



PILAR C. NICHOLS
 Principal, Bethesda

PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal Defense Litigation and Appeal
- Family Law

ACTIVITIES

- Co-Chair, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Maryland State Bar Association, 2020 - 2021
- Past President of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, 2011 - 2012
- Maryland Hispanic Bar Association Judicial Selections Committee, 2010 - 2015
- Montgomery County Bar Association, 2007 - Present
- Montgomery County Inns of Court Barrister, 2011 - Present
- Women's Bar Association, 2010 - Present
- Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney's Association, 2007 - Present
- Adjunct Professor at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of La

PRACTICE FOCUS

Pilar C. Nichols is a Principal attorney in Offit Kurman's Family Law Practice Group where she concentrates her practice in the litigation and settlement of divorce, child custody and visitation, spousal and child support, property division, guardianship proceedings, and adoptions.

Ms. Nichols frequently represents employees and spouses of international organizations such as the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. She has extensive experience in cases involving domestic violence, including the litigation of protective orders and any accompanying criminal charges. In addition to her family law practice, Pilar acts as a mediator in custody and property disputes, is regularly court-appointed as child counsel in high conflict custody cases, and practices criminal defense.

Ms. Nichols received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. While a student at Penn State, she studied at the Universidad de Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain where she obtained her minor in Spanish. She went on to graduate from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC, where she earned her Juris Doctor and a specialized certificate from the law school's Institute for Communications Law Studies. While in law school, Ms. Nichols served on the executive board of the Student Bar Association and as a writer for the *CommLaw Spectus: Journal of Communications Law and Policy*.

Ms. Nichols has been listed in "Best Lawyers in America, Family Law", by Washingtonian Magazine as one of its "Top Lawyers", and in Bethesda Magazine's "Top Attorneys, Family Law". Super Lawyers Magazine named Pilar a "Rising Star" from 2012 to 2015, a "Super Lawyer" from 2016 to 2022, and included her in the "Top 50 Women Maryland Super Lawyers List" in 2019, 2021, and 2022, and the "Top 100 Maryland Super Lawyers List" from 2019 to 2022. She received the "Leading Women" award in 2019 and the "Leadership in law" award in 2020 from the Daily Record.

A member of the Bar Association of Montgomery County, she currently serves on its executive committee and as a member of the Judicial Selections Committee. Ms. Nichols is a Master of the Bench in the Montgomery County Inns of Court and a Montgomery County Bar Foundation Bar Leader. A past-president of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, she serves on the association's Judicial Selections Committee. A Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation, she serves on its Board of Directors and awards committee.

Ms. Nichols is an active member of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA). A graduate of the MSBA's Leadership Academy, Ms. Nichols serves on the Leadership Academy Committee, as co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and sits on the Board of Governors.

In addition to practicing law, Ms. Nichols has been adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC since 2010. She is fluent in Spanish and resides in Montgomery County with her husband, two young sons, and their lovable German Shepherd, Ares.

"I guide and advocate for my clients through one of the most challenging times in their lives by balancing legal strategies, strength and compassion."

— Pilar Nichols

PRESENTATIONS AND PRO BONO WORK

- Presenter: "Making Yourself Relevant: How to Thrive as an Attorney in Turbulent Times" presented by Maryland State Bar Association's Diversity & Inclusion Committee (2020)
- Presenter: "Look Both Ways: Practicing at the Intersection of Family Law and Criminal Law" for the Bar Association of Montgomery County (2017)
- Panelist: "Law Enforcement and the Latino Community" at the Second Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, presented by the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (2016)
- Presenter: "Law School for the Public: Guardianships in Maryland" (2016)
- Presenter: "Family Law University - Alimony and Child Support" at the Judicial College of Maryland (2015, 2017)
- Presenter: "Solo Practice - From Start to Finish" at Bar Association of Montgomery County's "Law Day"

(2015)

- Presenter: "Legal Process of Divorce and Separation" for Montgomery County Commission for Women (2013, 2016)
- Panelist: "Advice from the Bench: Real Talk and Tips for Aspiring Maryland Judges" for Bar Association of Montgomery County, Specialty Bar Associations Committee (2013)
- Panelist: "Attorney Voices: Overcoming Challenges Minorities Face in the Legal Workplace" (2012)
- Pro Bono: Casa De Maryland Pro Bono Legal Clinic (2011, 2012)
- Pro Bono: Casa De Maryland Pro bono Fair (2011, 2012)
- Presenter: "Nuts and Bolts of Practicing Law" at the Bar Association of Montgomery County's "Law Day" (2011)
- Presenter: "Nuts and Bolts of Practicing Criminal Law" for the Bar Association of Montgomery County (2010)
- Presenter and volunteer: Women's Bar Association "Preparing for Success" Fall Forum (2007 – present)
- Cast and organizational committee member: Montgomery County Bar Foundation "Bar Review" (2007-2013)

POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- Washingtonian Magazine Top Divorce Lawyer, 2021
- Top Lawyer 2020, Family Law, Washingtonian Magazine
- Named to *The Daily Record's* Leadership in Law, recognizing attorneys whose dedication to their occupation and to their communities is outstanding, in 2020
- Named to *The Daily Record's* Leading Women, honoring 50 women aged 40 or younger, in 2020
- *Bethesda Magazine* Top Attorneys, Family Law (recognition honors the region's most respected legal practitioners, as chosen by their peers), 2019
- Named to the *Best Lawyers in America* listing in the Family Law category in 2018 - 2023
- Presented the "Outstanding Leadership" award by the MSBA Young Lawyers Section and the University of Maryland, Francis King School of Law for "outstanding leadership" and "continued commitment to diversity"
- 2019-2023, included in "Top 50 Women Maryland Super Lawyers List"
- 2019-2023, included in "Top 100 Maryland Super Lawyers List"
- 2016 - Present, included in "Maryland Super Lawyer List"
- 2012 - 2015, *Super Lawyers* magazine named Mrs. Nichols a Rising Star among Maryland attorneys
- 2013, elected a Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation
- In 2010, Mrs. Nichols was among 15 Fellows appointed to the Maryland State Bar Association Leadership Academy, an exclusive 12-month program designed to assist attorneys to become leaders and offering opportunities for future leadership roles in the MSBA.

EDUCATION

- Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, J.D.
- Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Science

ADMISSIONS

- State of Maryland
- District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the District of Maryland
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States Supreme Court