

LAURA R. BAKER, ESQUIRE
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Experienced attorney with proven experience in the practice of family law. Skilled in matters involving custody, divorce and support. Excels in the identification of the core points in dispute and applies law to fact. Uses insightful methods to resolve matters in the best interests of the client and children. Known for fostering strong, respectful relationships with clients, opposing counsel, court personnel and the Bench.

BAR ADMISSION: 2002 Pennsylvania

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Sole Practitioner **April 2020-Present**
The Law Office of Laura R. Baker, West Chester, PA

- Continued practice of family law as a sole practitioner.

Associate Attorney **2011-March 2020**
Law Offices of David M. Melchiorre, LLC, West Chester, PA

- Counseled and advised new and existing clients for optimal resolution
- Developed initial case strategies
- Drafted court pleadings, written discovery, motions and briefs.
- Negotiated settlements with opposing counsel and *pro se* parties
- Prepared cases and clients for appearance at trials, hearings, custody conciliations, support conferences, and equitable distribution settlement conferences
- Represented clients at trials, hearings, custody conciliations, support conferences, and equitable distribution settlement conferences
- Provided pro bono legal services through the Access to Justice program of the Chester County Bar Association.

Associate Attorney **2003-2011**
Donze and Donze, Kennett Square, PA

- Provided effective and successful disposition of family law cases.

Counsel & Executive Editor **2000-2003**
SocraticLaw.com, Wilmington, DE

- Supported the development of an online legal publishing business.
- Networked and provided communication services to technology and marketing consultants.
- Edited legal materials for publication.
- Represented the company information at marketing, fundraising and community engagement events.

Paralegal 1999-2000
McCarter & English, L.L.P., Wilmington, DE

- Managed personal injury/insurance defense cases for arbitrations and trials.

Paralegal 1992-1999; 1990-1991
Prickett, Jones, Elliott, Kristol & Schnee, Wilmington, DE

- Managed personal injury, medical malpractice and insurance defense cases.
- Prepared written pleadings and discovery.
- Conducted legal research.
- Interviewed clients and witnesses.
- Communicated information to supervising attorneys and/or clients.
- Obtained, examined and summarized medical and factual records.
- Assisted insurance adjusters with case evaluations.

Paralegal 1991
Rushton, Stakely, Johnston and Garrett, Montgomery, AL

- Prepared personal injury cases for arbitrations and trials in areas of personal injury, medical malpractice and insurance defense.

Paralegal 1989-1990
Legal Assist of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

- Assigned to temporary positions at several law firms and large corporations involved in complex litigation and toxic tort cases.

EDUCATION:

Juris Doctor, Widener University School of Law 2000

- *Certified Legal Intern*, Delaware Civil Clinic
- *Intensive Trial Advocacy Program*

Paralegal Certificate, The Philadelphia Institute for Paralegal Training 1989

Bachelor of Arts, The Pennsylvania State University College 1988

MEMBERSHIPS:

Chester County Bar Association, West Chester, PA

Daughters of the American Revolution, Octorara Chapter

PAWS for People (Pet-Assisted Volunteer Visitation Services)