



## Melissa R. Gillis, Associate

*"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

### 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

### Professional & Community Activities Include:

Member: Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation (MCFM)  
Vice President: USA Wildcats Booster Club Executive Board  
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 - Present  
Member: Women's Business Owners Alliance of Pioneer Valley, 2009 - 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 & Videos Include:

- It's that Time of Year Again: Careful Review, Renegotiation of Your Child's IEP is Critical, *Healthcare News*, March 1, 2014
- Contributor and 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
- Oh Dear, College is Here! - How can I get my Ex to Help Pay? *BusinessWest*, August 27, 2012
- Insurance and Autistic Children: Update to ARICA Is Changing the Picture for Many Families, *Healthcare News*, April 1, 2012



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