

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."



Professional & Community Activities

- Trustee, Elms College, 2016-Present
 - Chair of Buildings and Grounds Committee, 2018-Present
 - Member, Executive Committee, 2018-Present
- Certified, Limited Assistance Representation Program with the Hampden County Probate and Family Court, 2009-Present
- Member, Pope Francis Preparatory School Athletic Booster Club, 2019-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
- Member, Human Rights Committee, The Association for Community Living, 2009-2014
- Member, Women's Business Owners Alliance of Pioneer Valley, 2009-Present

Awards, Achievements & Appointments

- 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

- 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

Contact

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Practice Areas

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

Bar & Court Admission

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

Education

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

