



“My job is to not only navigate complex legal issues for my clients, but to remain calm and focused when emotions run high. Using this approach, I am better equipped to help my clients meet their needs and achieve their goals.”

Robert Goodis

Associate

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Robert Goodis is an Associate in the firm's Family Law department and a member of its Litigation practice group. He handles a variety of family law matters, including divorce and separation, child custody, child support, domestic violence, separation agreements, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, alimony, property distribution, and modification actions; as well as general civil litigation matters, including tort and contract actions. He has a passion for research and problem-solving analysis of complex legal issues, and is an experienced civil and criminal litigator.

Robert's calm demeanor benefits his clients who are often going through difficult or trying circumstances. His ability to deescalate volatile situations puts his clients, and other parties, at ease during negotiations. Robert focuses on the important aspects of a case, and works with his clients to choose the best path forward when navigating sophisticated legal issues.

Prior to joining Paley Rothman, Robert worked at the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. There, he was a proven advocate for his clients in misdemeanor and District Court felony cases in a fast-paced and high-volume environment. As an Assistant Public Defender, Robert established a record of success in motions and trial practice. He served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Judge Daniel M. Long in the Circuit Court for Somerset County. Robert was also a student attorney in the Civil Division of D.C. Law Students In Court, Inc., while in law school. Robert is the Founder and Executive Director of *The Goodis Center for Research and Reform, Inc.*, a human rights research and advocacy organization designated as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

PRACTICE AREAS

Family Law

Litigation: Individual

BAR ADMISSIONS

Maryland

District of Columbia

EDUCATION

J.D., American University, Washington College of Law, 2015
- Public Interest / Public Service (PIPS) Scholarship, Class of

2015

- Nathan A. Neal Award for Outstanding Advocacy (D.C. Law Students in Court), 2015
- Outstanding Volunteer Law Student (Homeless Persons Representation Project), 2015
- *Human Rights Brief*, Senior Staff (Deputy Web Editor)
- Certificate of Attendance, June 2010; Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Master of Public Policy (MPP), American University, School of Public Affairs, 2016

- Pi Alpha Alpha Public Affairs & Administration Honor Society

B.A., Bard College, 2010

- Lynda and Stewart Resnick Scholarship for Exceptional Academic Promise, 2010
- Shelley Morgan Award for Leadership and Community Service, 2011
- Thesis: "Contemporary Immigration Detention Practices in the United States: A Study in Sociology and Human Rights"

IN THE NEWS

Paley Rothman Welcomes Two New Associates in Family Law and Litigation

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"Memorandum on State Restrictions on Immigrant Access to VOCA Compensation Funds," co-authored, *Law Library of the Nevada State Legislature*, October 1, 2015, published to law library 2017 (79th Session of the Nevada State Legislature)

"Secure Communities, Priority Enforcement, and IDENT/IAFIS Interoperability: Recommendations for Effective Reform," *Political Behavior: Race, Ethnicity & Identity Politics eJournal*, July 24, 2015

"Secure Communities, Priority Enforcement, and IDENT/IAFIS Interoperability: Recommendations for Effective Reform," *Human Rights & the Global Economy eJournal* - Northeastern University School of Law, July 24, 2015

"Secure Communities, Priority Enforcement, and IDENT/IAFIS Interoperability: Recommendations for Effective Reform," *Immigration, Refugee & Citizenship Law eJournal*, July 22, 2015

"Situation of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Guyana," *Human Rights Brief*, March 2015

CIVIC & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Maryland State Bar Association
- Family Law Section

Bar Association of Montgomery County

The Goodis Center for Research and Reform, Inc. - Founder and Executive Director

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association

Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc.

SPEECHES & PRESENTATIONS

"Front-Line Defense When Confronted with ICE Enforcement,"
Maryland Office of the Public Defender's 2018 Annual Conference:
We Who Believe in Justice Cannot Rest!, April 2018

"Presentation and Meeting with Department of Justice Regarding
State Restrictions on Immigrant Access to Victims of Crime Act
Compensation Funds," co-presenter, U.S. Department of Justice,
April 2015