

Julie R. Colton

PARTNER

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LOCATED IN
Pittsburgh, PA

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

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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 Featured in Pittsburgh Magazine's "Women in Law"

August 26, 2026 by Julie R. Colton

Obermayer Attorneys Recognized in the 2027 Best Lawyers Awards

August 21, 2026 by Melissa Osorio Dibble, Meredith A. Lowry, Kelly M. Barry, Jill Spevack Di Sciullo, Caitlin E. Foley, Darwin R. Beauvais, Rebecca A. Berger, Allison J. Burkhardt, Stephanie Stecklair Tarantino, Amanda C. Frett, Nathan D. Fox, Kellie A. McGowan, W. Patrick Scott, Matthew S. Olesh, Michael A. Thom, Marcelina R. Policicchio, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Walter W. Cohen, Stephanie H. Winegrad, Shari B. Veisblatt, Alex Basilevsky, Adam H. Tanker, Tara K. Burns, Michael D. Vagnoni, Nina B. Stryker, Leslie B. Spoltore, Nicholas Poduslenko, Michael S. Pepperman, Hillary J. Moonay, Thomas A. Leonard III, David L. Ladov, Paul C. Heintz, Samantha J. Evian, Julie R. Colton, Michael E. Bertin, David A. Nasatir

Julie Colton to Co-Present Panel on AI in Legal Practice

September 30, 2026 by Julie R. Colton

Obermayer Attorneys Lead and Present at 2026 PBA Family Law Section Summer Meeting

July 09, 2026 by Edward D. Di Pietro, Jr., Stephanie Stecklair Tarantino, Amanda C. Frett, Adam H. Tanker, Hillary J. Moonay, Julie R. Colton

Julie Colton Elected to Allegheny County Bar Association Board of Governors

June 08, 2026 by Julie R. Colton

Julie Colton Featured in Forbes on Growing Demand for Prenuptial Agreements

June 01, 2026 by Julie R. Colton

ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Julie is an Adjunct Professor teaching family law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Julie serves as Immediate Past Chair of the ACBA Family Law Section following two terms as Chair. During the 2026 PBA Family Law Section Summer Meeting, Julie was elected Second Vice Chair of the Section. She also sits on the Section's Court Relations and Guidelines Committees. Additionally, she is a Fellow of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation. Julie is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association Board of

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Governors, serving a term from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, and previously served on the Board from 2011 to 2014. She 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, 2026;
- Top 100: 2025 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers,
- Top 50: 2025 Women Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, and
- Top 50: 2025 Pittsburgh Super Lawyers.
- Top 100: 2026 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers
- Top 50: 2026 Women Pennsylvania Super Lawyers
- Top 50: 2026 Pittsburgh Super Lawyers
- Top 5: 2026 Family Law Pennsylvania Super Lawyers

Julie was recognized by *Best Lawyers® from* 2019 to 2027.

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*

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*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

Industry Focus

Individuals & Private Clients

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Domestic Abuse

Mediation

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