



“I love the dynamics of different families and figuring out how to implement those dynamics so that the family structure is still successful.”

Tracey Coates

Principal

301-968-1650
301-654-7354 FAX

tcoates@paleyrothman.com

Tracey Coates is Co-Chair of the firm's Family Law department and a member of its Litigation practice group. In working in the former capacity, she handles a variety of domestic relations matters, including pre-marital agreements, divorce and separation, child custody, child support modification, enforcement of court orders and agreements, adoption, and guardianships. Her clients include all types of individuals and couples, in a wide range of family structures.

Tracey works hard to engage in background conversations with her clients to understand family dynamics and build rapport and trust. She goes into every case with a caring, but realistic approach with her clients. She is often touted for being accessible to her clients, understanding how important it is to respond to clients when emotions are heightened.

Prior to joining Paley Rothman, Tracey spent three years as an associate with Wendy H. Schwartz and Associates. She was previously a clerk for then-Chief Presiding Judge John S. Leonardo of the Pima County (Ariz.) Superior Court and worked as a Staff Attorney for the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore.

Tracey is a member of several bar associations, including the American Bar Association, D.C. Bar Association, Maryland Bar Association and Montgomery County Bar Association. In 2013, she was selected to participate in the inaugural Leadership Development Academy program for the Montgomery County Bar Association. The Leadership Development Academy was created to develop young lawyers into bar leaders and to encourage them to be more involved not only in the legal community, but in the Montgomery County community, by providing services and programs that will enrich the community.

In addition to her bar memberships, Tracey has a mediation training certificate for completing 40 hours of coursework. Outside of her billable work, Tracey volunteers and is a member of the Board of Directors for the D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project (DCVLP), an organization whose mission is to provide high-quality, free legal services to low-income D.C. residents in family law cases. She provides pro bono legal representation, doing custody, divorce and guardian ad litem work for survivors of domestic violence and children in high-conflict custody cases.

PRACTICE AREAS

Family Law

Litigation: Individual

Litigation: Business

BAR ADMISSIONS

Maryland

District of Columbia

EDUCATION

J.D., Hamline University School of Law

- Member, National Moot Court Team
- Law Clerk Grant Recipient, Maryland Legal Aid Bureau
- President, Black Law Students Association

B.A., Smith College

Mediation Training

- Certificate of Completion of 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training (2009)
- Certificate of Completion of Custody Mediation Training (2015)

ACCOLADES & AWARDS

"Top Lawyers" - *Washingtonian Magazine* (2018)

Maryland *Super Lawyers* "Rising Stars" (2013-2016)

Washington D.C. *Super Lawyers* "Rising Stars" (2013-2016)

IN THE NEWS

6 Paley Rothman Attorneys Named "Top Lawyers" by *Washingtonian Magazine*

Tracey Coates Joins the Board of Directors at DCVLP

Michelle Chapin, Tracey Coates and Kevin D'Anna Named Principals of Paley Rothman

16 Paley Rothman Attorneys Named to 2016 Washington D.C. Super Lawyers & Rising Stars Lists

15 Paley Rothman Attorneys Named to 2016 Maryland Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

Tracey Coates Publishes Article in MSBA Bar Bulletin Newsletter Devoted to Family & Juvenile Law

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"Revisiting the Parental Rights of Same-Sex Parents in Maryland Following the Downfall of DOMA," *MSBA Bar Bulletin*, November 2013

CIVIC & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Bar Association of Montgomery County, MD - Executive Committee Member

Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland - Peer Review Committee

Maryland State Bar Association - Judicial Appointments Committee

D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project - Board of Directors, Volunteer

Bar Association of Montgomery County
- Member, Family Law Section
- Member, Leadership Development Academy

American Bar Association - Member, Family Law and Young Lawyers Sections

Women's Bar Association of D.C. - Member

Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE) - Past Volunteer

Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School - Past Mentor

The House of Ruth - Past Volunteer

Virginia Juvenile Court System - Past Court Appointed Special Advocate

Hamline University School of Law - Past Alumni Board Member

Smith College Club of Washington, D.C. - Past Secretary, Executive Board

SPEECHES & PRESENTATIONS

"Insight on Child Custody Around The Holidays," WHUR 96.3, December 2017

"Family Law, Child Support, Child Custody, and Grandparent Rights," Montgomery College Single Parent Conference, August 2017

MEDIA COMMENTARY

"Back to School Tips for Divorced Parents," *Great Day Washington*, WUSA9, August 22, 2019

"Scared of 'What If?' It's Okay to Have a Prenup Before Marriage," *Great Day Washington*, WUSA9, February 12, 2019

"Divorce & The Holidays," *Just Like Us with Madelyne Woods*, Majic 102.3 | 92.7, December 16, 2018

"Divorce & The Holidays: How to Keep the Peace," *Great Day Washington*, WUSA9, December 12, 2018

THE DIVORCE CHRONICLES PODCAST

12. Top 8 Changes to Family Law with the Passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act with Guest Eric Rollinger, March 14, 2019

11. Post Divorce Financial Tips with Guest Heather Locus, February 28, 2019

10. Estate Planning after a Divorce with Guest Michelle Chapin, February 14, 2019

9. Repeal of Alimony Law - 75 Years in the Making, January 17, 2019

8. The Often Overlooked Emotional Aspects of Divorce with Guest Robin Tucker, December 11, 2018

7. The Impact of Domestic Violence on the Divorce Process With Guest Sara Tennen, October 9, 2018

6. Tips for Unrepresented Parties in Domestic Matters With Guest Bibi Berry, September 18, 2018

5. Mortgage Lending Issues Unique to Separating Couples With Guest Margie Hofberg, August 21, 2018
4. The Impact of International Family Law Issues During the Divorce Process With Guest Melissa Kucinski, July 31, 2018
3. How a Divorce Coach can Help you Navigate the Divorce Process with Guest Cherie Morris, July 17, 2018
2. Discussing Collaborative Law as an Alternative to the Divorce Process with Guest Sheila Gardner, July 17, 2018
1. Introduction to The Divorce Chronicles with Tracey Coates, Esquire, July 13, 2018