

ASSOCIATE

# Catherine E. Spanu

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## OVERVIEW

Catherine Spanu represents clients in divorce, alimony, child support, child custody, and removal matters, post-divorce modification actions, complaints to establishing maternity and paternity, complaints for contempt, and drafting prenuptial and postnuptial agreements. She also assists clients in guardianship, conservatorship, and other probate litigation matters.

Divorce can touch every aspect of Catherine's clients' lives. Her clients often worry about their children, their children's financial future, their own financial futures, where they're going to live, and their path forward. Catherine instills calm into often stressful situations by providing smart legal counsel and working with her clients every step of the way to ensure her clients' rights and their children's rights are protected. She takes care to deliver the truth of a situation – even if it's not exactly what her clients want to hear – as preparedness is second to none in the legal system.

## Besides work

A classically trained soprano, Catherine worked as a freelance musician prior to attending law school and continues to perform as soprano section leader at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly, Massachusetts. When she is not practicing law or singing, she can be found spending time with her husband and two children, or reading a good book.

## EXPERIENCE

- Well-versed in representing clients' interests at numerous conciliations, mediations, and arbitrations, including multiple contested arbitrations involving both divorce and post-divorce actions such as complaints for modification and contempt
- Significant experience with trials and appeals, including representing client at trial and successful appeal of matter involving deviation from the presumptive termination dates of alimony on a modification matter, resulting in a positive outcome including termination of alimony for alimony-paying client
- Highly experienced in counseling clients throughout the divorce process and in other family law and probate litigation matters, including frequent representation of clients in high-conflict custody disputes
- Frequently advise clients in matters involving complex compensation, including equity compensation in various forms, stock options, and variable bonuses, as well as matters involving closely held, startup, and family businesses
- Substantial involvement in both divorce and fiduciary litigation matters with trust interests, inherited assets and gifts, including representing spouses holding such assets and spouses seeking division of such assets in divorce, both with and without prenuptial or postnuptial agreements

- Accomplished and highly knowledgeable in drafting agreements of all types, such as separation agreements, prenuptial agreements and postnuptial agreements, as well as multiple matters involving disputed validity of agreements

## AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Boston Bar Association
- Member, Massachusetts Bar Association
- Member, Middlesex Bar Association
- Member, Women's Bar Association

## HONORS

- Top 10 Reader's Choice Family Law Author, *JD Supra* (2023-2024)
- *Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch*, Family Law (2021-2025)
- Massachusetts *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars list (2018, 2021-2023)

## ARTICLES & TALKS

### TALKS

- "Reframing Parentage: An Overview of Changes Coming to G. L. c. 209C," Massachusetts Bar Association, 2024
- Workshop on Unconventional Financial Assets, Mass Council for Family Mediators, 2024
- Family Law Year in Review 2023, Social Law Library, 2024

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- Massachusetts
- Ontario

## EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Toronto
- M.A., University of Toronto
- B.A., Boston University