



Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas Division of Domestic Relations

Parenting Coordinator Roster

Shannon Eckner, Esq.

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Rate: \$300/hour
Retainer: \$2,000

Ross Evans, Esq.

The Family Law & Fertility Law Group
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Rate: \$375/hour

Erinn McKee Hannigan, Esq.

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Amanda Kreinbrink, Esq.

The Family Law & Fertility Law Group
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Alyson Miller, Esq.

Legal Alternatives
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Retainer: \$1,500

Melanie Mize, Esq.

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Elizabeth Murray, Esq.

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Jennifer Szeghi, MA

Successful Parenting, LLC
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Kimberly Varney Thomas, Esq.

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Daryle Tibbs, Esq.

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Shauna Wallace, DSW, LISW-S

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Melanie Walls, Esq.

Melanie Walls Law
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Gayle Warm, Esq.

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Susan Werner, M.Ed.

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Parenting Coordinator Biographies

Shannon Eckner, Esq.

Shannon F. Eckner practices exclusively in the area of family law. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature from the University of Cincinnati in 2000, graduating *magna cum laude*. She earned a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she graduated as a member of the Order of the Coif. Shannon most recently served as a Magistrate in Clermont County Domestic Relations Court in early 2020, and as a Magistrate in Hamilton County Domestic Relations Court from November 1, 2017 through January 31, 2020. Prior to taking the bench, Shannon handled all types of family law cases as an attorney in private practice. She also has extensive experience helping children and families as a Guardian *ad Litem* and parenting coordinator. Shannon was named an Ohio Super Lawyers “Rising Star” in the area of family law by Cincinnati Magazine in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011 – 2017.



Ross M. Evans, Esq.

Ross Evans is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati where he received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1983 and a Juris Doctor in 1986. He served in Hamilton County Juvenile Court, presiding over custody, visitation, paternity, and delinquency cases until 1996. Mr. Evans left the bench and has been in private practice for over 20 years, focusing exclusively on Collaborative Practice, Mediation, and Limited Scope Representation in Family Law matters. In December 2016, along with his long-time Partner, Ellen Essig, Mr. Evans opened Essig & Evans LLP, a boutique firm focusing on Family and Fertility Law. Mr. Evans has appeared and argued before the Ohio Supreme Court and is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Evans, who continues to serve the Court as a Guardian *ad Litem* and Parenting Coordinator, is a founding member of the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals where he has served on the steering committee since its inception and as the President from 2007 to 2009. In June 2009, Mr. Evans was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals and in October 2013, he became President of the IACP and currently serves *ex officio* on the board. He has served on the faculty and planning committee for the Ohio Judicial College and has lectured regularly for the Cincinnati and Ohio State Bar Associations in Family Law related topics.

Erinn McKee Hannigan, Esq.

Erinn McKee Hannigan is an Honors College graduate of Ball State University and received her law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 2002. She earned a Certificate of Childlaw from Loyola by concentrating her legal studies in the areas of child and family law. She was admitted to the North Carolina bar in 2002 and the Ohio bar in 2006.

Erinn is unique in that she chose to attend law school for the sole purpose of becoming a domestic relations attorney. Upon graduation, she kept true to her goal and practices exclusively in domestic relations. Erinn works hard to help guide her clients towards their new normal. She works not only within the court system in litigation as an attorney for children or as a GAL but aids her clients in various forms of alternative dispute resolution practices as well. Erinn was trained in family law arbitration in North Carolina in 2004; collaborative practice in 2008; domestic relations mediation in 2011; Guardian *ad Litem* in 2018 and Parenting Coordination in 2018. Erinn began mediating domestic relations cases as a mediator in 2016. She practices and provides mediation services to clients in Hamilton, Warren, Clermont and Butler counties in Ohio.

Erinn served as the co-chair of the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals and continues to serve on the board of that organization. Erinn is a member of the Domestic Relations Section of the Cincinnati Bar Association, the Ohio Bar Association, the North Carolina Bar Association, the Association of Family and Conciliatory Courts and the International Association of Collaborative Professionals.

Erinn is consistently named as a Super Lawyer in Ohio since 2007 and was named as one of the Top 25 Women Lawyers in Cincinnati in 2016 and 2019.



Amanda Kreinbrink, Esq.



Amanda Kreinbrink graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Cincinnati and earned her law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Before transitioning to private practice, Amanda served as Judicial Staff Attorney to the Honorable Judge Amy Searcy at the Hamilton County Court of Domestic Relations. During her tenure at the Court, Amanda developed a passion for mediation through the Court's Dispute Resolution Department, successfully guiding families to agreements that helped them resolve their legal issues and avoid further litigation.

Since leaving the Court, Amanda has continued mediating family law matters while representing clients in a wide range of family law cases, including adoptions, dissolutions, divorce, child custody and support, property division, prenuptial agreements, post-decree litigation, and more. She also serves as a Guardian *ad Litem*, advocating for the best interests of children in custody disputes, and is trained in Collaborative Law, a voluntary and structured process where parties work collaboratively with trained professionals to reach mutually agreeable solutions that work for their family without resorting to litigation.

Alyson B. Miller, Esq.

A Columbus native with nearly two decades of family law experience, Alyson's successes are the result of a belief system that embraces conflict resolution. She strongly values the benefits of settlement and compromise. Alyson works diligently to help clients reach out-of-court agreements because it provides certainty for the client and, in most cases, reduces the emotional and financial distress that litigation can create. In addition, Alyson is a co-owner and partner in a domestic relations law practice where she represents men and women throughout Ohio in all matters related to family law, including divorce, dissolution and parentage proceedings. Alyson is also a registered Guardian Ad Litem representing the best interests of children involved in custody disputes.

She is a member of The Ohio State Bar Association and Columbus Bar Association, where she is currently serving as subcommittee chair for the Parenting Coordination subcommittee of the Family Law Committee.

Alyson has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by Ohio Super Lawyers magazine for being one of the state's outstanding young domestic relations lawyers. She has been featured in Columbus CEO magazine's Top Lawyer issue among an elite group of Columbus lawyers recognized for their legal abilities and professional ethical standards.



Melanie E. Mize, Esq.



Melanie Mize is a Cincinnati native. She attended Norwood High School and graduated with honors from the University of Cincinnati in 2005. She then went on to pursue a legal education at Salmon P. Chase College of Law where she received a Juris Doctor in 2008.

Melanie has been practicing in Domestic Relations and Juvenile Courts since 2009. She has a passion for finding a solution that minimizes the impact of litigation on children. Melanie is licensed to practice law in Ohio, as well as in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. She has successfully completed all necessary Ohio Supreme Court training and is qualified to serve as a Guardian *ad Litem*, Parenting Coordinator, and Mediator. Melanie is also collaboratively trained.



Elizabeth R. Murray, Esq.

Elizabeth Murray opened her own practice, Murray Law LLC, in 2019. She concentrates her practice in the area of domestic relations. Domestic relations include divorce, dissolution, prenuptial agreements, adoptions, custody issues, post decree matters, child and spousal support, grandparents' rights, visitation, and collaborative law. Elizabeth also serves as a Guardian *ad Litem* in numerous cases representing the best interests of the children in a custody dispute. Elizabeth is a certified mediator and parenting coordinator.

Elizabeth is a member of the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals which is a group that focus on their family's interests, needs, and goals. Through collaborative law, the parties are able to control the situation, craft individual agreements, and create a healthy environment for their children.

Elizabeth graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Cincinnati in 1987. Three years later, she graduated from the Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law.

Jennifer R. Szeghi, MA

Jennifer Szeghi is a Parent Coach, Adjunct Instructor, and Parenting Coordinator. For nine years she has thrived in her business, Successful Parenting, LLC, helping parents whose children have behavioral issues, as well as specializing with families going through a divorce. Mrs. Szeghi's professional experience includes working with children and adolescents as an Outpatient Mental Health Therapist, Mental Health Specialist in the Psychiatric Unit, a Residential Treatment Counselor in Juvenile Detention, and as an Intake/Family Therapist in Cook County Juvenile Court. Mrs. Szeghi has taught at Cincinnati State Community College as an adjunct instructor of Psychology since 2005. Mrs. Szeghi graduated from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (CSOPP) in 2005 with a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology. In 2010, she received a Graduate Certificate in Child & Adolescent Psychology from CSOPP. She continues to take advantage of educational opportunities,



including trainings from The Ohio Supreme Court.

Mrs. Szeghi is a mother of two sons, both of whom experienced broken homes. She co-parents with her son's father and with her stepson's mother. These experiences help Mrs. Szeghi empathize, better understand what such families are going through, and have confidence in the effectiveness of her techniques, as they have been successful with her family.



Kimberly Thomas, Esq.

Kimberly Thomas is a sole practitioner who has been a licensed attorney since 1991. She is trained as an Attorney, Guardian *ad Litem*, Mediator and Parent Coordinator, but considers her primary role to be that of Mother. After a brief period of raising her children, she has made the focus of her practice, regardless of her role, to be the best interest of children. Having adopted two children later in life, she became passionate about children, but her own experience gave her an understanding of the needs and emotions of parents (as well as children) in the midst of legal battle.

Kimberly's practice is now solely family law. Working with families is her passion.

Daryle C. Tibbs, Esq.

Daryle C. Tibbs received a Juris Doctor from Capital University in January, 2010. She received an endorsement for her *pro bono* work with the Ohio Public Defender's Office and practiced as a legal intern through Capital's Legal Clinic. Daryle obtained her license in the State of Ohio in May, 2011 and in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in May, 2016.

Daryle is a lifelong resident of Cincinnati and proud alum of William Mason High School. After finishing her education and working for another firm for approximately one year, Daryle returned to Cincinnati and opened Tibbs Law Office in March, 2011. Daryle serves as a Guardian *ad Litem* in multiple Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts in Ohio and has been a member of the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals since 2016.



Shauna Wallace, LISW, CCTP, LCDC III

Shauna Wallace is certified by the state of Ohio as a Licensed Independent Social Worker and Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor III and in the state of Illinois and Indiana as a Licensed Social Worker. She received a Master of Social Work with emphasis on mental health from University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor of Arts in Human and Community Services from Queens University of Charlotte.

Ms. Wallace is the Founder/CEO of 3E Consulting and Training Solutions L.L.C. She has met criteria for, and is recognized by the International Association of Trauma Professionals as a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional. Ms. Wallace is an approved mediator for Hamilton County courts and an approved Parent Coordinator for all of Ohio. She has over 10 years of experience working in the social service arena, from adoption to school based services and providing various trainings.



Melanie B. Walls, Esq.

Melanie B. Walls is a licensed attorney in the State of Ohio and Commonwealth of Kentucky. Melanie graduated from Xavier University *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science, Business Administration and received her Juris Doctor from Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Melanie has been practicing in Domestic Relations and Juvenile courts since 1997.

Melanie serves the Hamilton County Domestic Relations court as a Parenting Coordinator. She is a trained mediator. Melanie is certified by the Ohio State Bar Association as a specialist in Family Relations law. This certification makes Melanie one of a small group of attorneys in Ohio to have earned this distinction. In her family law practice, Melanie works with parents to resolve child related conflicts. Melanie helps parents reach child focused decisions.

Gayle M. Warm, Esq.

Gayle M. Warm practices exclusively in the area of family law. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in 1997 and a Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 2000. Following law school, she served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Morton Denlow (Ret.) in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Gayle and her family returned to Cincinnati in 2008 after spending 11 years in Chicago where she was a labor attorney for the City of Chicago. As a practicing Ohio family law attorney, Gayle has several years of experience representing clients in litigation, negotiation, and conflict resolution, as well as divorce, dissolution, custody and parenting issues, child support cases, and spousal support matters. She is a trained Collaborative Practitioner, a Certified Divorce Mediator, and Parenting Coordinator.



She is a member of the American Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association (Family Law Committee), Cincinnati Bar Association (Domestic Relations Committee), the Cincinnati Academy of Collaborative Professionals, and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. She is also a regular speaker at Second Saturday, a divorce workshop session for women.

Susan E. Werner, M.Ed.

Susan Miller graduated from Hanover College with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications, and graduated from Xavier University with a Master of Education. Ms. Miller taught in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and in Cincinnati, Ohio, before working as a parent educator at Beech Acres Parenting Center.

Ms. Miller also served at Beech Acres as a parenting coach, conflict coach, and co-mediator. She was a facilitator for the Families in Conflict program, and still currently teaches Helping Children Cope with Divorce for Beech Acres. She has continued to practice parent and conflict coaching and mediation through her business, Parent Resolve. Helping parents breach communication boundaries to support their children is her primary passion and focus. Ms. Miller trained as a mediator and a parenting coordinator at the Supreme Court of Ohio.



