



**JOHN A. PAPPALARDO, ESQ.**

Matrimonial, Complex Commercial, Construction, International

The distinguished legal career of John A. Pappalardo includes more than 37 years as an attorney handling moderate to very complex litigation involving matrimonial and family law matters. He is an active matrimonial practitioner with significant experience in equitable distribution, valuation, custody, and support matters. He has litigated, arbitrated, mediated, and engaged in the collaborative process in the field of domestic relations in both international and domestic matrimonial matters for essentially his entire legal career.

Mr. Pappalardo has helped countless clients resolve their family disputes economically, thoughtfully, and fairly. His approach is to find creative solutions to even the most difficult situations. He is sensitive to the enormous stress which the divorce process places on parties involved and believes that parties are best served by focusing on the financial realities of their case, while handling their emotional concerns with care, respect, and compassion.

Having argued before the New York State Court of Appeals, Mr. Pappalardo has changed the law of custody and the burden of proof in neglect and abuse proceedings. Additionally, he has served on a committee designed for the purpose of improving the Westchester County Matrimonial Court System and has served as Guardian Ad Litem in matrimonial family law proceedings.

In addition to matrimonial matters, Mr. Pappalardo has been involved in commercial litigation and construction law matters, involving both public and private projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$10 million in value. He has litigated cases involving telecommunication parties, accounting partnership dissolutions, and legal services disputes, and has represented mid- to large-sized businesses in construction and commercial transactions and litigation.

Mr. Pappalardo has served as an arbitrator and mediator in more than 1,000 domestic and international matters involving construction, franchise, commercial, industrial projects, sustainable energy developments involving solar panels, real estate valuation, insurance, professional services, homeowner and contractor disputes, security claims and civil claims handling issues including, but not limited to, conflicts between contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, homeowners, architects, municipalities, attorneys, and clients. Additionally, he has sat as a sole and panel arbitrator on significant international matters involving publicly funded construction projects, franchise agreements, and the construction of private projects with parties from different countries.

As an arbitrator, Mr. Pappalardo streamlines evidence and provides a space where all parties and counsel can be heard while he endeavors to reach a fair and just decision. As a mediator, he facilitates dialogue between the parties in a proactive manner in an effort to reach a fair and equitable settlement in keeping with the facts and applicable law.

Additionally, Mr. Pappalardo has been involved in medical practice dissolutions. He has significant civil litigation practice, which includes the representation of clients against contractors and contractors against clients in litigation and before the Westchester County Department of Consumer Affairs. He has also represented clients against home inspectors and against major corporations in various product liability cases (i.e., defective design and manufacturing of automobile airbags and brake systems and of infant training devices). Mr. Pappalardo has represented a significant number of homeowners and homebuilders in litigation associated with the construction of new homes and the renovations and expansion of existing homes. He has been involved as an advocate in real estate valuations, insurance, business, and general real estate with partnership litigation and transactions.

Since 2020, Mr. Pappalardo has been on the faculty of Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University as an adjunct professor where he teaches a course on Alternative Dispute Resolution methods. His philosophy about preparing the next generation of lawyers is to advocate for and preserve the independent judiciary that seeks to protect the Constitutional rights of all participants in the legal system. He also sits as a part-time judge in the Town of Lewisboro, New York.

Mr. Pappalardo is available to arbitrate and mediate matrimonial, complex commercial, and construction cases throughout New York State.

## AREAS of EXPERIENCE

- Matrimonial / Family Law
  - Adoption
  - Appeals
  - Alimony and Spousal Support
  - Collaborative Divorce
  - Contested Divorce / Uncontested Divorce
  - Child Abuse & Neglect Defense
  - Child Custody/Parental Rights
  - Child Support
  - Counsel and Expert Fees
- Dissolution
- Divorce Mediation
- Divorce Settlements
- Domestic Violence
- Equitable Distribution
- Name Change
- Orders of Protection
- Paternity / Father's Rights
- Pre- and Post-Nuptial Agreements
- Property Valuation and Property Distribution Issues
- Spousal Maintenance
- Complex Commercial
- Construction
- International
- Negligence
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability

## NOTABLE REPORTED CASES

- *S.L. v. J.R.*, 27 N.Y.3d 558, 56 N.E.3d 193, (N.Y. 2016) Court of Appeals of New York  
Argued landmark custody case before the New York State Court of Appeals resulting in the successful adoption of a new legal standard whereby due process does not require a hearing in de-novo custody matters where the best interests of children can be established by admissible evidence.
- *Matter of Afton. C (James C.)*, 17 N.Y.3d 1, 950 N.E.2d 101, (N.Y. 2011) Court of Appeals of New York  
Successfully argued before the New York State Court of Appeals that a parent's criminal conviction as a level-three sex offender does not equate to an Article 10 abuse and neglect finding under the New York State Family Court Act.
- *A.D. v. C.A.*, 50 Misc.3d 180, 16 N.Y.S.3d 126, 2015 N.Y. Slip Op. 25283, (West. Cty. 2015)  
Supreme Court, Westchester County, New York  
Successfully supported the proposition in trial court that limited use of Facebook postings, if material and relevant, should be permitted in contested custody cases.
- *In re Denise J.*, 52 Misc.3d 799, 32 N.Y.S.3d 876, Family Court, Westchester County, New York  
Child custody. GAL in Article 10 permanency proceeding in determination if foster child who was 16 years old and had multiple complex needs had the right to participate in person at a permanency hearing.
- *In re Daphne G.*, N.Y.S.2d 504, 308 A.D.2d 132 (N.Y. 2003) Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, New York  
Successfully advocated the complex issue of whether in a child protection proceeding, a father's assault of a mother outside the child's presence should constitute the neglect of a child.

## LECTURES and PUBLICATIONS

- Adjunct Professor, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, 2020-Present
- Panelist, *New York Family Law Practice for Paralegals*, Halfmoon Education CLE, 2020
- Co-author, *We All Need Somebody to Lean On: Using the Law to Nurture Our Children, Beginning with Third-Party Visitation* with Cassidy Allison and Samantha A. Mumola, *Pace Law Review* Vol. 39, No. 2, Fall 2019
- Co-author, *The Role of the Guardian Ad Litem in Parental Alienation Cases* with Elidi B. Lara, *Westchester Bar Journal* Vol. 44, No. 1, Fall 2019

## HONORS and AWARDS

- Martindale and Hubble: Super Lawyers, 2016 – 2022, NY Metro Area
- Westchester Magazine, 2016-2022, Top Attorneys in Westchester
- National Association of Distinguished Counsel, 2017 – 2022, Nation's Top One Percent
- U.S. News & World Report: Best Law Firms in New York, 2014 – 2022, First Tier Rankings
- National Academy of Family Law Attorneys, 2019, Nationally Ranked Top 10 Attorney
- Lawyers of Distinction, 2018 – 2021
- Hudson Valley Magazine, 2021, Top Lawyers Selected by Peer Recognition
- American Institute of Family Law Attorneys, 2015-2021, 10 Best Attorneys – Client Satisfaction
- 10 Best Law Firms, 2015 – 2019, Client Satisfaction
- The New York Times Magazine, 2016 – 2019, Top Attorneys in Metro New York
- American Jurist Institute, 2018, Top 10 Attorneys

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Partner, The Pappalardo Law Group PLLC f/k/a Farber, Pappalardo & Carbonari, 1995 – Present
- Part-time Judge, Town of Lewisboro, NY, 2020 – Present
- Adjunct Law Professor, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, 2020 – Present
- Visiting Law Professor, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, 2015 – Present
- Attorney, Sole Practitioner, 1988 – 1995
- Associate, Katz, Kleinbaum, Farber & Karson, 1987 – 1988
- Associate, Grossbach & Boykoff, 1986 – 1987

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSES and ADMISSIONS

- New York State Bar
- Massachusetts State Bar
- New Jersey State Bar
- United States District Court – New York Southern and Eastern Districts
- United States District Court – New Jersey
- United States Supreme Court

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS

- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
- International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR)
- National Futures Association (NFA)
- Special Masters' Program, Second Department
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)
- Westchester County Bar Association, Board of Directors
- Westchester County Magistrates Association
- Lewisboro Town Board, Member, elected
- International Academy of Family Lawyers,
- American Arbitration Association
- New York State Council on Divorce Mediation
- Referral Attorney, Hague Convention Attorney Network, U.S. State Department, 1998 – Present (Formerly: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)
- New York State Attorney for Children Panel
- Westchester County Bar Association, Domestic Relations and Alternative Dispute Resolution Subsections
- New York State Bar Association, Domestic Relations and Alternative Dispute Resolution Subsections
- Federation of Integrated Conflict Management (FICM)
- United States Council for International Business (USCIB)
- New York Association of Collaborative Professionals
- The Arbitration Ireland Association Panel

## EDUCATION

- New England Law School, J.D.
  - Legal Services Clinic
  - Administrative Law Externship
  - Internship: Westchester County District Attorney
  - Moot Court Honors
- Ithaca College B.A.