FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS
FLORIDA SUPREME COURT CERTIFIED FAMILY & APPELLATE MEDIATOR
COACH / CONSULTANT

KAY
FAMILY LAW PLLC

SARAH E. KAY
CV PROFILE

Responsive. Professional.
Compassionate. Candid. Driven.

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1646 W. Snow Ave., Ste 152
Tampa, FL 33606-2837
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 & APPELLATE MEDIATOR

Florida Supreme Court Certified

APPROVED ARBITRATOR

Approved in the 6th, 12th, and 13th Judicial Circuits

SARAH E. KAY, ESQ., BCS

Habla español

Sarah E. Kay, Esq. BCS serves Florida's families through her work at Kay Family Law PLLC in Tampa as a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law and Appellate Mediator, dedicated collaborative attorney, while also supporting solo and small law firms statewide with freelance research, writing, consulting, and coaching. Her extensive leadership experience includes serving as Chair of The Family Law Section of The Florida Bar during its 50th anniversary, President of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, and President of the HCBA Leadership Institute Class of 2013, with current appointments to the Florida Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court (2024) and The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism (2025). Board Certified in Marital & Family Law by The Florida Bar and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Sarah holds a Juris Doctor, Master's in Education, and MBA, along with certifications in Special Education Advocacy. As a speaker, writer, consultant, and coach, she focuses her thought leadership on legal innovation, alternative dispute resolution, and matters involving children with special needs, championing thoughtful, informed, and inclusive approaches that benefit both the profession and the families it serves.

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

And other Professional Certifications

SELECTED LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

CHAIR
Family Law Section of The Florida Bar (2023-2024)

PRESIDENT
Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (2017-2018)

PRESIDENT
HCBA Leadership Institute Class (2012-2013)

MEMBER
The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism (appointed 2025)

MEMBER
Florida Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court (appointed 2024)

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AWARD
Florida Supreme Court (2024)

THOMAS E. BAYNES FRIEND OF HAWL
Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (2024)

AV PREEMINENT RATING
Martindale Hubbell (2017-2019)

SUPER LAWYER IN FAMILY LAW
Florida Super Lawyers Magazine (2021-2024)

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)

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)

BEST PRESENTATION OF THE YEAR
Tampa Bay Inn of Court as a Member of the
Hon. John N. Conrad's pupilage (2012-2013)

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)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

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, Chair (2023-2024)
- Family Law Section, Chair-Elect (2022-2023)
- 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), Member (2021-2022)
- 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)

ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS, MEMBER (2014-2020)

- Member (2018-2022)

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

- Member (2018-2022)

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

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING DIFFICULT CLIENTS, OPPONENTS, AND COUNSEL, SPEAKER
Webinar, June 24, 2025

THROUGH THEIR EYES: TRAUMA, RESILIENCE, AND CHILDHOOD ADVERSITY IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES, FLORIDA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COLLABORATIVE, CO-SPEAKER
Injunction for Protection Project Statewide Training, Clearwater, FL, May 22, 2025

ADVOCATING FOR FAMILIES: INSIGHTS ON GUARDIAN AD LITEMS AND SOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS, MIAMI-DADE BAR ASSOCIATION, SPEAKER
Miami-Dade Bar Association, Florida Law Con Webinar, April 4, 2025

ASSISTING WITH CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION ISSUES SPEAKER
Florida Family Law Practice for Paralegals, HalfMoon Education, Inc., Webinar, February 28, 2025

HANDLING ETHICAL ISSUES WITH FAMILY LAW PRACTICE, SPEAKER
Florida Family Law Practice for Paralegals, HalfMoon Education, Inc., Webinar, February 28, 2025

HEARTBREAK HOTEL: PROFESSIONALISM IN FAMILY LAW, SPEAKER
Basic Family Law CLE, Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar, Webinar, January 29, 2025

EMAILING AND TEXTING: PROTECTING YOUR CLIENTS AND YOUR REPUTATION, SPEAKER
MyLawCLE, Webinar, January 10, 2025

LITIGATION ETHICS FOR ASSISTANTS AND PARALEGALS, SPEAKER
Trial Preparation for Florida Paralegals and Legal Assistants, Webinar, Halfmoon Education, Inc., November 15, 2024

ASSEMBLING AND USING TRIAL NOTEBOOKS, SPEAKER
Trial Preparation for Florida Paralegals and Legal Assistants, Webinar, Halfmoon Education, Inc., November 15, 2024

THE COURT'S NEED AND ABILITY TO ADDRESS TRAUMA IN FAMILY CASES, CO-SPEAKER
FLAFCC Annual Education Program, Orlando, FL, September 13, 2024

NEURODIVERSITY AND PARENTING PLANS: WHAT FAMILY LAW PROFESSIONALS SHOULD KNOW, CO-SPEAKER
FLAFCC Annual Education Program, Orlando, FL, September 12, 2024

MICROSOFT COPILOT AND THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MEDIATION, SPEAKER
Florida Bar ADR Section, Webinar, September 5, 2024

MICROSOFT EXCEL FOR THE NOT SO TECH SAVVY, SPEAKER
Florida Bar ADR Section, Webinar, August 23, 2024

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN IN FLORIDA FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS, SPEAKER
9th & 18th Circuits Magistrates & Judiciary, Live CLE, August 2, 2024

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN IN FLORIDA FAMILY LAW PROCEEDINGS, SPEAKER
TRTCLE, Webinar, June 3, 2024.

CO-PARENTING CONSIDERATIONS FOR FAMILIES WITH NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN: WHAT FAMILY LAW PROFESSIONALS NEED TO KNOW, PANELIST
Our Family Wizard, Webinar, March 18, 2024

KNOW THE LIMITS: UNLICENSED PRACTICE OF LAW / PARALEGAL ETHICS, FROM A TO Z: A PARALEGAL'S GUIDE FROM START TO FINISH IN A FAMILY LAW CASE, CO-SPEAKER
Family Law Section of The Florida Bar, February 22, 2024

PARENTING PLANS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN, SPEAKER
Orange County Legal Aid, Webinar, February 6, 2024

EFFECTIVE USE OF CO-PARENTING COMMUNICATION SOFTWARE IN MEDIATION, CO-SPEAKER
12th Judicial Circuit Mediation Program, Webinar, November 13, 2023

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURT, CO-PRESENTER
Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator, 2023 Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies, October 26, 2023

ETHICS & TECHNOLOGY: EXPLORING EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS, CO-SPEAKER
Family Law Section of The Florida Bar, Webinar, September 14, 2023

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND USING TRIAL NOTEBOOKS, SPEAKER
Florida Litigation Support for Paralegals, Halfmoon Education, Inc., Webinar, September 8, 2023

USE OF OUTSIDE ADVISORS, SPECIALISTS, AND EXPERTS FOR CASES INVOLVING SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN (PARTS 1 & 2) CO-SPEAKER
FACP 11th Annual Conference, June 9, 2023

MEDIATING WITH PROFESSIONALISM - EDUCATING YOUNG LAWYERS AND LAW STUDENTS, PANELIST
Miami-Dade Bar Florida Law Con, Webinar, March 31, 2023

TAMING THE EMAIL BEAST, PRESENTER
Quimbee, Webinar, March 2023.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, CO-SPEAKER
The Association of Florida Magistrates and Hearing Officers, Inc., Webinar, November 1, 2022

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN:WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, SPEAKER
5th Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program Training, Webinar, September 27, 2022

TECHNOLOGY & MEDIATION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, CO-SPEAKER
King Kay Solutions PLLC, Webinar, September 26, 2022

TAMING THE EMAIL BEAST: PRACTICAL & ETHICAL COMMUNICATION PRACTICES, SPEAKER
Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Webinar, September 21, 2022

RECENT PUBLISHED WORKS

TRANSFORMING FAMILY LAW: EMBRACING THE FAMILY COURT GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Hillsborough County Bar Ass'n Lawyer Magazine, 50-51 (No. 3, Jan/Feb. 2025)

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

HONORS SOCIETIES

- Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Language Honor Society Member
- Phi Alpha Chi Honor Society Member
- Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society Member
- Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, Cardozo Inn Member

GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA TROOP 32110

- Volunteer (2017-2022)

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)

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CONTACT

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Tampa, FL 33634-2292

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