



MEET JULIE

“My goal is to use my litigation, mediation, and collaborative law experience to find an outcome that fits the needs of the client.”
 — Julie R. Colton, Partner

Pittsburgh Family Law Attorney

Julie focuses her practice on family law matters including divorce, child custody, support, asset division, prenuptial agreements, and international custody. Julie also has experience in family law mediation and collaborative law in the Pittsburgh area.

Julie believes that clear, open communication with her clients regarding expectations and outcomes is one of her most important duties as a family lawyer and mediator. She helps her clients sort out the legal aspects of a case from the emotions that are invariably involved so they are able to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. When necessary, Julie will fight on behalf of her clients to achieve the best possible legal outcome in court.

In her free time, Julie enjoys baking, craft beer, and spending time with her family. A baseball fan, Julie’s idea of the perfect vacation is heading to Florida for the Pittsburgh Pirates spring training camp with a little beach time thrown in for good measure.

EXPERIENCE

Julie has represented clients in family law, mediation, litigation and collaborative matters and has argued

cases before the Pennsylvania Superior Court. Some of Julie's more notable cases include:

- Litigating family law matters comprising of; custody, support and divorce cases involving multiple states, including cases involving questions of jurisdiction and application of law;
- Representing parents from different countries in international custody cases, including which country has jurisdiction to decide the case and what the custody schedule should be;
- Successfully litigating a complex divorce matter so that the dependent spouse received the assets needed to maintain the marital residence and pursue a career in the arts; and
- Family law mediation including complex divorce and custody matters so that both parties felt as though their needs were met throughout the process and the parties were able to avoid litigation.

Prior to joining Obermayer, Julie worked for boutique family law firms and clerked for the Honorable Kim D. Eaton in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division.

NEWS & INSIGHTS

Julie Colton to Present: Family Law in the Age of AI

April 21, 2026 by Julie R. Colton

Navigating Child Abuse Allegations in Family Court

March 09, 2026 by Julie R. Colton

Julie Colton Discusses Key Factors Driving the Rise in Gray Divorce

February 23, 2026 by Julie R. Colton

Obermayer Attorneys Present at 2026 PBA Family Law Winter Meeting

January 16, 2026 by Caitlin E. Foley, Melissa M. Blanco, Julie R. Colton

Hillary Moonay and Julie Colton Appointed to Domestic Relations Law Advisory Committee

November 14, 2025 by Hillary J. Moonay, Julie R. Colton

Obermayer Attorneys Earn National Recognition for Legal Excellence in 2026 Best Lawyers

August 21, 2025 by Caitlin E. Foley, Trisha R. Hudkins, Darwin R. Beauvais, Rebecca A. Berger, Allison J. Burkhardt, Stephanie Steckclair Tarantino, Amanda C. Frett, Nathan D. Fox, Kellie A. McGowan, Matthew S. Olesh, Michael A. Thom, Marcelina R. Policicchio, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Walter W. Cohen, Stephanie H. Winegrad, Shari B. Veisblatt, Adam H. Tanker, Alina Chuklin, Tara K. Burns, Michael D. Vagnoni, Nina B. Stryker, Leslie B. Spoltore, Michelle L. Ringel, Nicholas Poduslenko, Michael S. Pepperman, Hillary J. Moonay, Thomas A. Leonard III, David L. Ladov, Samantha J. Koopman, Paul C. Heintz, Samantha J. Evian, Julie R. Colton, Michael E. Bertin

ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Julie is an Adjunct Professor teaching family law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She **chairs** the Family Law Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) and is a member of both its Court Relations and Guidelines Committees. Additionally, she is a Fellow of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. Julie also holds the position of **Treasurer** for the Family Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and serves on its Section Council. She also serves on the Domestic Relations Law Advisory Committee of the **Joint State Government Commission**, the bipartisan research agency of the

Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Julie has published articles relating to a variety of family law topics in *The Legal Intelligencer*, *Pennsylvania Family Lawyer*, *The Journal of the Allegheny County Bar Association*, and *Jurist*. She has also appeared on “Dealing with Divorce” on KDKA Radio, discussing divorce and custody issues.

Julie volunteers time as a pro bono advocate representing plaintiffs in Protection From Abuse (PFA) cases with Neighborhood Legal Service, where she was previously President of the Board.

Julie is a Fellow with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) and previously served as co-chair of its Domestic Violence Taskforce.

She has also been selected for:

- *Pennsylvania’s Rising Stars®* in 2019 and 2020;
- *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers®* – 2021, 2025;
- *Top 100: 2025 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*,
- *Top 50: 2025 Women Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*, and
- *Top 50: 2025 Pittsburgh Super Lawyers*.
- and was recognized by *Best Lawyers®* (2019-2026).

Additionally, she was selected by Best Lawyers® as the 2021 “Lawyer of the Year” in Pittsburgh, PA.

Julie was recognized as a *Top Author for JD Supra’s 2023 Readers’ Choice Awards*, as one of the leading ten authors in the United States, covering family law and related matters on JD Supra.

Awards Won*





*[Click here](#) for a description of the standard or methodology on which the awards and honors are based. No aspect of this advertisement is approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

EDUCATION

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, JD
- Gannon University, BA, Psychology

ADMISSIONS

- Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

CAPABILITIES

Family Law

Child & Spousal Support
Custody
Divorce
Domestic Abuse
Mediation

Industry Focus

Individuals & Private Clients