

MERRIE HAWLEY, ESQ.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Curriculum vitae

M. HAWLEY, LLC

Admitted in Connecticut & New York

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Graduating *Magna Cum Laude* from Quinnipiac University School of Law, Ms. Hawley was an academic invitee to the Quinnipiac Law Review, and ultimately became Lead Articles Editor. While at Quinnipiac she received academic achievement awards in Legal Research & Writing Skills II, Real Property, International Business Transactions and an achievement award for Superior Classroom Performance. Ms. Hawley's academic studies included classes in individual and business taxation. Ms. Hawley received her Bachelors of Arts degree from Fairfield University where she earned a degree in history with a minor in education.

Ms. Hawley opened her own general law practice in July of 2004 in Darien, Connecticut. Ms. Hawley practices matrimonial and family law. Her background in tax is particularly helpful to her clients when providing legal advice in a variety of areas. Ms. Hawley is licensed to practice law in Connecticut and New York.

In addition to her Matrimonial practice, Ms. Hawley provides care planning for the elderly and families with disabled children. Ms. Hawley represents clients on a pro bono basis. She works as a conservator/guardian for special needs clients through the Stamford Probate Court and has received appointments from the New Canaan Probate Court.

Ms. Hawley is admitted to the New York and Connecticut bars, the District Court of Connecticut, the Southern District of New York and the United States Tax Court.

Ms. Hawley has continued her legal education post-graduation and taken courses in a variety of areas, including matrimonial law, motion practice for family law short calendar, collaborative law, financial statement analysis, civil litigation and procedure, working as a guardian *ad litem* for children, juvenile law, custody conflict cases, supervised visitation, trust & estates administration, estate and gift taxation, special needs trusts, civil unions, real estate closings, foreclosures, foreclosure defense, fakes and forgeries: the art of deception, immigration law, including consequences for criminal defendants, conservatorships on the record one year later, new rules for expert disclosure, drafting and administering special needs trusts, civil e-file training, marital mediation, legal and ethical issues at the end of life; legal aspects of clients staying at home; Connecticut legal research and courthouse resources; lessons to be learned from litigation and mediation; A discussion about short calendar, discovery log jams and post-judgment motions; An Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion: Evolving Approaches to Domestic

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Violence in Connecticut; Legislative Changes in DUI Laws, various criminal law seminars; Special Needs Planning in the Family Law Setting; Collaborative Practice Workshop: Developing a Client Centered Process; Family Matters, GAL-AMC Fall 2010 training 30 hours total offered by State of Connecticut; Financial Fraud, How, When, Where and Why; Introduction to Family Law in Connecticut; Gamesmanship: does it have a place in civil litigation, Quinnipiac University School of Law 40 hour Mediation Certificate Program, FCBA You be the Judge, Recent Changes to Appellate Procedure.

Prior to opening her own practice, Ms. Hawley was a Litigation Associate at Diserio, Martin, O'Connor & Castiglioni, LLP and Maya & Associates, P.C. practicing law in New York and Connecticut. While at Maya & Associates, Ms. Hawley independently conducted jury trials in both federal and state courts. Ms. Hawley past experiences include employment as a tax consultant at Ernst & Young, LLP and Personnel Administrator for the radio broadcasting company formerly known as NewCity Communications, Inc.

Ms. Hawley lives in Darien, Connecticut with her husband, Marc Hawley. Ms. Hawley was an active member of the Darien Parks & Recreation Commission from 2000-2009, and the Weed Beach Building Committee from January 2007 until June 2009. She is a member of the Connecticut and the Fairfield County Bar Associations, Connecticut Collaborative Divorce Attorneys of Fairfield County, and the Darien Chamber of Commerce from 2004-2011. Ms. Hawley is a member the Professional Women's Alliance of Connecticut, PWA-CT.com formed in 2009. Ms. Hawley serves as Foreclosure Committee for the Judicial District of Stamford. Ms. Hawley conducted arbitrations on behalf of the Connecticut Better Business Bureau since her certification as an arbitrator in January of 2006. Ms. Hawley is a crew member on a sailboat that competes successfully on Long Island Sound. She and her husband enjoy kayaking on and around Holly Pond.