

# Domestic Relations

## ATTORNEYS

Michelle A. Bieber  
Lynn E. Hawkins  
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James W. Korman  
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Theresa M. Mihalik  
Jill C. Seiferth

## RELATED PRACTICES

Alternative Dispute  
Resolution  
Estate Planning,  
Administration & Wealth  
Transfer  
Taxation



Divorce, child custody, support, marriage and adoption are all integral parts of the Bean, Kinney & Korman domestic relations practice.

Our experience and familiarity with these issues that most intensely affect the lives of our clients makes us exceptionally responsive to both their emotional and legal needs. We serve clients throughout Maryland, D.C. and Virginia, including those in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Reston, McLean and the surrounding areas.

### Separation and Divorce

The breakup of a marriage is uniquely stressful, with emotion coloring choices at a time when important legal rights are at stake. Our attorneys, who have several decades (not just collectively, but

for some, individually) of experience in representing clients in Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia, can help guide you through this most difficult process.

We are courtroom veterans, who know the value and benefit of negotiation and mediation, providing objective counsel to our clients through separation and divorce actions of every nature, from uncontested through the most bitterly litigated. We have achieved peer recognition in numerous local and national publications including Washingtonian magazine and The Washington Post. We are also included in ratings services, such as Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers, as outstanding family law advocates.

### **Personal Approach**

First of all, we listen. The dissolution of a marriage is difficult, emotional, stressful and can be extraordinarily complicated, but above all, it is acutely personal – we want to understand your position, your needs and your objectives. And our lawyers want to help you understand your rights and your options. We will not compromise our ethical obligations as professionals, but our development of strategies and choices of action will be responsive to your direction – this is your life and future. We don't lose sight of that.

There are many strategies that can be pursued to accomplish your objectives – direct negotiation, alternative resolution processes, such as mediation or neutral case evaluation , collaborative law or, as a last resort, contested litigation.

We cannot make the emotional pain of a divorce go away. We can, and do, employ our skills, experience and judgment to help guide clients through the process. We protect their interests with all of the resources at our disposal and work with them to achieve a fresh start on which to build their future.

### **Child Custody and Support**

Children are often the unfortunate casualties in a divorce. Our attorneys are sensitive to the intense emotions that are part of every contested custody matter. We provide understanding guidance on bringing in professional counseling assistance when that is constructive and appropriate. Our depth of experience litigating

custody matters gives us an invaluable knowledge base to draw upon in advising our clients who face these challenges.

### **Division of Property**

Apart from the knowledge that comes from experience in litigating property division, our domestic relations attorneys have immediate access within the firm to other practices focusing on the business , real estate , tax issues and estate planning that are frequently involved in divorces (which can include the division of the value of a spousal-owned business enterprise).

An important, and often poorly understood, aspect of property division is the handling of retirement benefits of each spouse. With the large federal workforce in our region, there is an additional need for specific knowledge about how federal benefits are handled in a divorce. These benefits require thorough analysis, have significant potential tax consequences, and require technically-qualified treatment in final divorce decrees. We make that knowledge available to you.

### **Pre- and Post-Nuptial Agreements**

There are times and circumstances, whether before or after marriage, when a couple may wish to have an agreement settling how their assets will be divided, or not, if they later divorce. Although the parties may seem to be in complete agreement at the time, things can change when the marriage later fails. We are skilled in the preparation of agreements protective of our clients' interests and designed to withstand any later challenge.

### **Collaborative Law**

For couples seeking to end their marriage cooperatively, collaborative law is a means of resolving divorce issues without adversarial litigation. Instead, the parties sign an agreement binding them to the process and disqualifying their respective attorneys from representing them in any future domestic relations litigation. They are then brought together with their attorneys and any other professionals who may be necessary to address the matters involved, with the goal of reaching a negotiated resolution of those issues not previously agreed upon. Our attorneys are skilled in this process and are happy to discuss how collaborative law could work for you.

## **Adoption**

To the adoptive parent or parents, adoption is usually a happier occasion for our engagement as counsel. Sometimes there are difficulties presented by adoption procedures, and unfortunate times when the process is challenged by birth parents or others. We have the sensitivity, knowledge and skills to guide clients through the process while making it understandable.

## **PUBLISHED ARTICLES**

How I Became an Award-Winning Sculptor  
*Family Lawyer Magazine*, January 5, 2021

Business Valuation in the Time of the Plague  
*Virginia Lawyers Weekly*, May 11, 2020

I Want to Get Divorced, but I Can't Get a Court Date...Now What?  
April 24, 2020

ER Doctor's Temporary Loss of Custody and a Possible Path Forward  
April 20, 2020

Coronavirus and Custody: Implications of Stay at Home Orders  
April 20, 2020

COVID-19: I Lost My Job and/or am Furloughed. Can I stop paying child support while I am unemployed?  
April 1, 2020

COVID-19: Daycare is Closed. Does My Child Support Obligation Change?  
April 1, 2020

Divorce Toolkit – A Guide to Separation and Divorce in Virginia  
March 31, 2020

Coronavirus and Custody: What You Need to Know During the Crisis  
March 29, 2020

Do You Have a Pre-Nuptial Agreement that Has a Provision for Alimony?  
March 2, 2018

Children and Taxes: De-Mystifying Five Key Tax Issues Impacting Divorcing Parents  
*Virginia Family Law Quarterly*, April 12, 2016

The Seven Things You Wish You Knew At the Beginning of Your Divorce  
*BKK Family Law Newsletter*, October 7, 2015

Family Law Attorney and Counsellor at Law  
*BKK Family Law Newsletter*, April 29, 2015

Protective Orders in Virginia  
*BKK Family Law Newsletter*, October 8, 2014

New Child Support Guidelines under Virginia Code Section 20-108.2: What do They Mean for You?  
*BKK Family Law Newsletter*, May 1, 2014

Moving Out of the Marital Home – Should You Stay or Should You Go?  
*BKK Family Law Newsletter*, May 1, 2014

What Are My Options in a Divorce Besides Going to Court?  
October 21, 2013

Divorce, Child Support and Alimony  
October 16, 2013

Divorce and the Professional: Division of Property and Business Interests  
August 7, 2013

When You Are Divorced, What Happens to Child Custody if a Parent Moves?  
June 11, 2013

How Is Child Custody Determined?  
May 3, 2013

Emergency Points if a Divorce is Impending: Financial Accounts

and Personal Property  
March 27, 2013

Separated But Not Divorced: Don't Wait to Update Your Estate Plan  
February 1, 2013

Marriage, Divorce and Your Business  
September 16, 2012

Estate Planning and Divorce: What to Consider When You're Separating or Divorced  
May 1, 2012

Adultery and the Fifth Amendment  
*The Matrimonial Strategist*, April 1, 2012

The Drafting of Property Settlement Agreements: DeMayo v. DeMayo – A Cautionary Tale  
*The Fee Simple*, May 1, 2011

## **NEWS**

Bean, Kinney & Korman Named a 2022 “Best Law Firm” for Eleventh Consecutive Year  
Thursday November 4, 2021

D. Justin Roberts and Taylor N. Klauza Join Bean, Kinney & Korman  
Tuesday November 2, 2021

Bean, Kinney & Korman Named a 2021 “Best Law Firm” for Tenth Consecutive Year  
Thursday November 5, 2020

Emily R. Nerino Joins Bean, Kinney & Korman  
Monday September 23, 2019

Michelle A. Bieber Joins Bean, Kinney & Korman  
Friday December 14, 2018

Jill C. Seiferth Joins Bean, Kinney & Korman  
Tuesday November 20, 2018

Jamie J. Sack was quoted in "Is Your Spouse Hiding Money From You?"  
*Forbes*, Friday September 22, 2017

When power couples melt down  
*Politico*, Friday May 9, 2014

Dissecting the Stigma of Family Law: An Interview with Jim Korman  
*LAWS.com*, Tuesday April 30, 2013

Bean, Kinney & Korman Named a Best Law Firm by U.S. News Media Group and Best Lawyers in America  
Thursday November 1, 2012

James Korman of Bean, Kinney & Korman recognized by Best Lawyers as Lawyer of the Year in Family Law  
Friday October 21, 2011

Bean, Kinney & Korman Represents Winning Defendant DeMayo in a Case Involving A Complicated Property Settlement Agreement  
Monday April 4, 2011

Bean, Kinney & Korman Recognized as First-Tier Law Firm For Family Law and Family Law Mediation  
Monday September 27, 2010

## **SEMINARS & EVENTS**

Done with Divorce Workshop  
Online, Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Second Saturday Divorce Webinar  
Online, Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Done with Divorce Seminar  
Online, Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Second Saturday Divorce Workshop  
Online, Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Dividing and Valuing Complex Assets in Divorce  
Webinar - 1:00 - 2:30 pm EST, Wednesday, August 7, 2019

Second Saturday – Arlington/Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Navy League Building, 1st Floor, Arlington, Virginia, Saturday,  
October 10, 2015

Second Saturday – Arlington/Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Navy League Building, 1st Floor, Arlington, Virginia, Saturday,  
March 14, 2015

Second Saturday – Arlington: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Navy League Building, 1st Floor, Arlington, Virginia, Saturday,  
January 10, 2015

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday,  
September 13, 2014

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday,  
August 9, 2014

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday, July  
12, 2014

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday, June  
14, 2014

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday, May  
10, 2014

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday, April  
12, 2014

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Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday,  
March 8, 2014

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday,  
February 8, 2014



Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Sunday,  
January 12, 2014

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December 14, 2013

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Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday,  
February 11, 2012

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Thursday,  
February 9, 2012

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday,  
January 14, 2012

Second Saturday – Fairfax: Free Seminar on Divorce  
Fair Oaks Courtyard Marriott in Fairfax, Virginia, Saturday,  
November 12, 2011