a more collaborative, amicable, cooperative process and to achieve resolutions outside of the court process, which is inherently adversarial. The combative nature of litigation adds to the stress of separation for both parents and children, and ultimately causes strain and trauma to families.

If you weren't in this industry, what would you be doing?

I am an artist at heart and endeavor to bring this creativity to the practice of law. Someday, I hope to travel more extensively with my children and spend more time making art.

TURNBULL, NICHOLSON & SANDERS, P.A.



All of us at
Turnbull, Nicholson & Sanders, P.A.
want to congratulate

MARY ROBY SANDERS

for being named to the
Power List by *The Daily Record*.

Mary's passion and dedication to the
practice of Family Law is unmatched
and this recognition is well deserved.

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JEFFREY N. GREENBLATT

PARTNER
JOSEPH, GREENWALD & LAAKE PA



Jeffrey N. Greenblatt aims to be the shield and lightning rod for his clients while handling complex family law cases. With a legal career spanning more than 45 years, he works daily to get his clients what they are entitled to as well as making sure they are not being taken advantage of by the other party.

An American University Washington College of Law graduate, Greenblatt has been involved in a number of professional organizations over the years, including service as a member of the Governor’s Committee on Inequities and Disparities of Divorce, the Montgomery County Judicial Section Committee and the Montgomery County Family Law Section. He has also mentored pro bono attorneys for more than two decades and been recognized multiple times by the Montgomery County Bar Association

for his dedication.

What’s the most important thing you do in your job?

I help individuals who are in distress and at a very difficult cross roads in their life. My goal is to explain to them their rights, understand their goals and offer the best means to achieve those reasonable goals. I explore the client’s desire to attempt settlement negotiations before litigation. I do everything I can to protect my client from a bullying spouse or one whose demands are unreasonable. I keep my clients fully informed at all stages of negotiation or litigation.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

Never again to have court trials using any form of Zoom. Not being live and in-person before a judge is a travesty of justice.

LAURA BURROWS HAVILAND

CO-FOUNDER
BURROWS HAVILAND LAW



Laura Burrows Haviland is a co-founding member of Annapolis-based Burrows Haviland Law.

A University of Baltimore School of Law graduate, she is a successful trial attorney taking on high-conflict divorce cases and custody matters. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Burrows Haviland saw the need for parenting coordination not just with families, but other family law professionals and the judiciary.

Burrows Haviland is a privately and court-appointed parenting coordinator as well as a court-appointed child’s attorney. With a passion for advocating for children, she is a board member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Maryland Chapter.

What’s the most important thing you do in your job?

Support parents and families, as a parenting coordinator, mediator and child’s attorney in tailoring creative resolutions to reduce the conflict experienced by children of separation and divorce.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

Litigation is often traumatic for parents, and families and with delays in courts during the pandemic, it has gotten much worse. Even when a litigant “wins” in family law, they have lost any ability to co-parent and the child has suffered trauma as a result of litigation. I would like parenting coordination to be required for every family in active custody litigation pending trial, in order to reduce adverse childhood experiences and to better support families.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I would have a candle shop and possibly run a bed and breakfast.

ANNE KELLY LAYNOR

OF COUNSEL
FAMILY LEGAL ADVOCACY GROUP LLC



Anne Kelly Laynor has focused her legal practice on family law cases such as separation negotiation and preparation as well as custody issues, support, property settlement and litigation for more than two decades. The University of Maryland School of Law graduate is also a certified mediator, child advocate attorney and child’s privilege attorney.

Laynor has also held executive positions with a number of organizations including the Bar Foundation of Howard County, the Women’s Bar Association of Maryland and their chapters in Baltimore city as well as Baltimore, Carroll, Howard counties respectively.

What’s the most important thing you do in your job?

I think the most important thing I do in my job is meet my clients where they are and help them, with education

and empathy, focus their efforts and their energy on discerning the best path forward. Similarly, when I represent children, I strive to keep their parents focused on keeping my clients at the forefront of their decision-making, often bringing a perspective that otherwise is lost in the adversarial divorce process.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

I would like there to be better and more options for young lawyers to be trained and mentored by more experienced professionals in our practice area. There are fewer opportunities for law graduates to work in a law firm setting with more senior attorneys, where both the firm and the junior associates invest in the lawyer’s career development. The lack of training for young lawyers diminishes the reputation of our profession and is a disservice to those we represent.

DOROTHY J. LENNIG

DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL CLINIC
HOUSE OF RUTH MARYLAND



For nearly 35 years, Dorothy J. Lennig has served as an attorney for the House of Ruth Domestic Violence Legal Clinic.

In her role as the clinic’s director since 1994, she supervises and directs the domestic violence litigation and advocacy efforts. She also advocates on behalf of the nonprofit as their registered lobbyist for the Maryland General Assembly.

Lennig is the vice-chair of the Governor’s Family Violence Council. She is also a past chair of the Maryland State Bar Association’s Family and Juvenile Law Section Council, past chair of the Baltimore City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, and the co-chair of the Bar Association of Baltimore City’s Family Law Committee and its Task Force on the Effect of Domestic Violence on Children. Lennig has also previously served on Mayor Brandon Scott’s Public Health and Safety Transition Committee.

Lennig’s reputation spreads far beyond the courtroom. She has been selected to Super Lawyers eight times since 2008, earning the honor in consecutive years from 2008 through 2012 and again from 2019 through 2021. This selection is based off of an evaluation of 12 indicators including peer recognition and professional achievement in legal practice.

She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School Law in 1987 and was admitted to the bar in the same year.

LLOYD A. MALECH

MANAGING PARTNER
MALECH LAW



Lloyd A. Malech, Esq. has supported his family law clients through all aspects of the legal process for more than 25 years. As a managing partner at Malech Law, he handles a variety of cases including child custody and support, divorces, modifications, enforcements and domestic violence.

Earning his Juris Doctor from George Washington University Law School, Malech has volunteered numerous hours to represent hundreds of underprivileged clients in court and has also been selected several times to serve on the District of Columbia Superior Court's Criminal Justice Act Panel.

What's the most important thing you do in your job?

I am grateful to share with clients my knowledge of the law and my passion for justice. The Malech Law legal

team understands that each case is unique and works with clients to create a strategy for success. We specialize in complex legal matters including high conflict divorces, and represent clients with respect, empathy and excellence every day. Family Law, Reenvisioned.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

As every profession moves towards diversity, equity and inclusion, the legal profession, must lead the way. I believe in the concept of "Blind Justice." We hope for the day that anyone, regardless of who they are, will be fairly represented in the court of law.

If you weren't in this industry, what would you be doing?

In many cases, I educate my clients with resources such as my Ask Lloyd series and informative blog posts. My passion is helping others. Clients have shared how helpful my resources have been. So, a life coach would be a natural fit for me.

JESSICA MARKHAM

MANAGING PRINCIPAL
MARKHAM LAW FIRM



Jessica Markham became the managing principal for the Markham Law Firm seven years ago with the goal of providing clients with the utmost representation in family law matters. She had previously served as an associate and later principal at Paradiso, Taub, Sinay & Owel PC.

In 2021, the University of Miami School of Law graduate authored the American Bar Association's "Representing Federal Employees and their Spouses in Divorce."

Markham is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation as well as the Maryland State Bar Foundation. For nearly a decade, she has also served as a judge during area mock trial competitions.

What's the most important thing you do in your job?

Clients don't know what they're looking for. They call us in crisis, looking for help. What they really need is

comfort and a plan. The most important part of my job is giving them those things.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

Some lawyers give all lawyers a bad name and make matters worse. They feel the need to be paper tigers, sending overly aggressive written communications to flex their muscles and the hostility negatively impacts families.

If you weren't in this industry, what would you be doing?

I believe I would be an entrepreneur of some kind in any life. My retirement plan might be to open a boutique. I love fashion. I also love to write.

CONGRATULATIONS!



tcoates@c-wlaw.com

Tracey J. Coates, Esq.

Partner and Co-Chair of Cipriani & Werner's DMV Family Law Group, for being selected as The Daily Record's Power Player in the area of Family Law



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Congratulates
Jana Ponczak

for being selected as a
Power Player in Family Law

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ELIZABETH J. MCINTURFF

PARTNER
JDKATZ PC



Elizabeth J. McInturff has a hands-on approach, regularly communicating with clients and developing case strategies that help them obtain the best outcomes through negotiation or litigation.

Practicing in the areas of civil and commercial disputes, contract disputes, employment litigation, construction litigation and actions arising under the consumer protection acts and state wage laws. She also practices in private domestic law matters, including guardianship.

McInturff is the co-chair of the Leadership Academy of the Bar Association of Montgomery County. She is the Washington committee lead for Bike to the Beach, which promotes autism awareness and research.

She earned her Juris Doctor from Washington College of Law at American University and her bachelor's degree

from the University of Delaware. She has previous experience as an attorney with the firms Joseph, Greenwald & Laake PA and Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll.

What's the most important thing you do in your job?

Connection and communication are key aspects of my practice. Clients are trusting you to guide them through a difficult place in their life and in order to do so, you must effectively communicate with them and connect to their case in a manner in which they are heard and understood and that still advances their best interests.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

My hope is to better the public's opinion of lawyers.

If you weren't in this industry, what would you be doing?

A park ranger!

SHELLY D. MCKEON

FOUNDING ATTORNEY
THE MCKEON LAW FIRM



Shelly D. McKeon focuses her practice on family law and has particular interest in issues related to divorce, such as asset valuation, alimony or spousal support, retirement division, dissipation, monetary award, child custody and child support.

McKeon earned her law degree at the George Washington University National Law Center and her bachelor's from the University of Washington in Seattle. Then, she worked as an associate attorney with two law firms before founding her own firm in 2003.

In addition to divorce matters, she also handles cases involving contempt, domestic violence and prenuptial agreements.

McKeon's firm recently blogged about domestic violence, telling Marylanders the number one thing they

need to know is that "you are not alone."

"Leaving sounds easy, but the process of fleeing a violent situation is potentially volatile and can be dangerous," the blog noted. "At The McKeon Law Firm, we know that 'getting out' can be overwhelming."

McKeon is admitted to practice law in Maryland, the District of Columbia, New York State and Connecticut.

She been a leader on both the executive committee of the Montgomery County Bar Association and the judicial selections committee for the Montgomery County Bar Association and the Maryland State Women's Bar Association. She was also the chairperson for the family law section of the Women's Commission of Montgomery County and co-chair of the Family Law Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association.

LINDA S. OSTOVITZ

PRINCIPAL AND LEGAL OPERATIONS CHAIR, COLUMBIA OFFICE
OFFIT KURMAN



Linda S. Ostovitz is a leader at her firm Offit Kurman, taking positions on the board of directors, as a member of the management committee and is also legal operations chair.

Her practice focuses on divorce litigation, mediation, child custody and access, child support, alimony, business valuation and property and asset distribution. She also enjoys writing and teaching about the law, giving seminars on divorce options in Maryland, parenting classes at the National Family Resiliency Center and lecturer for the Maryland State Police and Howard County Police Departments, among other roles.

Ostovitz had this advice to share with rising women leaders when she was interviewed by The Daily Record in 2021: "Don't talk about how good you are — show them.

Know your value and that it's not negotiable. Don't allow your client's financial problems to become yours."

Ostovitz earned both her law and bachelor's degrees from the University of Baltimore. She was admitted to practice before the Maryland Court of Appeals in 1981, the U.S. District Court in 1989 and the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990.

Ostovitz began her career as a victim witness coordinator and then prosecutor in Howard County before entering private practice.

She is active in the community and is a fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Business Women's Network of Howard County, the chair of the executive committee of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and past president, board member and membership chair of the Rotary Club of Columbia/Patuxent.

BRIAN K. PEARLSTEIN

MANAGING PARTNER
BRODSKY, RENEHAN, PEARLSTEIN, AND BOUQUET



Brian K. Pearlstein's priority is to tirelessly defend his clients' interests, whether it's a divorce, a custody dispute, a domestic violence issue, a complex financial dispute or an alimony and child support matter.

He enjoys working on complicated cases that require creative solutions and tailors strategies for each client.

Pearlstein has held his current role for 15 years. He earned his Juris Doctor from the Washington College of Law at American University and his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

In addition to being licensed to practice law in the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Pearlstein is also approved and recommended as a family law attorney for the embassies of Belgium and France, for constituents residing in the United States.

What's the most important thing you do in your job?

I help people navigate through some of the most challenging times they will ever experience by showing compassion and offering creative solutions to resolve their issues. Earning my client's trust, and knowing they are confident in my ability to see them through difficult and sensitive situations is very rewarding and why I love what I do.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

Accessibility to legal advice, regardless of one's demographic or financial situation, is a problem in our society. Everyone deserves legal representation when necessary, but not everyone can afford it.

GEOFFREY S. PLATNICK

MANAGING PARTNER
STRICKLER PLATNICK HATFIELD



Geoffrey S. Platnick draws on both extensive court-room experience and a willingness to work collaboratively in family law.

He started his career as an assistant attorney general for the District of Columbia for child support establishment and enforcement.

After leaving government service in 2005, Platnick concentrated on family law. He is trained and certified in the Collaborative Divorce process and certified as a family mediator.

He serves on the Board of Trustees for The Treatment and Learning Centers. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Buffalo Law School and his bachelor's degree from West Virginia University.

What's the most important thing you do in your job?

Communicating effectively is at the top of the list. Every attorney wants to help clients during challenging periods of life, but few do so with the emotional and personal impact of a family lawyer. Issues involved in the typical family law case (e.g. child welfare or constrained financial resources) have a somberness many other areas of the law cannot match.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

The American rule, which requires clients to pay their own fees, creates an impediment to achieving cooperative resolutions. A "financially dependent" spouse/litigant may give up because they do not have the resources to wage battle; or the party with resources may refuse to settle because they can outspend their opponent.

JANA L. PONCZAK

SENIOR ASSOCIATE
ROYSTON MUELLER MCLEAN AND REID LLP



Jana L. Ponczak recognizes litigation is necessary in some family law cases, but the majority can be resolved by mediation, collaboration and working together.

Trained as a Best Interest Attorney to represent children in high-conflict custody matters, Ponczak is also a certified mediator emphasizing a collaborative approach.

Ponczak earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore and her bachelor's degree from Barnard College at Columbia University.

She served as chair of the alumni council for her high school, Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School, and is a member of the board of trustees. She is a member of the Holocaust Remembrance Commission and the Jewish Professional Women's committee.

What's the most important thing you do in your job?

The most important thing I do is to problem solve and assess risk to advocate, advise and counsel my clients. I tell my clients that my job is to help them get through the legal process in the least emotionally and financially damaging way that serves both their best interest and the best interest of their family.

If you weren't in this industry, what would you be doing?

I would love to be a master gardener with a focus on teaching gardening, crop growing and farming in urban centers. I am an avid gardener (and proud "chicken mom" to seven hens) ... and there is nothing like that first bite of a freshly picked crop!



The Daily Record's Power lists showcase the power players who make decisions that impact lives, inspire success, spark innovation are leading Maryland into the future.

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Topic	Publication Date	Space Deadline
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Power List - Criminal Law	11/30/2022	11/16/2022
Power Book	12/30/2022	12/16/2022

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THE DAILY RECORD

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Congratulations to JGL's
Jeffrey N. Greenblatt

For being selected to The Daily Record's
2022 Family Law Power List.

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& LAAKE, PA

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KELLY A. POWERS

PRINCIPAL
MILES & STOCKBRIDGE



Miles & Stockbridge Principal Kelly A. Powers hopes she helps her clients move forward in a positive way after she helps them labor through difficult family problems. Powers, who is co-leader of the firm’s Family Law & Private Clients Group, focuses her work on high-net-worth divorce, high-conflict custody, international child abduction, and appellate family law at the federal and state levels. The University of Baltimore School of Law graduate and trained mediator practices in Maryland and Washington. She is a past president of The Women’s Law Center of Maryland. She is co-chair of the firm’s Pro Bono Advocate Program and serves on the Baltimore City Circuit Court’s Local Pro Bono Committee.

Sanders earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Salisbury University.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

I think if more attorneys took better care of our own wellness, we would be even better at helping our clients achieve their goals.

If you weren’t in the industry, what would you be doing?

I would be a yoga teacher on a tropical island.

PAUL J. REINSTEIN

PARTNER
REINSTEIN, GLACKIN & HERRIOTT LLC



Paul J. Reinstein has amassed a reputation as one of the region’s best family law and divorce attorneys with more than 40 years of experience advocating for clients throughout the Washington area. The head of the family law group at his Annapolis firm, Reinstein, Glackin & Herriott, LLC, shares his knowledge, lecturing about current issues in family law to judges, magistrates and lawyers throughout the area. The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law graduate considers the most important part of his job helping clients navigate some of the most difficult decisions of their lives. He is one of only 35 Fellows in the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

I believe continuing legal education (CLE) for attorneys should be mandatory in Maryland. Most states mandate CLE and Maryland remains one of the few states that does not, which does an enormous disservice to both litigants and attorneys.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I would be a teacher. I have participated in continuing legal education for many years and see the benefit to attorneys who attend the many programs provided by the Maryland State Bar Association as well as local bar associations.

DONNA K. RISMILLER

FOUNDER
RLG LAW AND DVS LEGAL SERVICES



RLG Law and DVS Legal Services founder Donna K. Rismiller takes pride in helping families through difficult life events. Rismiller, who earned her law degree from Georgetown University, has been ranked among the top 1% of attorneys by The National Association of Distinguished Counsel. The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation gave her its Forerunner Award in 2016. The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence gave her its Community Award in 2014.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

My profession would benefit from greater diversity in representation of family law practitioners. I am proud that my firm has taken an active role to increase diversity

among our members and I can see first-hand how our perspectives and experiences are enriched by our diverse backgrounds and interests. I applaud the efforts of other law firms and specialty bar associations to increase diverse representation in our field.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

When I first attended college for my undergraduate degree, my focus was on accounting and I worked in the accounting field for five years. During my undergraduate college experience, I transitioned my pursuit from accounting to economics, as part of my efforts to train to become a lawyer. Since making the decision to transition to law, I have never questioned the decision once and I have found the practice of law to be very rewarding. At this point, I can’t think of doing anything else.

MARY ROBY SANDERS

MANAGING PARTNER
TURNBULL, NICHOLSON & SANDERS PA



Mary Roby Sanders, managing partner of Turnbull, Nicholson & Sanders, P.A., has spent 20 years practicing family law, and feels it’s her most important role to shepherd women through divorce. The Maryland State Bar Association awarded Sanders, who practices in Towson and the greater Baltimore area, its Beverly A. Groner Family Law Award in 2019 for her dedication to family law and her exemplary professional practice. The Baltimore County Bar Association awarded her the J. Earle Plumbhoff Professionalism Award. Sanders is a former co-chair of the Maryland State Bar Association’s Pro Bono Task Force and contributed to the Bench Book on Family Law. The University of Maryland School of Law graduate is

a mediator for the Baltimore City Circuit Court.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

I often feel that the litigation process does not meet the needs of many families. Custody is an issue that is especially difficult in the court setting. In the 34 years I have been in family law, I have seen a drastic change/improvement in how these cases are handled by shifting more to the mediation/mental health approach. for resolving disagreements. This is a healthier more productive way and should be expanded.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I would be working in a nonprofit helping families in one way or another.

FERRIER STILLMAN

PARTNER
TYDINGS & ROSENBERG



Tydings & Rosenberg partner Ferrier Stillman said her role as a family law attorney means helping clients through the legal system as it relates to some of life’s most emotional changes and difficult decisions.

From offices in Baltimore and Towson, the trial attorney and negotiator handles separation and property settlement agreements that involve the valuation and division of assets such as businesses, partnerships, investments and retirement plans.

She also represents senior housing and long-term care facilities as well as other health care providers before state and federal regulatory agencies, as well as in commercial transactions and litigation.

Stillman is a former co-chair of the Bar Association of Baltimore City’s Family Law Committee and is active in the Baltimore and Howard County Bar Associations’ Family Law Committees.

She was elected in 2017 to the board of directors of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore and in 2020 was elected to its executive committee.

What is one aspect of your profession you’d like to change?

I would like to see better coordination between pro bono legal clinics and organizations providing other services for low-income individuals so that their needs are met effectively and efficiently.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I’d be a psychologist because I like to help people resolve their complex problems.

ROBIN B. TAUB

PRINCIPAL
PARADISO, TAUB, SINAY, OWEL AND KOSTECKA PC



Robin B. Taub, principal and founding member of Paradiso, Taub, Sinay, Owel, and KostECKA PC, said her success as a family lawyer comes from listening and caring for her clients.

Taub’s legal focus is on negotiation, collaboration and mediation of all family law matters throughout Maryland and Washington.

The founding member of the Maryland Collaborative Divorce Association was a board member of the D.C. Academy of Collaborative Professionals and is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals.

Taub, who earned her undergraduate and law degrees from Duke University, lectures frequently at Washington-area law schools.

What is one aspect of your profession you would like to change?

Family lawyers should negotiate first; litigate only if they cannot reach an agreement or there are exigent circumstances. Divorce does not have to be an expensive and contentious process, and we, as lawyers, have an obligation to help folks and their family resolve their disputes without litigation in a cost-effective and amicable manner.

If you weren’t in this industry, what would you be doing?

I have and continue to serve on boards of nonprofits and I have taught my children the value of “giving back” and advocating for causes they believe in, as I have throughout my career. So after 40 years of practice, besides continuing with my tennis, hiking and skiing, I will hopefully add some international cooking classes as I very much enjoy cooking for my growing family!

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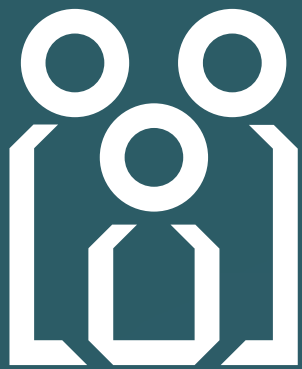
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Family Law University

November 16, 2022
8:30AM - 4:00PM

This program will address all areas of mental health issues associated with family law matters. The aim is to address not only mental health issues in clients and opposing parties, but also those related to minor children and the attorneys themselves.

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