

Colleen Mary Breems, Esq.

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ADMISSIONS

Illinois State Bar, November 2014

United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, August 2018

EDUCATION

DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL; J.D. with a Certificate in Family Law, May 2014

Awards, Honors and Activities

Kane County Bar Association/Kane County Women's Bar Association Scholarship Recipient

Phi Alpha Delta, Chicago Alumni Chapter Daniel P. Ward Scholarship Recipient

Phi Alpha Delta, West Suburban Alumni Chapter Anthony A. DiGrazia Scholarship Recipient

DePaul University College of Law President's Award for Service Recipient (for 200+ pro bono hours)

DePaul University College of Law Benjamin Hooks Distinguished Public Service Award Recipient (for 200+ pro bono hours)

Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center: Fellow, 2011-2014

DePaul Journal of Women, Gender & the Law: Executive Board Member/Symposium Editor, 2013-2014

Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity:

Story Chapter Junior Board Member/1L Section Representative, 2011-2012

Story Chapter Executive Board Member/Events Planning Chair, 2012-2013

Phi Alpha Delta Outstanding Community Service Award Recipient 2012-2013

Story Chapter Mock Trial Team, 2012-2013

Story Chapter Executive Board Member/Vice Justice, 2013-2014

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL; B.S. with Honors in Human Development and Family Studies, May 2011

CERTIFICATIONS

Mediation Skills Training Certificate from Northwestern University, School of Professional Studies, Chicago, IL, August 26, 2021

ACTIVITIES

Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section: Family Law Committee Co-Chair, Chicago, IL, 2019 - present

Empowering Women NFP, Board Member/Pro Bono Help Desk Attorney, Chicago, IL, 2020 - 2021

Suzy's Place domestic violence shelter, Board Member/Pro Bono Help Desk Attorney, Chicago, IL, 2018 - 2020

Junior League of Chicago, Leadership Member, Chicago, IL, 2017 - Present

Business Networking International (BNI), President, Chicago, IL, 2016 - 2021

Young Catholic Professionals, Member, Chicago, IL, 2016 - Present

DePaul University Family Law Center Advisory Board, Board Member, Chicago, IL, 2015 - 2021

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

DePaul University Family Law Center: The 2015 Illinois Parentage Act, September 20, 2016

DePaul University Family Law Center: The 2015 Parentage Act, September 26, 2018

Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section: Family Law Committee: CLE Guest Lecturer, February 6, 2019

Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section: Estate Planning Committee: CLE Guest Lecturer, April 2, 2019

DePaul University College of Law Law Practice Management class: Guest Lecturer, February 28, 2019

DePaul University College of Law Law Practice Management class: Guest Lecturer, September 17, 2019

DePaul University Family Law Center: The 2015 Parentage Act, September 27, 2019

SIL Networking group: Orders of Protection, May 7, 2020

Be that Lawyer with Steve Fretzin podcast: Working with a Synergistic Coach to Grow Your Book, May 25, 2020

DePaul University College of Law Law Practice Management class: Guest Lecturer, September 15, 2020

DePaul University Family Law Center: The 2015 Parentage Act, October 21, 2020

AWARDS

Lavelle Law, Ltd. 2019 Associate Award - Most Pro Bono Hours for 2019, 2020

Lavelle Law, Ltd. 2019 Award - Most Billable Hours for 2019, 2020

Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers Illinois Rising Star for 2021, 2022

Leading Lawyers Emerging Lawyer for 2021

RELEVANT LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Lavelle Law, Ltd., Chicago, IL

Senior Associate Attorney, June 2017 - Present

- Maintains direct communication with family law clients regarding their wishes and concerns in pending cases
- Represents family law clients in court proceedings in various IL counties

- Manages own case load, as well as collaborates with others, through drafting, filing, legal research, discovery, depositions, and trial preparation in family law matters
- Provides assistance with drafting, filing, discovery, and Court appearance coverage in criminal, chancery, probate, and law division matters
- Serves Cook County list of appointments to serve as Child Representation and Guardian *ad Litem* in family law matters

Wakenight & Associates, P.C., Oak Park, IL

Senior Associate Attorney, April 2014 – June 2017

- Maintained direct communication with family law clients regarding their wishes and concerns in pending cases
- Represented family law clients in court proceedings in various IL counties
- Managed own case load through drafting, filing, legal research, discovery, depositions, and trial preparation

Goldberg Law Group, LLC, Chicago, IL

Associate Attorney, September 2014 - March 2015

- Maintained frequent communication with family law clients regarding their wishes and concerns in pending cases
- Represented family law clients in court proceedings in various IL counties
- Managed the firm's family law case load through drafting, filing, and legal research on various family law topics

DuPage County Public Defender's Office, Wheaton, IL

711 Intern, January 2014 - September 2014

- Represented misdemeanor DUI clients, as well as felony and misdemeanor juvenile clients, on a daily basis
- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda regarding IL criminal law and constitutional topics

Northwestern Memorial Healthcare, Office of General Counsel, Chicago, IL

Law Clerk, September 2013 - December 2013

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda regarding health law topics, HIPAA, IL statutes and hospital policy
- Collaborated in inter-office meetings regarding health law topics pertaining to hospital policy and protocol

Law Offices of Stephanie K. Nathanson, Chicago, IL

Law Clerk, January 2013 - August 2013

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda regarding personal injury and medical malpractice topics
- Drafted and edited briefs, motions, and deposition abstracts
- Obtained continuances, orders, and conducted discovery for deposition and trial preparation

Cook County Circuit Court, Chicago, IL

Judicial Intern for Municipal Court Judge James McGing, August 2012 - December 2012

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda regarding various housing law topics

Cook County Juvenile Justice Bureau, Child Protection Division, Chicago, IL

Law Clerk for Child Protection Court Judge Marilyn Johnson, June 2012 - August 2012

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda regarding child protection topics and the IL Juvenile Court Act

Kane County Circuit Court, Geneva, IL

Judicial Intern for Family Law Court Judge Katherine Moran, June-August 2012

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda regarding family law topics and the IL Domestic Violence Act
- Drafted pleadings and affidavits for parties seeking *pro se* Emergency Orders of Protection