

Leigh Ann Orton



Attorney Leigh Ann Orton practices law with her husband, Chris, in their North East law firm of Orton & Orton. Attorney Orton concentrates her practice on family law, estate planning and administration, elder law, and real estate. Following her graduation from law school, Attorney Orton practiced law at a general practice firm in Memphis, Tennessee. After moving to Pennsylvania in 1998, she operated her own general practice firm, served as an adjunct professor at Gannon University, and later worked as an associate real estate broker and settlement agent in the local market. Attorney Orton has been in private practice since that time and has a total of 25 years of experience. She has litigated numerous family law matters, including child custody, child support, alimony, divorce and adoptions. She is also collaboratively trained in family law matters. Attorney Orton is actively involved in the Erie County Bar Association.

PRACTICE CONCENTRATIONS

- * Family Law
- * Estate Planning & Administration
- * Elder Law
- * Real Estate

ADMISSIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- * Pennsylvania
- * Tennessee

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- * Erie County Bar Association, *Family Law Section, Former Chair; Estates and Trusts Section, Member and Former Chair; Real Estate Section, Member*
- * Pennsylvania Bar Association, *Former Collaborative Law Committee, Member; Women in the Profession Committee, Former Member*
- * Estate Planning Council of Erie, *Former Member*
- * National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), *PA Chapter, Former Member*
- * NAELA Student Journal, *Former Article Editor*
- * Collaborative Professional of NWPA, *Former Member*
- * International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP), *Former Member*
- * American Bar Association, *Former Member*
- * Tennessee Bar Association, *Former Member*
- * Shelby County, Tennessee Bar Association, *Former Member*

Leigh Ann Orton, Esquire
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EDUCATION

- * University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 1995, J.D.
Top 10 of class
American Jurisprudence Award, Criminal Law, Recipient; Corpus Juris Secundum Award, Criminal Law, Recipient
- * Union University, 1992, B.S.B.A.
Summa cum laude

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- * Successfully litigated and received a favorable ruling in a complex custody trial
Involving choice of school district
- * Successfully litigated and received favorable rulings on complex custody cases involving change of primary custody and relocation
- * Successfully obtained a favorable ruling from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue regarding a Medicaid Estate Recovery matter which resulted in my clients receiving a substantial amount of money that they would not have otherwise received
- * Collaboratively trained in family law matters
- * Attended the 2013 Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) and American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) Conference on Advanced Issues in Custody Litigation: Evaluation, Litigation and Settlement
- * Editor of "Medicare Advantage...or Disadvantage," by Emily E. Town, 4th place Winner of 2010 NAELA Student writing competition

HONORS

- * Selected as Readers' Choice "Best Attorney" of 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and "Best Law Firm" of 2019, *North East News-Journal*

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & PUBLICATIONS

- * Author of Legal Lines column in which I authorized numerous articles *North East News-Journal*
- * "The Role of Professional Advisors in Family Law Matters," Firm's Professional Advisor Symposium
- * "Back to Basics: Estate Planning 101," Parkside Senior Living Community
- * "Brady vs Brady: Trust Planning in Divorce," Firm's Professional Advisor Symposium
- * "Wealth Preservation for Seniors," AARP Group in Jamestown, NY
- * Healthcare Ventures Alliance Long-Term Care Seminar
- * Knox Law Firm's Municipal Law Symposium
- * "Handling Claims and Debt," National Business Institute

COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- * Active Member of Park United Methodist Church, North East, PA
- * Community Nursing Services of North East, Former President and Former *Board Member*
- * Junior League of Erie, *Former Board Member and former Member*
- * North East Business Women's Roundtable, *Steering Committee*
- * Order of the Eastern Star, Shiloh Chapter NO. 153, North East, PA, *Member*
- * Girl Scout Troop #36009, *Former Assistant Troop Leader*
- * National and Pennsylvania Associations of Realtors, *Former Member*
- * Greater Erie Board of Realtors, *Former Member*
- * I have participated in fundraisers to support the treatment and cure of Breast Cancer

Leigh Ann Orton (cont.)

1995 – 1998	Law Offices of Charles R. Perkins, Memphis, TN
1999 – 2002	Law Offices of Leigh Ann Orton, Erie, PA
2007 – 2009	Associate Broker, Coldwell Banker Realty, Erie, PA
2009 – 2017	Knox Law Firm, Erie, PA
2018 – Current	Orton & Orton, Attorneys at Law, North East, PA