



## The Quattro Firm About Town

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## Welcome to The Quattro Firm

At the Quattro firm, we believe in viewing our client as a whole person as opposed to just a set of legal issues. We believe that in order to be a successful advocate, we must be able to understand the full needs of our clients, not just the legal needs. By using this full understanding, we advocate with compassion.

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## Meet The Quattro Firm



**Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi** is the founding member of the Quattro Firm. She is a 2008 Southern Methodist University Law School graduate and a 2004 Wake Forest University Graduate. Nicole is a licensed Texas attorney where her practice involved mostly civil and commercial litigation. Nicole has been licensed in Florida since 2014 and has centered most of her practice on domestic relations law.

Nicole has spent a lot of time volunteering in her legal career whether it be through pro bono cases or through assisting at the Hurricane Katrina Relief Clinic in law school. Nicole believes in viewing the client as a whole person and not just a specific legal issue and therefore has, thus far, taken every case that the firm can handle, regardless of inability to pay. She is a passionate and compassionate attorney who looks forward to working with people across the spectrum of life with all of their legal needs.



**Robert J. Fraxedas** specializes in Estate and Tax Planning, as well as Estate Administration and Litigation. He is a 2015 University of Miami graduate (LL.M. – Estate Planning) and a 2005 University of Florida graduate (J.D.). Robert has been licensed in Florida since 2006, and currently lives in Boca Raton.

Robert regularly presents seminars on estate planning and probate matters throughout the state of Florida. A former president of Citrus Civitan, Robert believes in donating time and hands-on effort to the less fortunate. He has organized fundraising events for people with congenital disabilities, mentors underprivileged school-age children, and volunteers at homeless shelters. He strongly believes in providing all clients the best legal counsel possible, from highly compensated executives to impoverished individuals.



**Denise Desmond** is a seasoned family law and appellate attorney, as well as a certified family mediator. She received her juris doctorate from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law in 1990 and has practiced predominately family law for the majority of her career. Denise is a member of the Florida Bar and an inactive member of the California Bar. She has been an AV rated attorney with Martindale-Hubbell for over 15 years. She was named one of America's Most Outstanding Lawyers in 2004, and named as a top legal leader in the family law section of the Wall Street Journal's Legal Leaders South Florida Publication in 2012 and 2015. In addition, she appeared on Court TV as co-counsel in a high profile watercraft personal injury litigation case. In law school she received the Book Award in Legal Drafting (highest grade in the class) and was named to Who's Who among American Law Students.

Denise has herself been divorced and understands both the legal and emotional difficulties involved in the process. Her goal is to provide her clients with quality legal representation and emotional support so that their experience with the litigation/mediation process is not so overwhelming.



**Melanie Bruchet** is a 2012 graduate of Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Georgia, where she received her J.D. and a Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research, and Drafting from Mercer's top rated legal writing program. Melanie served on the Board of Directors for the Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia as well as completed internships at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

Melanie has presented nationally on the subjects of human trafficking and LGBT youth in the juvenile court system. She also co-authored an amicus brief to the Georgia Supreme Court on the issue of post-separation custodial rights and the emotional effect on children of divorced parents. Melanie maintains an active bar license in Georgia and is sworn in to both the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court. A South Florida native, she currently lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

[Read more about The Quattro Firm at www.thequattrofirm.com](http://www.thequattrofirm.com)

## Meet The Quattro Firm



**Maria Kontos** obtained her Bachelor of Arts from Florida Atlantic University in 1995. Ms. Kontos has over 16 years of experience working on complex and voluminous civil, criminal and family law cases which involve organizing thousands of documents, discovery and file organization.

Ms. Kontos is intricately involved in the defense of all of the firm's clients' cases and takes great pride in assisting and working toward a favorable outcome in each case.



**Sarah Kontos** has been working professionally in accounting since 2005. Her experience includes conducting, supervising, and reviewing annual audits, bookkeeping and payroll, and compilations and examinations of the financial records of a wide range of businesses including non-profits, law firms, restaurants, 401(k) plans, and other service industries.

Sarah attended Florida Atlantic University earning her degree in Mathematics and attending an additional two years of studies in Accounting and Business Administration. She is originally from West Palm Beach, FL. She is a supporting member of Compass Lake Worth, United Way and Farm Sanctuary, and she volunteers at various fundraising events for local charities.



**Jennifer Mondone** is the office manager of the Quattro Firm. Jennifer grew up in upstate New York. She is a graduate of the Ohio State University where she studied financial management and business administration. Since graduating she's lived in North Carolina and settled in Florida for the last 13 years. This is her first job at a law firm but has previously dabbled in the insurance and mortgage industry, most recently in management for restaurants, from start ups to corporate chains and sales.

Jennifer also assisted in co-creating 2 humans which for the last 6 years has been her main focus and accomplishment. She enjoys spending her time with the family, paddle boarding, volunteering at the kids school, movie nights and anything involving wine or mimosas.



**Barbara J. Wolfe** is of counsel at the Quattro Firm. With over 30 years as an experienced attorney, Barbara is an asset to any client and any case. Barbara is also a certified mediation in family law.

Read more about The Quattro Firm at [www.thequattrofirm.com](http://www.thequattrofirm.com)

## The Quattro Firm About Town



Nicole's daughter, Sabrina and Angie McNamara have a "working lunch" at Mar-a-lago.

### + Our Practice Areas

- Family Law & Domestic Relations
  - Marital Contracts
  - Civil Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate Matters
- Business Formation
- Contract Drafting & Review
- Family Law Mediation
- General Litigation
- LGBT Issues & Custody
- Estate Planning
- Wills & Trusts
- Probate Litigation
- Probate Administration



Nicole Quattrocchi and Rob Fraxedas prepare for a deposition.

## The Quattro Firm About Town

Stevie Quattrocchi learns the ropes of running a law firm



Nicole attends an outing to benefit the Palm Beach Zoo with Macaire and Jason Pritt

## March Promotions:

**We are celebrating community helpers such as doctors, lawyers, fire-fighters, policemen and women, nurses and any other member of law enforcement. We are offering 15% off all legal work done for anyone who is a community helper.**

**We are also celebrating Dr. Seuss this month in honor of his birthday. Participate in our trivia and you could win a prize daily throughout the month of March.**



The Quattro Firm happily support Red Sneakers for Oakley by showing their support in red sneakers at Rosarian Academy's Family Fun Night in honor of Oakley Debbs.

Nicole's son, Stevie celebrates International Week with a customized Italian project



## Estate Planning in South Florida: the Domicile

By Robert J. Fraxedas

Estate Planning in South Florida: Considering the Matter of Domicile

*noun* do mi 'cile \ 'dä-mə-, sī(-ə)l, 'dō-; 'dä-mə-sil\

**1:** a dwelling place : place of residence : home

**2a:** a person's fixed, permanent, and principal home for legal purposes

**2b:** residence

For most folks, there is no question about where they are domiciled. They own or lease a residence, that is where they live, and there is nothing left to discuss.

Florida is different, particularly south Florida. Many Floridians live and work here all their lives, but some people, often called “snowbirds”, choose to live in Florida for part of the year. Consider: Florida has favorable weather which attracts retirees from all over the country; it is a real estate and state income tax haven; a major destination for immigration and tourism, and an important hub for international business and banking. In other words, not everyone wants to spend all their time in Florida, but many wealthier individuals choose to wait out the winters here, or at least have the option to do so. Others are keen on purchasing an expensive property here to shore up assets under the constitutional protection of Florida Homestead, but would prefer not to spend more time in Florida than they have to.

Why do we care? Domicile is important because it determines in which court probate proceedings, if necessary, will take place. Florida Statute 733.101 provides that venue for probate proceedings shall be in the county where the decedent was domiciled. If the decedent had no domicile in Florida, probate proceedings may be initiated in any county where the decedent's property is located. Finally, if the decedent had no domicile in Florida and did not possess property in Florida, then probate proceedings may be initiated in any county where any debtor of the decedent resides. Put more simply, venue for probate can be where the decedent lived prior to death, or where he held assets, or where someone who owed him money lives.

But what does “domicile” mean exactly?

To see what the Florida Legislature means by “domicile”, we must flip to Florida Statute 222.17, which states that domicile exists where a person “maintains a place of abode” in the county which he or

**" I could not, at any age, be content to take my place by the fireside and simply look on. Life was meant to be lived. Curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life."**

**—Eleanor Roosevelt**

## Estate Planning in South Florida: the Domicile

she “resides in” and “recognizes and intends to maintain as his or her permanent home”. This is obviously a rather subjective test, and it hinges largely on the activities and intention of the would-be domiciliary. An individual’s filing of sworn statements, such as a declaration of domicile or declaration of homestead are indicative, but not conclusive evidence of domicile (it is no secret that Florida is a rather tax-friendly state, and many people have tried to take advantage of that fact). Rather, the most reliable evidence of domiciliary intention in the eyes of Florida courts is the number of “contacts” an individual has in a jurisdiction. Any type of contact is relevant: business contacts, social contacts, active membership in local clubs, schools, places of worship, and political groups, to name a few. The point is that the best evidence of an individual’s primary residence and domiciliary intent can almost always be gleaned by examining and weighing the extent of their community involvement.

For additional guidance on the matter of domicile, it is helpful to look at Florida Statute 196.015, which provides a non-exhaustive list of factors. This statute is primarily intended to help property appraisers determine permanent residency, but it is also applicable to the question of domicile. The list includes the following factors:

- Formal declaration of residency (Declaration of Domicile);
- Designated mailing address;
- Informal statements regarding residency;
- Place of employment;
- Termination of previous residency in another state or country;
- Registration to vote in Florida;
- A Florida driver’s license;
- Florida tags on all vehicles;
- Using a Florida address on federal income tax forms; and/or
- Previously filed Florida intangible tax returns.

If you want to be sure that your estate will be handled by the state you expect, discuss these matters with your trusted estate planning advisor at the Quattro Firm right away!

## A Note From The Quattro Firm

We appreciate all of your support and look forward to helping you in any way possible.

Thank you.



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## The Quattro Firm

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