



# Lea E. Anderson

# SHAREHOLDER

#### PRACTICE AREAS:

Family & Collaborative Law Estate Planning & Administation Business Law Mediation & ADR

# Education

Undergrad: West Virginia University, B.A., Psychology, 1976, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi

Law School: West Virginia University College of Law, J.D., 1979, Phi Delta Phit

### **Courts Admitted**

Supreme Court of the United States Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

United States District Court of Western Pennsylvania

United States District Court of Northern District of West Virginia

United States District Court of Southern District of West Virginia

## **Professional Affiliations**

American Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

West Virginia Bar Association

Allegheny County Bar Association: Family Law Section (Chair), Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Founder/Past Chair of the Collaborative Law Committee

Collaborative Law Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania (CLASP): Founding Member, Past Member: Executive Committee, Education Committee Chair

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP)

Matrimonial Inn of Court, Pittsburgh Chapter, Past Chair

West Virginia University College of Law Visiting Committee, 2006-2013

Mediation Council of Western Pennsylvania

Lea leads the firm's Family Law & Collaborative Law practice and is also an active member of our Estate Planning and Administration, Business Law, and Mediation & ADR Groups.

Since 2007, Lea has concentrated her family law practice in the methods of out-of-court alternative dispute resolution, which include mediation and collaborative law. Each process reaches resolution by settlement customized to address the needs of each separate case. Collaborative law focuses the parties on maintaining healthy relationships with children and extended family during and after the divorce. With over 80 hours of focused mediation training, Lea will help mediating parties find the solution right for them.

While Lea is dedicated to the collaborative process, she also recognizes that, at times, court is inevitable. She is an experienced litigator in traditional divorce matters, including equitable distribution, support and alimony issues, custody matters, property negotiation and settlement of marital claims (including real estate matters). Drafting and enforcing pre-marital agreements is also an important component of her family law practice.

In addition to her family law focus, her estate planning practice serves an array of needs, including the drafting of wills, testamentary, irrevocable and living trusts, advance health care directives, living wills and durable powers of attorney and compliments the needs of her family law and business clients.

While Lea's practice primarily focuses on Estate Planning and Administration and Family Law, she is also experienced in the formation and representation of small businesses, the purchase and sale of businesses, contract and lease negotiations, resolution of employment conflicts and family succession planning. In addition, she is experienced in the hiring and termination of employees, severance agreements and mutual releases.

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