

PAULA J. SCHAEFER

Partner since 1996
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Paula J. Schaefer is a partner in the law firm of Ruppert & Schaefer P.C., where she practices almost exclusively in the area of family law. Paula is a Certified Family Law Specialist, as certified by the Family Law Certification Board. Prior to her admission to the practice of law in 1994, Ms. Schaefer was employed for nearly 7 years as a paralegal and law clerk.

She received her Juris Doctorate from the Indiana University Law School - Indianapolis and has a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University in Legal Administration. In addition to her family law practice, Paula conducts the family law review section for the Indianapolis Bar Association bar review course twice a year for law school graduates preparing to sit for the bar exam. She is trained as a collaborative law professional and is able to handle family law matters using the collaborative method. Paula is also a trained domestic relations mediator and mediates divorce and post-decree cases. Ms. Schaefer is a member of the Indianapolis and Indiana Bar Associations.

Year Joined Firm

1996

Areas of Practice

99% Family Law
1% Wills and Estate Planning

Litigation Percentage

100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

Certified Legal Specialties

Family Law Mediation Certification, 1998
Certified Family Law Specialist by the Family Law Certification Board
Collaborative Law Professional

Bar Admissions

Indiana, 1994
U.S. District Court Southern District of Indiana, 1994

Education

Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis, Indiana
J.D. - 1994
Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
B.S. - 1991
Major: Legal Administration
Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana
A.S. - 1989
Major: Paralegal/Legal Assistant

Published Works

Survey of Indiana Family Law in 1995, Indiana Law Review, Vol. 29, No. 4, 1996
Survey of Indiana Family Law in 1996, Indiana Law Review, Vol. 30, No. 4, 1997

Representative Cases

Hubbard v. Hubbard, 690 N.E.2d 1219 (Ind. App. 1998)

Classes/Seminars

Indiana Bar Review - Family Law, Indianapolis Bar Association, 2000 - Present
Lecturer, How to Handle Your First Divorce, IBA Young Lawyer's Division, 2000
Lecturer, PEC Bar Review, Indiana Family Law, 1998 - 1999
Lecturer, Rainmaking Seminar, IBA Young Lawyer's Division, 1998

Honors and Awards

Dr. John Morton-Finney Excellence in Legal Education Award, 2002
President's Award from Indianapolis Bar Association, 2000
Included in Indiana Super Lawyers, 2007 - Present
Top 25 Women Indiana Super Lawyers, 2010 - 2011

Professional Associations and Memberships

Indiana State Bar Association, 1994 - Present
Indianapolis Bar Association, 1994 - Present
Indiana State Bar Association, Family Law Section
Indianapolis Bar Association, Family Law Section
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Member

Past Employment Positions

Miroff, Cross, Ruppert & Klineman, Associate to Michael G. Ruppert, Of Counsel, 1993 - 1996
Price & Barker, Law Clerk, 1992 - 1993
Beasley, Gilkison, Retherford, Buckles & Clark, Paralegal and Student Clerk, 1989 - 1991
Gary D. Hohl, Attorney at Law, Paralegal, 1989