



Melissa R. Gillis, Shareholder

"I believe that an important key to being a successful attorney is adaptability. I adjust my strategy to suit each situation as it presents itself. I adapt to judges' styles as well as those of opposing counsel. Sometimes I have to be aggressive and take a hard-line stance, but sometimes it makes more sense to be flexible and negotiate. I also enjoy taking a client through a sometimes very emotional cycle to a satisfactory result. It makes me feel good at the end of the day when I've successfully guided somebody through a complex area of the law and accomplished their goals. My clients know that I have listened to their feelings, anxieties, fears and wishes, and have advocated for them accordingly."

Areas of Practice:

Domestic Relations & Family, Real Estate & Zoning, Special Education, Mediation/Alternative Dispute Resolution, Estate Planning

Education:

Quinnipiac University School of Law, J.D. 2000
Elms College, B.A., 1996

Bar & Court Admission:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts
U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals

Professional & Community Activities Include:

Trustee, Elms College, 2016-Present
Member, Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation (MCFM)
Speaker, Rebuilding Support Group, February 2014
Member, Civility Standards Sub-Committee, Hampden County Bar
Member, Magistrate Protocol Sub-Committee, Hampden County Bar
Member, Court Conciliation Program, Hampden County Bar
Certified, Limited Assistance Representation Program with the Hampden County Probate and Family Court, 2009-Present
Member, Human Rights Committee, The Association for Community Living, 2009-2014
Member, Women's Business Owners Alliance of Pioneer Valley, 2009-Present
President, Agawam High School Athletic Cheer Booster Club, 2016-Present

Awards, Achievements & Appointments Include:

Certified Mediator
Recipient, Distinguished Academic Achievement Awards in Bankruptcy & Representing Clients, 2000
Recipient, Excellence in Clinical Workaround Award, 2000
Recipient, Tax Litigation Award, 2000

Publications & Lectures Include:

- It's that Time of Year Again: Careful Review, Renegotiation of Your Child's IEP is Critical, *Healthcare News*, March 1, 2014
- Lecturer, Rebuilding Support Group, Southwick, MA, February 2014
- Contributor/Quoted, I Don't Anymore . . . Divorces Increasing Among Midlife, *Prime*, February 2014
- Is This the Time to Fight? When Divorce is Complicated by Serious Medical Concerns, *Healthcare News*, August 1, 2013
- Custody of a Special Needs Child: Sometimes, It's Better to Focus on Quality Parent Time, Not Quantity, *Healthcare News*, April 1, 2013



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