

RACHAEL N. TOFT

175 E. Delaware Place, Suite 6305
Chicago, IL 60611

rtoft@toftlaw.com
(312) 590-8761

ADMISSIONS **State of Illinois** November 4, 2004

EXPERIENCE **Law Offices of Rachael Toft** Chicago, IL
Attorney at Law 2007-Present
Representing clients in all aspects of dissolution of marriage and post-decree family law matters. Representing parents in child custody proceedings, custody modifications, child support and parentage actions. Representing prospective adoptive families in related adoption. Volunteer on child's representative and adoption cases through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

Cowell Taradash, P.C. Chicago, IL
Family Law Attorney 2005-2007
Represented clients in dissolution proceedings and child support matters. Responded to and filing motions, counseled clients, negotiated with attorneys and conducted hearings in domestic relations court. Represented clients in child custody and removal hearings. Enforced child support and parenting time modification. Volunteer with child support help clinic with Legal Aid Bureau.

Tazewell County State's Attorney's Office Pekin, IL
Assistant State's Attorney 2004-2005
Represented the State in juvenile abuse and neglect proceedings. Litigated juvenile proceedings and termination of parental rights. Worked closely with child welfare agencies and guardian ad litem. Prosecuted all types of misdemeanor offenses including domestic battery and conducted both jury and bench trials. Completed Trial Advocacy Program in October 2004.

Johnson County Attorney's Office Iowa City, IA
Prosecuting Intern May 2003-Aug 2003
Certified to practice under Iowa Court Rule 31.15 (1) as a student attorney. Prosecuted simple misdemeanor cases and responded to citizen complaints.

EDUCATION **The University of Iowa College of Law** Iowa City, IA
Juris Doctor, *with Distinction*, May 2004
GPA 81.06/90, top 15%
Journal of Gender Race & Justice. Student Writer
Research Assistant to Associate Dean Linda A. McGuire
Research Assistant to The University of Iowa college of Law Legal Clinic
Law Foundation Scholarship
Organization for Women Law Students and Staff. Executive Board

Illinois State University Normal, IL
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science with Global Studies Concentration, May 2001
GPA 4.0/4.0. *Summa Cum Laude*
University Honors Scholar. Honors in Political Science
Robert G. Bone Scholar. Highest University award for top 14 graduating seniors
Presidential Scholar. Full-tuition academic scholarship
Thomas E. Eimermann Award. Outstanding Pre-Law Student

PUBLICATIONS

“Parenting in a Pandemic,” Illinois State Bar Association Newsletter, August 2020
“A Big Change is Coming to Child Support Calculations,” Women’s Bar Association of Illinois, Newsletter Spring 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

“The Attorney’s Role in Adoption and Ethical Considerations,” DePaul University College of Law, Guest Lecturer, November 2017
“LGBTQ Family Building Panel Discussion,” MB Financial Bank, Presenter, November 2015
“Ethics Case Law,” Chicago Bar Association, Adoption Law Committee, Presenter, May 2015
“Going out on Your Own? Hear From Women Who Have Succeeded,” Chicago Bar Association, Alliance for Women Committee, Panelist, March 2013
“Civil Procedure and Domestic Relations,” Chicago Kent College of Law, Guest Lecturer, March 2013
“Building Your Family Fortress, Guardianship and the Second Parent Adoption,” Chicago Women’s Health Center, August 2012
“The New Civil Unions Act,” Illinois Law Cable TV Program, Panelist, 2011
“Adoption 2011-New Rules, Regulations & Practice Procedures,” Chicago Bar Association, Adoption Law Committee, Moderator, February 2011
“LGBT Marriage and Family Law Issues,” Illinois Law Cable TV Program, Panelist, 2010
“Contrast of Adoption and Guardianship Law,” Chicago Bar Association, Probate Committee, Speaker, February 2010
“Adoption of Foreign Born Children,” Chicago Bar Association, Adoption Law Committee, Moderator, February 2010
“Creating Safe, Permanent Homes for Children,” Illinois Law Cable TV Program, 2009
“The Child Custody Kit: Navigating Your Custody Trial,” Chicago Bar Association, Domestic Relations Committee, Moderator, February 2009
“Adoption 101: The Basics,” Chicago Bar Association, Adoption Law Committee, Moderator, February 2009
“Please Doc, May I Have Some Sperm? Non-Spousal Requests for Posthumous Sperm Harvesting,” Chicago Bar Association, Panelist, June 2009

HONORS & CERTIFICATIONS

Illinois Super Lawyers, 2019-2021
Illinois Rising Star, Super Lawyers, 2010, 2012- 2018
Emerging Lawyer in Adoption & Reproductive Technology Law & Family Law, Leading Lawyers, 2015-2020
State Appellate Defender, Criminal Appeal Training 2021
Parenting Coordinator Training, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, 2020
Advanced Parenting Coordinator Training, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, 2020
Collaborative Practice Training, 2014
Divorce Mediation, Northwestern University, Continuing Legal Studies, 2010
Domestic Violence Court Advocate Training, Illinois 42 hours
Domestic Violence Court Advocate Training, Iowa 40 hours

AFFILIATIONS Member, Family Law Section Council, Illinois State Bar Association
Past Chair and Member, Adoption Law, Chicago Bar Association
Past Chair and Member, Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender
Identity, Illinois State Bar Association
Executive Board, Attorneys Advisory Board Program, Illinois State University
Member, Domestic Relations Committee, Chicago Bar Association
Member, Women's Bar Association of Illinois
Past Member, Women's Bar Association of Illinois, Judicial Evaluations
Committee
Fellow, Illinois Bar Foundation
Member, Association of Conflict Resolution-Chicago Chapter
Member, Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago
Member, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois
Member, Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago
Member, Association of Conflict Resolution-Chicago Chapter
Member, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

VOLUNTEER President, Friends of Ogden Board of Directors, 501(c)(3)
President, Women Everywhere: Partners in Service Board of Directors
Co-Chair, Women Everywhere: Partners in Service
Volunteer Attorney, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
Volunteer Court Facilitator, Cook County Domestic Relations Division
Chicago Bar Association Lawyers in the Classroom
Volunteer Attorney, Legal Aid Bureau, Metropolitan Legal Services
Manager, Stanton Park Aquatics, Chicago Park District

PUBLIC OFFICE Chair, Local School Council for Ogden International School of Chicago, Chicago
Public Schools, 2021-present
Member, Local School Council for Ogden International School of Chicago,
Chicago Public Schools, 2018-present