

# Elizabeth F. Schwartz

Attorney & Certified Family Mediator

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## Legal Experience

**Elizabeth F. Schwartz, P.A., Miami Beach, FL**

**Principal (02/01 – present):** Family mediation and law practice focusing on family law, estate planning and probate, legal aspects of adoption, surrogacy and insemination, and creative conflict resolution. Emphasis on collaborative resolution of relationship dissolutions and on meeting the legal needs of same-sex couples. Court-appointed mediator for same-sex relationship dissolutions. AV rated by Martindale Hubbell.

**Crockett & Chasen, P.A., Miami Beach, FL**

**Associate (1/97 – 1/01):** Law practice focusing on estate planning, guardianships, probate, viatication, tax-exempt organizations, corporate matters and marital and family formation law.

## Education

**University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, FL**

- Juris Doctorate Degree, Cum Laude, May 1997

**University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

- Bachelor of Arts Degree, May 1993
- Communications Major, Minors in Art History and Afro-American Studies

## Selected Publications

**Before I Do: A Legal Guide to Marriage, Gay & Otherwise** (The New Press, 2016)

**Handbook of Gestational Surrogacy, LGBT Issues in Surrogacy** (Cambridge University Press, 2016)

**Transgender Discrimination**, Trial Magazine (Amer. Assn. for Justice, Oct. 2016)

**Out and About: LGBT Experience in the Profession**, Trailblazing Advocacy (Amer. Bar Assn, 2015)

## Selected Affiliations

- Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), Board Co-Chair
- National Family Law Advisory Council, National Center for Lesbian Rights
- American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, fellow
- American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys, fellow
- Miami Foundation, GLBT Projects Fund
- Florida Adoption Council, member
- Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Board of Trustees
- National Leadership Council of the National Center for Lesbian Rights
- City of Miami Beach LGBT Affairs Committee
- Miami Beach Bar Association, Board Member, Past President
- Florida Bar, Family Law Section
- Florida Bar, Real Estate, Property, Probate & Trust Law Section
- Miami Fellows Initiative, Class III
- National LGBT Bar Association, member
- Collaborative Family Law Institute, member
- Temple Israel of Greater Miami, Narot Fund Board

## **Selected Recognitions**

- 2016 Anti-Defamation League Jurisprudence Award
- 2015 C. Clyde Atkins Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the ACLU of Florida Greater Miami Chapter
- 2014 University of Miami School of Law Center for Ethics and Public Service Lawyers in Leadership Award
- 2012 Eddy McIntyre Community Service Award presented by National LGBTQ Task Force
- 2011 Voice for Equality Award presented by Equality Florida
- 2010 City of Miami Beach Woman Worth Knowing
- 2008 Community Award presented by Sunserve at Valuing Our Families Conference
- 2007 Leadership Award presented by Aqua Foundation for Women
- 2007 Sookie Williams Award for exemplary service to the Miami-Dade Legal Community, presented by The Daily Business Review
- 2005 Community Award presented by Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

## **Selected Presentations**

- Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, LGBT Families, Jacksonville, August 10, 2016
- American Association for Justice, Montreal Canada, July 11, 2015
- Advanced Judicial Studies, LGBT Family Issues, Orlando, June 11-12, 2015
- Intelligence Community LGBT Summit, Chantilly, VA, May 5, 2015
- Advanced Judicial Studies, LGBT Family Issues, Orlando, June 11 2014
- Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami, Estate Planning Symposium, Advising Same-Sex Couples Post-Windsor, February 11, 2014
- Florida State University School of Law, After Marriage Symposium, January 31, 2014
- University of Miami School of Law, Marriage Equality course co-coordinator, fall 2013
- Estate Planning Council, Washington, DC, September 25, 2013
- National Academy Continuing Legal Ed., DOMA Decision Deciphered, June 27, 2013
- The Associated, Baltimore, May 30, 2013
- Dispute Resolution Center Mediator's Conference, Orlando, FL, August 24, 2012
- National Public Radio: Interviewed for segment on Morning Edition, "Gay Divorce A Higher Hurdle Than Marriage", July 20, 2011
- Ethics Film Series 2009: Panelist, The Times of Harvey Milk, April 2009
- UDM Symposium on GLBT Legal Issues: Same-Sex Parenting, Detroit, MI, March 2009
- Florida Lawyers' LIC's Legally Speaking Television Series, June 2006
- Annual Diversity Training Seminar, Miami-Dade Circuit and County Judges (2004-2007)
- Valuing our Families conference, Sunserve and Family Pride Coalition (2004 - 2007)
- Public Interest Law at University of Miami School of Law, annual speech, Prof. Mahoney
- Annual presentation at Lavender Law (the annual conference of the National LGBT Bar Association), 2000-2010
- Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Adoption Issues for LGBT Families, October 2002
- Human Rights Campaign Town Hall Meeting, Birmingham, Alabama, Fall, 2002
- New College, Sarasota, Legal Issues Impacting the Queer Community, 2001

## **Personal**

- Functional in Spanish. Knowledge of Hebrew.
- Certified Yoga instructor