

FAMILY LAW MEDIATOR  
GUARDIAN AD LITEM  
FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS



# SARAH E. KAY

## CV PROFILE

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Responsive. Professional.  
Compassionate. Candid. Driven.

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*By appointment only*

## BAR ADMISSIONS

Florida, 2010

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2014

## FELLOW

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

## BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALIST

In Marital & Family Law by The Florida Bar

## FAMILY LAW MEDIATOR

Florida Supreme Court Certified

## GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Giving Children a Voice

### SARAH E. KAY, ESQ., BCS

Habla español

Sarah E. Kay, through her firm Kay Family Law PLLC in Tampa, serves solo and small firms throughout Florida through contract research, writing, and consulting services in addition to directly assisting Florida's families in the Tampa Bay area through guardian ad litem services, as a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator, and as a Collaborative Attorney. Sarah is Board Certified in Marital & Family Law by The Florida Bar and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is a life-long learner holding a Master in Education from Worcester State University in Massachusetts, a Master in Business Administration from Stetson University, and a Certificate in Special Education Advocacy from William & Mary Law School in addition to her Juris Doctor, magna cum laude from Stetson University College of Law. She is the 2021 Co-Recipient of the Family Law Section's prestigious Alberto Romero Making a Difference Award and the recipient of the 2021 Florida Bar President's Award for Pro Bono Legal Service for the 13th Judicial Circuit. Sarah is an accomplished speaker and published author on family law matters and has a particular passion for family law cases involving children with special needs and disabilities.



## EDUCATION

### STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

Juris Doctorate (2010)

Graduated Magna Cum Laude

### STETSON UNIVERSITY

Master of Business Administration (2010)

Graduated Academic Honors

Top 10% of MBA Class

### WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Education (2003)

### GORDON COLLEGE

Bachelor of Science in Middle School Education (1999)

Graduated Summa Cum Laude

### WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL

Certificate in Special Education Advocacy (2021)

Institute for Special Education Law & Advocacy

# SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

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## SUPER LAWYER IN FAMILY LAW

Florida Super Lawyers Magazine (2021)

## ALBERTO ROMERO MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2021)

## FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR PRO BONO SERVICE

13th Judicial Circuit (2021)

## CHAIR'S AWARD OF SPECIAL MERIT

Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2020)

## LEADER IN THE LAW

Florida Association for Women Lawyers (2020)

## ABOVE & BEYOND AWARD

Family Law Section of the Florida Bar (2016, 2017, 2019)

## PRO BONO AWARD

Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (2019)

## AV PREEMINENT RATING

Martindale Hubbell (2017-2019)

## RISING STAR IN FAMILY LAW IN FLORIDA

Super Lawyers Magazine (2013-2019)

## TEN BEST FLORIDA FEMALE ATTORNEYS IN CLIENT SATISFACTION

American Institute of Family Law Attorneys (2017-2019)

## CHAIR'S AWARD OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2018)

## LAWYERS DISTINCTION

Member (2017-2018)

## LEGAL ELITE IN FAMILY LAW

Florida Trend Magazine (2017)

## MOST HONORED PROFESSIONALS

American Registry (2017)

## FLORIDA'S EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG LAWYERS HONOREE

American Registry (2017)

## TOP 100 LAWYERS IN FLORIDA IN MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY LAW

National Advocates (2016)

## TEN BEST FLORIDA FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS UNDER 40 IN CLIENT SATISFACTION

American Institute of Family Law Attorneys (2016)

## TOP 5% AMERICA'S MOST HONORED PROFESSIONALS

American Registry (2015-2016)

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (2015)

## OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR SERVICE AWARD

Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2013)

## RISING STAR AWARD

Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2013)

## MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (2011-2012)

## HONORS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Stetson University College of Law (2007-2008)

## WILLIAM E. BLEWS PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

Stetson University College of Law (2010)

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE

Stetson University College of Law (2010)



# SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

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## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS, FELLOW (2021-PRESENT)

- Fellow (2021-Present)

## THE FLORIDA BAR, MEMBER (2010-PRESENT)

### SELECTED ACTIVITIES

- Family Law Section, Member (2010-Present)
- Family Law Section, Treasurer (2021-2022)
- Family Law Section, Secretary (2020-2021)
- Executive Committee Family Law Section, Member (2020-Present)
- Family Law Finance Committee, Chair, (2021-2022), Member (2017-2019, 2020-2021)
- Family Law Certificate Review Course Committee, Chair (2020-2021), Member (2017-2021)
- Family Law Section Leadership Retreat, Co-Chair (2020)
- Family Law Section *Ad Hoc* Special Needs Children Cmte., Co-Chair (2019-2020)
- Family Law Section Trial Advocacy Seminar, Co-Chair (2019)
- Executive Council Family Law Section, Member (2015-2020)
- Elder Law Section, Member (2021-Present)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Member (2018-2020)
- Solo & Small Firms Section, Member (2018-2019)
- Family Law Continuing Legal Education Cmte., Member (2016-2020), Co-Secretary (2016-2017), Chair (2017-2018), Co-Chair (2018-2019)
- Family Law Technology Cmte., Member (2016-Present), Chair (2016-2018, 2019-2020)
- Family Law Rules and Forms Committee, Member (2011-2017, 2018-202), Co-Chair (2015-2017)
- Family Law Publications Committee, Member (2011-2016), Vice Chair *Commentator* (2015-2016), Associate Editor of *Fla. B. Fam. L. Commentator* (Spring 2012), Chair *Fla. B. Journal* (2012-2015)

## HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS, MEMBER (2011-PRESENT)

- Take Your Child to Work Day, Committee Chair (2018-2021)
- Past-President (2019-Present)
- Immediate Past-President (2018-2019)
- President (2017-2018)
- President-Elect, 2016-2017
- Vice President of Membership (2015-2016)
- Vice President of Programs (2014-2015)
- Board of Directors, Member (2012-Present)
- Mentoring Program, Mentor (2011-2013; 2015-Present)
- Legislative Committee, Member (2011-2013)
- Community Outreach Cmte., Member (2011-2014; Co-Chair 2012-2014)
- CLE Committee, Member (2011)

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, MEMBER (2010-PRESENT)

- Family Law Division, Member (2010-Present)
- Young Lawyers Division, Member (2010-2015)
- 5k Pro Bono River Run Committee, Member (2012-2017), Co-Chair (2013 & 2014 races)
- Leadership Institute, President (Class of 2013)

## FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS, MEMBER (2011-PRESENT)

- Young Lawyers Section Committee, Member (2012-2014)
- Legislative Committee, Member (2012-2013)
- FAWL Logo Committee, Member (2014)

## COUNCIL OF PARENT ATTORNEYS & ADVOCATES (COPAA), INC., MEMBER (2018-PRESENT)

- Member (2018-Present)

## COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW ORGANIZATIONS

- Tampa Bay Academy of Collaborative Professionals, Member (2021-Present)
- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, Member (2015-2019)
- Next Generation Divorce, Member (2015-2019)
- Florida Association of Collaborative Professionals, Member (2016-2019)

## AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, MEMBER (2010-2017) (2021-PRESENT)

- Family Law Section, Member
- Solo & Small Firms Section, Member



# RECENT TEACHING & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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[ETHICAL TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR LAW PRACTICE, CO-SPEAKER](#)  
The Florida Bar CLE Committee Fall Meeting, Zoom (2021)

[SPECIAL NEEDS CONSIDERATIONS IN DIVORCE, CO-SPEAKER](#)  
ABA Family Law Section 2021 Fall CLE Conference (2021)

[DIVORCE ADVICE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES, SPEAKER](#)  
ABA Section of Family Law Special Needs Families Committee Brown Bag, Zoom Webinar (2021)

[ASSISTING WITH CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION ISSUES & CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY, SPEAKER](#)  
Florida Family Law Practice for Paralegals, HalfMoon Education, Inc., Webinar (2021)

[CAMPUS TO CAREER: "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF..." FAMILY LAW, PANELIST](#)  
Stetson University College of Law & HCBA Family Law Section, Zoom Panel Discussion (2021)

[MICROSOFT EXCEL TIPS & SHORTCUTS FOR LAWYERS AND MEDIATORS: A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR UNLEASHING THE POWER OF EXCEL, SPEAKER](#)  
ADR Section of The Florida Bar, Webinar (2020)

[MICROSOFT WORD: A LAWYER'S GUIDE TO MAXIMIZING ITS USE AND REDUCING ERRORS, SPEAKER](#)  
ADR Section of The Florida Bar, Webinar (2020)

[MEDIATING FOR EXTRAORDINARY FAMILIES: SPECIAL NEEDS, LGBTQIAA, AND EXTENDED FAMILIES, CO-SPEAKER](#)  
Florida Dispute Resolution Center Annual Conference - Virtual Edition (2020)

[TOP 10 WAYS FAMILY LAW CASES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN ARE UNIQUE, PRESENTER](#)  
22nd Annual Family Café, Virtual Presentation (2020)

[FACEBOOK LIVE: HOW TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE WHILE FORCED TO WORK FROM HOME PART 2: CHILDREN, SPEAKER](#)  
The Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2020)

[FAMILY LAW AND ETHICS FOR PARALEGALS, CO-SPEAKER](#)  
HalfMoon Seminars, Webinar (2020)

[MARITAL & FAMILY LAW BOARD CERTIFICATION EXAM TIPS & NIBBLES, CERTIFICATION REVIEW COURSE, PANELIST](#)  
The Family Law Section of The Florida Bar & AAML (2018, 2019, 2020)

[THE MECHANICS OF BOARD CERTIFICATION, PANELIST](#)  
The Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2017 & 2019)

[DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN FAMILY LAW CASES, MODERATOR](#)  
Special Needs Children & Family Law CLE, Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2019)

[MAKING ADOBE ACROBAT WORK FOR YOU, SPEAKER](#)  
Webinar CLE, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of The Florida Bar (2019)

[TECHNOLOGY & ETHICS, CO-SPEAKER](#)  
Trial Advocacy Seminar, Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2019)

[UNLEASHING THE POWER OF EXCEL, CO-SPEAKER](#)  
Webinar CLE, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of The Florida Bar (2019)

[MICROSOFT WORD FOR MEDIATORS - SPEAKER](#)  
Webinar CLE, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of The Florida Bar (2019)

[OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO ADVANCEMENT WHILE BEING WHO YOU ARE, PANELIST](#)  
Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, International Women's Day CLE (2019)

[TIPS & NIBBLES, MARITAL & FAMILY LAW BOARD CERTIFICATION EXAM REVIEW COURSE, MODERATOR](#)  
The Family Law Section of The Florida Bar & AAML (2019)

[MASTERING MICROSOFT OFFICE, SPEAKER](#)  
Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Audio CLE (2018)

[THE MECHANICS OF BOARD CERTIFICATION, PANELIST SPEAKER](#)  
The Family Law Section of The Florida Bar, Audio CLE (2017)

[UNLEASHING THE POWER OF MICROSOFT OFFICE & ADOBE, SPEAKER & CO-SPEAKER](#)  
National Business Institute (2017)

[THE NEW FAMILY LAW RULES EXPLAINED, SPEAKER](#)  
St. Petersburg Bar Association Family Law Section (2017)

[FAMILY LAW, SPEAKER](#)  
Adjunct Professor of Law, Stetson University College of Law (2015)

[THE 7 DEADLY SINS IN A FAMILY LAW CASE, SPEAKER](#)  
Tampa Bay Paralegal Association (2015)



# RECENT PUBLISHED WORKS

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## WORKING WITH EXPERTS AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

33 J. Amer. Acad. Mat. L. 419 (2021), Co-author with Maria C. Gonzalez, Esq., BCS

## MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN FLORIDA FAMILY LAW, PART II

Fla. B. J. 22 (2021)

## MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN FLORIDA FAMILY LAW, PART I

Fla. B. J. 22 (2020)

## SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

34 Fla. Fam. L. Commentator 37 (2020)

## MAKING FAMILY LAW MEDIATION FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Fla. B. ADR Section, *The Common Ground* (2018)

## TIPS AND TRICKS FOR MICROSOFT WORD IN LEGAL DOCUMENT PREPARATION

31 Fla. Fam. L. Commentator 28 (2018)

## UPGRADING TECHNICAL COMPETENCE

29 Fla. F. Fam. L. Commentator 42 (2016)

## TEN MOBILE APPS TO UPGRADE YOUR PRACTICE,

29 Fla. B. Fam. L. Commentator 15 (2016)

## PURPOSEFUL NAVIGATION THROUGH THE SEAS OF SOCIAL CHANGE: A THEORY-BASED APPROACH TO FLORIDA ALIMONY REFORM

Fla. B. J. 60 , Co-author with Alexa Revord Larkin (2014)

## PROPOSED COLLABORATIVE LAW LEGISLATION IN FLORIDA

24 HCBA Lawyer 18 (2014)

## THE FLORIDA FAMILY LAW LAWYER'S USER GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE

25 Fla. B. Fam. L. Commentator 15 (2012)

## REDEFINING PARENTHOOD: REMOVING NOSTALGIA FROM THIRD PARTY CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION DECISIONS IN FLORIDA

39 Stetson L. R. 317 (2009)

SARAH E. KAY IS  
A PUBLISHED AUTHOR

# SELECTED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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## GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA TROOP 32110

- Volunteer (2017-Present)

## TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY AT THE GEORGE EDGECOMB HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

- Committee Chair (2019-2021)
- Courthouse Tour Leader (2017)
- Mock Trial Participant (2014, 2016-2017)

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOK ADOPTION COMMITTEE

- Member (2011)

## TEACHERS' INSTITUTE AT U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

- Volunteer and Mock Trial Coach (2011)

## GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN, SPEAKER

- Robinson High School (2008)
- Plant High School (2010-2012)

## AFS INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS

- Returnee (1995-Present)
- Volunteer (2000-2020)
- Liaison (2001-2002) (2006-2008) (2011-2012) (2014-2015) (2016-2017)
- Host Mother (2007-2009, 2019-2020)
- Tampa Bay Chapter Sending Coordinator (2008-2013)
- Florida Area Team Sending Coordinator (2009-2013)
- Tampa Bay Chapter Chair (2012-2013)





# CONTACT

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