

KATHRYN (KATY) GRAVES

Attorney, Shareholder

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“When I meet with someone for the first time, they are on edge and their life is unraveling. It’s never going to be the same. My role is to calmly help them understand and successfully navigate the process, and to move forward with their lives.”

ABOUT ME

The law can seem cold and impersonal, but in every family law case, hearts are involved.

I form trusted relationships with my clients—spouses, parents, and grandparents—to ensure you feel important and respected. I actively listen to achieve your goals and help you through this difficult time. As a purposeful advocate, I can assure that you will have a voice during negotiations or in court.

There is no substitute for experience, and as a seasoned family law attorney, I bring over 30 years with a focus on:

- alternative dispute resolution (ADR)
- child support
- custody
- domestic abuse and harassment proceedings
- post-decree disputes
- property division and complex valuation
- spousal maintenance
- third-party custody

I advocate using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), which is used in most family law cases. Clients typically prefer to use ADR to resolve disputes rather than having a judge decide their lives. I employ mediation in most cases, especially divorce. Additionally, I have vast experience with child custody and parenting time issues, helping clients amicably figure out a schedule that works best for their family.

It’s rewarding making a meaningful difference in people’s lives. My fundamental principle is summed up in this lyric from The Beatles: “And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make.”

ASSOCIATIONS

PROFESSIONAL

- Minnesota State Bar Association, Family Law Section
- Hennepin County Bar Association, Family Law Section
- Financial Early Neutral Evaluator for Hennepin, Ramsey, and Dakota Counties
- Moderated Settlement Conferences in Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Carver and Washington Counties (on the roster)
- Adult Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) for Hennepin and Ramsey County

COMMUNITY

- Public Board Member, Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, 2014–Present; Vice Chair, 2018-2020; Complaint Panel Member, 2018-Present; Chair, 2020
- Mentor, University of St. Thomas School of Law Mentor Externship Program, 2014–Present
- Volunteer Lawyer, Hennepin County, “Limited Scope” attorney program, 2009–Present
- Volunteer Lawyer, Volunteer Lawyer’s Network, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1993–Present
- Volunteer Lawyer, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1985–Present

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

ARTICLES

- Featured in “Minnesota families struggle with shared custody in the pandemic,” Star Tribune, April 2020
- Author, “Managing Co-Parenting Time Schedules During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Clarification of What’s Allowed Under the Just Released Minnesota Executive Order 20-20,” Henson Efron Thought Leadership, March 2020
- Author, “Divide and Conquer,” Best Lawyer “Women in Law” Business Edition magazine, spring 2019
- Author, “Family Matters,” Best Lawyer Business Edition magazine, summer 2016
- Featured in “Where Intellect and Civility are Key,” Attorney at Law Magazine–Women in Law Special Issue, November 2014
- Co-Author, “Intricacies of Drafting Qualified Domestic Relations Orders,” Minnesota Lawyer, November 2014
- Co-Author, “Revocation of Beneficiary Designations Upon Divorce,” Minnesota Lawyer, February 2014

PRESENTATIONS

- “Four-Way Settlement Conferences,” Minnesota Chapter AAML Divorce Camp, September 27, 2013
- “Will I Be Okay?,” Minnesota Chapter AAML Divorce Day Camp, May 10, 2013 (presented with Carin Thomas, CIMC, FVP)

SERVICES

Family Law

CREDENTIALS

EDUCATION

- J.D., cum laude, University of Minnesota Law School, 1984
- B.S., Political Science, University of Minnesota, 1980

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Minnesota
- Supreme Court of Minnesota
- United States District Court for the District of Minnesota

CERTIFICATIONS

- Qualified Neutral under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice

HONORS

- Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® 2015–2021: Family Law, Family Law Mediation
- Selected to Minnesota Super Lawyers®, 2013–2020
- Featured in Minnesota Monthly Magazine as The Best Lawyers in America® 2019
- North Star Lawyer, Minnesota State Bar Association, commitment to pro bono service, 2013–2019
- Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Member of Managers, 2009–Present
- Public Member, Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, appointed by Governor Mark Dayton, June 2014
- Member, Legal Assistance to the Disadvantaged Committee of the Minnesota State Bar Association, 1994–1997

KATHRYN A. GRAVES

2021

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15 YEARS

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2019 BEST LAWYERS



HENSON EFRON

- "Family Law From A-Z," National Business Institute, February 1, 2012 and February 13, 2013
- "Zealous Advocacy and The Ethics of Family Law," Olmstead County Family Law Section, October 18, 2012
- "What Family Court Judges Want You to Know," National Business Institute, April 20, 2012
- "Child Support and the Psychology of Support," AAML Divorce Camp, September 2012 (presented with Kirsten Lysne, Ph.D., L.P.)
- "Child Evaluation in Custody and Support Litigation," National Business Institute, March 2011
- "Preventing Critical Financial Mistakes During Divorces," National Business Institute, December 5, 2008
- "A Roadmap Through Divorce Proceedings," National Business Institute, June 10, 2008
- "Successful Financial Settlements for Your Divorce Client," National Business Institute, June 15, 2007
- "Crucial Discovery Techniques in Minnesota Dissolution Cases," National Business Institute, January 2005
- "Equitable Distributions in Divorce Settlements in Minnesota, Valuation, Tax and Other Issues," National Business Institute, June 2005
- "The Impact of Bankruptcy on Dissolution of Marriage in Minnesota," National Business Institute, March 2003 and April 2004
- "Handling Minnesota Divorce Cases from Start to Finish," National Business Institute, December 2003