

CAROLINE BLACK SIKORSKE

CURRICULUM VITAE

CURRENT POSITION

Shareholder and Partner

AREAS OF PRACTICE

100% of Practice devoted to Marital and Family Law

BAR ADMISSIONS

Florida, 1985

EDUCATION

Stetson University College of Law
St. Petersburg, Florida
J.D. December 1984

Cornell University
Ithaca, New York
B.S. 1982

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Sessums Black, P.A.
Tampa, Florida

- Partner, 1994 to present
- Managing Partner, 2009-2019
- Associate, 1989-1994

Assistant State Attorney, Deputy
Chief – Felony Division
Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office
1985-1989

CERTIFICATION *Florida Bar Board Certified Marital and Family Lawyer*
1995 to present

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONS

Diplomate, American College of Family Trial Lawyers, 2015 to present
Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 2002 to present
Top 10 Florida Super Lawyers, 2018 to present
Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent® Peer-Review rated
The Best Lawyers in America© in family law, 2006 to present
Voted #1 By Peers in Family Law: General category, Top Lawyers listing,
Tampa Magazine, 2019
The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award, 2010
Jimmy Kynes Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award, 2009
Florida Legal Elite by Florida Trend magazine, 2004 to present
HCBA James "Red " McEwen Memorial Award, 2004

Volunteer of the Year, Centre for Women, 1995
HCBA Award for Pro Bono Hours, 1994; Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Hours, 2003; HCBA Law Firm Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service, 2004
Recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the 2011 Tampa Lawyers of the Year
Recognized as one of the Top 50 Women Attorneys of Florida by the American Registry, 2011
TBCDG Collaborative Law Leadership Award, 2014
National Academy of Family Law Attorneys, Inc., Top 10, 2015

**PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS
AND POSITIONS**

American College of Family Trial Lawyers
Diplomate, 2015 to present

Hillsborough County Bar Association

Member, 1989 to present
President, 2007-2008
Member, Board of Directors, 2004-2009
Member, Judicial Evaluation Committee, 1990-1993
Executive Council, Family Law Section (Member, 1991-2001;
Chair 1999-2000)
Chair, Pig Roast Committee, 2005
Long-Range Planning Committee
Chair, Judicial Bar Relations Subcommittee
Board member, Trial Lawyers Section, 2001-2002

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers - Florida Chapter

Member 2002 to present
President, Florida Chapter, 2012-2013
Board of Managers, Florida Chapter, 2006-2014
Chair, AAML Institute, Florida Chapter 2009
Chair, Collaborative Law Committee, National AAML, 2015-2017

The Florida Bar

Member, Florida Family Law Rules Committee 2016-2020
Chair, Family Law Section 2003-2004; Member 1994 to present
CLE Committee Family Law Section, Chair 1997-1998
Long Range Planning Committee, Chair 1998-1999
Liaison to Florida Bar Commission on the Legal Needs of Children, 1998
Member, Family Court Steering Committee, 1999-2001

Tampa Bay Academy of Collaborative Professionals
Chair, 2011-2013
Co-Chair, 2017-2019
Member, Board of Directors, 2011-Present

13th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee
Member, 1993-1996; Chair 1996

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
Member, 2007 to present

Athena Society
Member, 2008-2022

Centre for Women
Board of Directors, 1992-1997
President, 1994-1995

PUBLICATIONS

"Attorneys' Fees and Costs," American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Institute, April 2010

Chapter 3, Marital Settlement Agreements, DRAFTING MARRIAGE CONTRACTS IN FLORIDA (The Florida Bar 4ed 1997).

"Family Law Rules," Lawyer, Hillsborough County Bar Association, December issue 1995.

"An Affair to Remember...or Not," Lawyer, Hillsborough County Bar Association, April Issue 1995.

Chapter 15, Equitable Distribution, in FLORIDA DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (The Florida Bar 4d ed. 1993).

"Professionalism," co-authored with Mark A. Sessums, Family Law Commentator, Spring 1993.

Ethics and The Role of the Attorney, provided written materials for American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers on Family Law in Florida, 1991 and Board Certification Review Course, 1992.

"The Other Marital Misconduct: Dissipation of Marital Assets," Lawyer, Hillsborough County Bar Association, May Issue 1991.

LECTURES

Psycho-Social Issues as They Impact Co-Parenting and Attorney Case Management Techniques, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Annual Institute, May 2018.

“Unique Business Valuation Issues,” American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, November 2017

“Proactive Management of the Family Law Practice,” HCBA Marital and Family Law Section, September 2015

“Evidence In Practice: How To Choose, Organize And Present,” Speaker, Florida Bar March 2014

“Taking Care of Business:” Managing your Parenting Case,” Florida Bar CLE, September 2011

"Attorneys' Fees and Costs," American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Institute, April 2010

"Taxation Issues in Equitable Distribution & Alimony," Florida Bar Cert Review, February 2010

"Professionalism" Stetson University College of Law, January 2009

"Mission Impossible: Overcoming the Negative Custody Evaluation Recommendation," AAML, Chicago, November 2008

"Family Law Practice and Procedure," Florida Bar Family Law Certification Review Course, Spring 2006

Television show “Florida Justice Files,” Spring 2006, WUSF, Tampa, Florida

"Alimony, Child Support and Temporary Issues in Divorce," Basic Family Law Seminar sponsored by the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, April 2001, Spring 2004, Spring 2006