



DONNA J. BAYS

CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW SPECIALIST*

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

JURIS DOCTORATE, 1984

Summa cum laude

Indiana University
Robert H. McKinney School of Law

BACHELOR OF ARTS, 1979

Magna cum laude

Ball State University

PRACTICE AREAS

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Parenting Time
- Property Division
- Pre-Nuptial Agreements
- Post-Nuptial Agreements
- Paternity
- Child Support
- Parenting Coordination
- Mediation
- Guardian *ad Litem*
- Arbitration

PROFILE

My experience serving corporate executives, business owners, physicians, attorneys, dentists, and others with substantial assets – or their spouses – means that I understand the division of business interests and intangible assets. My analytical mind and attention to detail are well-suited for complex cases. I am an experienced child custody litigator. My child development knowledge guides the creation of customized parenting plans to meet the best interests of each child. I work to negotiate settlements that serve the needs of each client. When settlement is not the best choice, my intense focus, trial skills and experience get each client's message across clearly to the Court. I volunteer for the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program; Paws & Think; and Kids' Voice of Indiana.

EXPERIENCE

SHAREHOLDER

Bays Family Law | 2017 - Present

- Practice is limited to domestic relations matters: divorce, paternity, child custody, child support, and appeals, as well as preparation and litigation for prenuptial and post-nuptial agreements.
- Trained Guardian *ad Litem*
- Parenting Coordinator
- Domestic Relations Mediator

OWNER

Bays Family Law | 2011 - 2016

- Represented clients in family law matters including divorce, paternity, child custody, child support, appeals, and post-nuptial and pre-nuptial agreements
- Parenting Coordinator
- Trained Guardian *ad Litem*
- Domestic Relations Mediator

SOLO PRACTITIONER

Law Office of Donna J. Bays | 2001-2011

- Represented clients in domestic relations matters and provided special education advice for parents.

PUBLICATIONS

Exclusive Juvenile Jurisdiction to Authorize Sterilization of Incompetent Minors, published in *IND. LAW REVIEW*, Volume 16, at 835 (1983).

AWARDS

2015 Gale Phelps Award
Indiana State Bar Association

AFFILIATIONS

- Indiana State Bar Association
- Boone County Bar Association
- Hamilton County Bar Association
- Hendricks County Bar Association
- Indianapolis Bar Association
- Indianapolis Law Club
- Zionsville Chamber of Commerce
- Paws & Think, Inc.

LEADERSHIP

- *District 5 Representative* (2017-2019), Indiana State Bar Association Board of Governors
- *Chair* (2011 – 2012), Indiana State Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Conference Planning Committee
- *Chair* (2003- 2005), Indiana State Bar Association Family & Juvenile Law Section

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALS

- *AV Preeminent*
Martindale-Hubbe, 1997-Present
- *Avvo* 10 Rating
- *Certified Family Law Specialist*
Indiana Family Law Certification Board, 2002-Present
- *1988 Trial Advocacy Course*
National Institute for Trial Advocacy

EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

OF COUNSEL

Buck, Berry, Landau & Breunig | 1995-2001

- Represented clients with regards to domestic relations, special education, estate planning, and construction law.

ASSOCIATE

Dutton & Overman | 1986-1995

- Litigation of disputes concerning construction contracts, commercial disputes, and non-compete clauses. Drafting of construction contracts. In later years, began to handle domestic relations matters.

ASSOCIATE

Dale, Eckerle & Eke | 1985-1986

- Securities and franchise law – primarily initial offerings and Blue Sky compliance. Land use and zoning.

RECENT SEMINARS TAUGHT

- *Advanced Family Law: Divorce: Retirement & Employment Benefits* (2017)
Indiana State Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Conference
- *Litigation: Witness Preparation* (2017)
Indiana State Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Conference
- *Family Law Update* (2016)
Boone County Bar Association
- *QDROs and Complex Retirement Plans* (2015)
National Business Institute
- *Family Law Essentials for Staff* (2015)
Indiana State Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Conference
- *Advanced Child Support* (2015)
Indiana State Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Conference
- *Starting The Process—Military Divorce from State to Finish* (2014)
National Business Institute
- *Legal Ethics Compliance in Everyday Practice—Military Divorce from State to Finish* (2014)
National Business Institute
- *My First Divorce* (2014)
Indiana State Bar Association Solo & Small Firm Conference

INTERESTS

- Hiking
- Indianapolis Colts Football
- Crosswords & Sudoku Puzzles