

**Jessica J.W. Maher**  
**121 South 8<sup>th</sup> 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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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**

American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, Fellow - February 2006

Minnesota State Bar Association

Hennepin County Bar Association

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

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)

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.

May 2007, Editor of issue of *The Hennepin Lawyer* (family law focus issue)

## **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