



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, Esq. 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.



Melanie Bruchet, Esq. 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.



Monique L'Italien, Esq. is a civil and commercial litigator and appellate attorney who has practiced in Florida since 2001. She has broad experience at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state court. Her practice areas include bankruptcy, contract disputes, family law, real property and some criminal. Prior to entering private practice, Ms. L'Italien was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Florida, handling criminal appeals and civil litigation matters.

Ms. L'Italien earned her B.A., cum laude, from Trinity College in Washington D.C and her J.D. from Vermont Law School. Ms. L'Italien enjoys traveling, running, spending time with her animals including her horse Dancer, an off track thoroughbred rescue, and doing other animal welfare work.



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.

Read more about The Quattro Firm at 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.



Shavonne M. Pierre is a new member of the Quattro Firm. She is a graduate of South University where she studied and received her Bachelor Degree in Legal Studies. She has over 18 years experience in the legal field working for several prestigious firms in the Palm Beach County area. Her previous work experience has been in Insurance Defense, Civil Litigation, Securities & Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Worker's Compensation, Family Law and Personal Injury. Shavonne has 4 children that are her main focus as well as her budding legal career.

Read more about The Quattro Firm at www.thequattrofirm.com

The Quattro Firm About Town



Left: Nicole poses with other volunteer mothers at the Rosarian Academy's Welcome Social



Above: Maria and Sarah Kontos enjoy the Fall weather up North.

+ Our Practice Areas

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



October brings our favorite season and with it, a love for Halloween antics, "Mr. Skittles" and other decorative silly promotions related to Halloween.

We celebrated three birthdays in September and October, Jennifer Mondone, Carol Goldberg and Shavonne Pierre.

We also celebrated Boss' Day with some delicious cupcakes gifted to the Quattro Firm as well Gary Roberts & Associates, Roy Jordan and Curtis LeBlanc who are all situated in suite 300.



The Quattro Firm About Town



Left: Melanie Bruchet raced in the Philadelphia Rock 'n' Roll Remix Challenge, which was a 5K on the first day and a half marathon on the second day.



Above and Below: The Quattro Firm happily sponsored Jennifer Quattrocchi in her endeavor to climb down the edge of an eight story building to raise money through the Nascar Foundation and Over the Edge Charlotte. This campaign raised money for healthcare and education services for children in the Charlotte area.

Winter Promotion:

While the Florida heat subsides, we invite our followers on social media to share their favorite fall or winter photographs and to tag #thequattrofirm. We will give a 10% discount off of flat-rate fees to any participants.

As always, please follow us on social media. If you'd like to submit a review either on Facebook or through our website, please get in touch with us.



Adopting Your Stepchild: Should You?

By Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi



A stepparent adoption is not appropriate in every case of a parent re-marrying. While viral videos and recent social media have romanticized the idea with stepparents essentially proposing to step children, this is not often the reality. Each family should carefully consider the long and short term goals, benefits and liabilities with regard to a stepparent adoption before any jewelry is purchased or paperwork is filed.

In any given family, a stepparent adoption can have its advantages. If a natural parent is deceased, a stepparent adoption can seem like the next natural step. It may even seem simple. Sometimes, a stepparent

adoption can be a simple process much like a name change. However, this is not always the case.

If a natural parent is deceased and a stepparent adoption is what the family would like to pursue, the stepparent adoption can provide stability for the child in the event that something happens to the stepparent's spouse as the child's only living parent. If a child has only one living parent and a stepparent adoption has not occurred and the sole living parent then passes away, the child may not be able to attend the same schools or receive the same medical care because the child is deemed as not having a surviving parent.



**"In the future, there will be no female leaders.
There will just be leaders."**

—Sheryl Sandberg

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Other advantages are also the tax advantage for the purpose of adding a dependent and it can be viewed as unifying the family. However, if a child's other parent, the parent not married to the stepparent, is alive, a stepparent adoption may not be the right thing to unify the family but may be viewed as dividing it. A natural parent may not want to terminate his/her rights to his/her child, regardless of whether or not he/she has a relationship with the child.

If a child has two surviving parents, a stepparent adoption may not be appropriate. In Florida, a child may only have two legal parents. In order to have a stepparent adoption where the child has two surviving parents, a petition to terminate the rights of the other parent must be filed. In some cases, it may be possible to secure consent from a parent who has not been involved in the life of his/her child or who otherwise does not want to continue the parent-child relationship.



biological parent should move to terminate the rights of the parent involuntarily. It will need to proceed through litigation and the parent should be prepared to present his/her case before any stepparent adoption can occur.

If consent is not an option, then the stepparent and his/her spouse is faced with a contested proceeding. If the non-consenting parent is causing harm to the child, has abandoned the child, has been incarcerated for a long period of time throughout the child's lifetime or otherwise meets the statutory requirements for a termination, then the other



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If the non-consenting parent is absent and cannot be found, then the parent must follow the appropriate steps in order to conduct a diligent search in accordance with Florida law and present same to the Court. It will still be up for judicial determination as to whether or not the termination will be granted without the involvement of the non-consenting parent. It's not impossible, but it may not be easy.

Aside from all of the difficulties related to litigation, before any paperwork is prepared, a stepparent should consider what the adoption of

his/her stepchild means. The stepparent will now be fully legally responsible for this child regardless of whether or not he/she continues to be married to the biological parent and this will additionally mean that the child will inherit from the stepparent. After the adoption, the law deems the child to be the child of the stepparent and if there is a divorce, the stepparent could be responsible for paying child support for the child, will be legally required to support the child financially and physically until the child has at least



reached the age of majority, and could eventually make life and death decisions on behalf of the stepparent should he/she become incapacitated and there is no surviving spouse.

Whether or not to adopt a stepchild is a personal decision. It's also a decision not to be taken lightly and one should consider all the possible ramifications. An attorney can provide assistance in this process to help the family decide whether or not a stepparent adoption is the right decision for his/her family. To discuss your options, please contact the Quattro Firm for more information.



A Note From The Quattro Firm

As the Florida heat subsides, we hope that you are planning for the holidays and hope that we may assist you with any legal needs for you and your families.

Thank you.



The Quattro Firm

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