

Jessica J.W. Maher
121 South 8th Street, Suite 1100
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2823
612.335.4291
jessica.maher@wbdlaw.com

Employment

Walling, Berg & Debele, P.A., Minneapolis, MN

Senior Associate (2000 to present)

Practice devoted exclusively to all areas of practice in family law, including: all areas of adoption law including birth parent representation, adoptive parent representation, and litigation in adoption issues; juvenile court practice including termination of parental rights and Children in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) matters; third-party custody litigation; paternity and child custody/parenting time issues; and dissolution. Appellate practice in the same areas.

The Hon. Gary Crippen

Minnesota Court of Appeals

Judicial Law Clerk (August 1999 to August 2000)

Researched pending cases before the court; wrote bench memoranda discussing the relevant law and evaluating arguments for three-judge panels. Assisted judges with the drafting of opinions. Performed marshalling duties at oral arguments.

Office of the General Counsel, University of Minnesota

Law Clerk (May 1998 to May 1999)

Researched and drafted memoranda and motions for staff attorneys. Met with University staff and administrators when necessary to complete projects.

Legal Research and Writing, University of Minnesota Law School

Student Instructor (August 1997 to May 1998)

Edited, corrected and evaluated first year students' papers for proper citation form and legal analysis. Met with students in weekly class sessions and individual conferences.

Education

University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN

J.D. *Cum Laude* 1999

G.P.A.: 13.494/16.0

Dean's List With An "A" Average, 1998-99 and 1997-98

National Moot Court, Administrative Director 1998-99, Member 1997-98

Legal Writing Student Instructor

Honor Code Council Representative

Kenneth and Lillian Smith Scholarship

Judicial Externship with The Honorable Gary Larson (4th Judicial District)

Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN

B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* History 1996

G.P.A.: 3.947/4.0

Honors Program, University Scholar Designation

Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Secretary, Education Director, House Manager

Who's Who In American Colleges and Universities, 1995-96

Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES

Minnesota Supreme Court Juvenile Protection Rules Committee, 2008 to present

American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, Fellow - February 2006 to present

Minnesota State Bar Association

Hennepin County Bar Association

Co-Chair, Hennepin County Bar Association Juvenile Law Section, July 2005 to present

Chair, The Hennepin Lawyer Committee (bar association magazine), July 2009 to present

Active Member, The Hennepin Lawyer committee (bar association magazine)

Minnesota Women Lawyers

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

Selected as a “Rising Star” in Adoption Law, *Minnesota Law & Politics*, 2005

WRITINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, NBI Adoption Law: Start to Finish; March 5, 2009

Essentials of Adoption Law

Presenter, 2009 Upper Midwest Immigration Conference, sponsored by American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter and The Advocates For Human Rights, April 30, 2009, on International Adoption

International Adoption – Highlights

Editor, “*Focus On Professionalism*” issue, The Hennepin Lawyer, September 2008

Editor, “*Focus On Family Law*” issue, The Hennepin Lawyer, May 2007

Presenter, *Legalities in Adoption*, June 2007, sponsored by Children’s Home Society & Family Services; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Seton Services; Walling Berg & Debele, P.A.; and HealthEast Care System (seminar developed and designed to educate social workers with private agencies and hospitals about the legal rights and responsibilities of birth parents, adoptive parents, and agencies in adoption situations)

Spring Semester, 2006

Spring Semester, 2007 Teaching Assistant, to Wright S. Walling, Esq., Adjunct Professor, for Adoption Law class, University of St. Thomas School of Law.

February 19, 2003 Co-author, with Wright S. Walling, Esq., **Birth Father’s Rights in Adoption: A Minnesota Perspective** (Minnesota Institute of Legal Education seminar materials)

APPELLATE LEVEL CASES

Heidbreder v. Carton, 645 N.W.2d 355 (Minn. 2002)

In The Matter Of The Petition Of T.D. and J.D. to Adopt N.T.K., and B.L.W. as mother and natural guardian of D.J.F., a minor, and D.J.F., individually, v. A.K., as mother and natural guardian of J.M.K., a minor, and J.M.K. individually, 677 N.W.2d 110 (Minn. Ct. App. 2004)

In Re The Welfare Of The Children Of J.L.H., 2005 WL 3470525 (Minn. Ct. App. 2005)

Zeidler v. Zeidler, 2004 WL 1326778 (Minn. Ct. App. 2004)

Brennan v. Braun, 2003 WL 21694157 (Minn. Ct. App. 2003)

Sundboom v. Keul, 2002 WL 1613866