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Attorneys At Law

Bringing Families

Together

LAW PRACTICE DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO ADOPTION AND FAMILY PLANNING



Adoption is a beautiful way to grow your family and open your heart and home to a child or children in need. For over 17 years, I have dedicated my career to assisting my clients in navigating the adoption process so they can transition into family life with their new child with legal security and peace of mind. I proudly serve clients throughout New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Delaware. My commitment to clients has made me a trusted resource for hundreds of families throughout the tri-state region who have valued my passion in my work, personalized service, and fervent advocacy on their behalf.

Why Work with an Adoption Attorney?

Adoption is a wonderful option for expanding your family, but the laws governing the process can be complex and difficult to understand. When you work with an attorney, you can be confident that your adoption process will proceed as smoothly as possible. I can help you understand the laws regarding adoption, as well as provide:

- An unbiased explanation of adoption methods
- Resources to help you develop a legally secure adoption plan
- Explanations of your rights and the adoption laws in your state or references to an adoption attorney who practices in your state or internationally
- Assessment of the risks involved, including determining what costs are legally permissible
- Methods to ensure that the birth parents' rights are legally terminated as early in the process as possible to reduce legal risk
- Clarification of your options for post-placement arrangements, if any, with birth parents
- Drafting or reviewing services for agreements to ensure your interests and the interests of the child are served

As the hallmark of my practice, I offer professional, personalized, and practical advice to my clients in addition to high quality legal services both inside and outside of the courtroom. My family-empowerment approach to practicing in adoption and assisted reproductive technology cases enables clients to understand their choices and make decisions that are right for them and their families at every stage of the process.

Some adoptions are more complicated than others. I am dedicated to strategizing with my client families to find and implement solutions through careful planning and consideration of all possible complications. I enjoy the challenge of planning for complex adoption cases and overcoming hurdles that clients may have in the adoption process. Together, we create a plan to resolve complex legal issues involving interstate adoption placements, contesting parties, and immigration issues in adoptions with international components, as well as pursuing clients' rights for financial and medical assistance through adoption subsidy.

I am a proud fellow of Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA), a membership-by-invitation only association of 470 attorneys, law professors, and judges in the United States and throughout the world who have extensive experience in the practice of adoption law, ART law, or both. AAAA fellows ascribe to a practice-specific code of ethics that fosters best practices in adoption and assisted reproductive technology law. I am also a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars and professional conferences, and participated in committees to improve laws and adoption practice. I work to provide prospective parents and birth parents with trusted legal representation for their adoption cases. Having a practice concentrated on adoption and family planning spanning 17 years, I bring a level of insight, judgment and experience to each case that surpasses the services offered by attorneys with a more generalized practice, including family law practitioners.



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Client Testimonials

What a Fantastic Family Attorney! Wow! From day one Debbie took time to get to know me and our family's story. Throughout the entire adoption process Debbie was one of my go to calls pretty much every day! There was never a time she didn't want to talk or help us out. Her knowledge of the subject matter and on adoption and law really impressed me. Going through an adoption is super hard and stressful as it is but having an attorney who you know truly cares made the journey a little bit easier. To know you had someone in your corner who understood and was willing to go the extra mile meant so much to my husband and I. On days where I needed a pick me up, Debbie was very encouraging. When I needed to be reminded that it was going to be ok, she offered sound advice. She always was honest and professional as well! I honestly have nothing negative to say, except that I miss talking to her as much as I did! Having her there the day we finalized the adoption of our daughter felt so amazing. It was like having another member of the family! I would recommend her to anyone who needs an attorney who is knowledgeable, sweet, considerate and honest! Thank you Debbie! We love you! - **Gina C. - Google**

This review is way overdue. On 8/18/20 I legally adopted my daughter thanks to the help of Deborah E. Spivack and her team. To say they went above and beyond is still not enough to explain how much they did for my family. They went to great extents to keep my family together and out of harms way. They went to bat for us in the court room when it seemed impossible. They valued my opinion, my feelings, and my beliefs. My adoption ended up being contested but they had the resources to go ahead and defend our case and win. I don't know why I waited this long to post a review but maybe someone is in need and needs to read this to make the decision to go ahead and hire their services. If you want someone who will be there every step of the way and care for your situation as if she was family then please hire Deborah E. Spivack. Don't waste your time with other offices like I did. Deborah E. Spivack saved our family. - **N. Y. - Google**

Debbie was our attorney for both of our adoption finalizations. To say that she went above and beyond her role as our attorney is an understatement. You feel comfortable with her the second that you meet her. She is incredibly warm and you always feel like she truly cares about her clients. With our first adoption finalization, the court date that was provided happened to fall during her already scheduled vacation. Rather than postponing our date, she drove up to the courthouse anyway for us mid-vacation! With our second adoption, our case was far more complex than our first experience, and we had some additional legal hurdles. We adopted a child with special needs and were trying to apply for a subsidy to provide for his added medical needs. This proved very difficult. The state department was very uncooperative...they refused to return my calls and gave me different information each time I spoke to someone there. I felt like giving up! When I told Debbie that, she refused to allow me to do so and helped me finally get the answers that we needed to move forward with our finalization. Now, several years later, we are forever indebted to her. Had she not given me that push to fight we would have had a far different outcome! We cannot thank her enough!! - **Michele L. - Google**





Client Testimonials

Ms Spivack is someone my family is truly thankful for. After experiencing a failed adoption working with a no-so-ethical attorney, we were gun-shy. Because of her background we decided to meet and talk to her about adoption. She was very knowledgeable and took the time to explain all of our options. From the initial consultation we felt very comfortable working with her and her staff. She worked with us to make the process smooth for our first adoption and was the only attorney we would use for our second adoption. Both situations had some tricky situations and circumstances and she helped guide us through. She was patient with a not-so-patient person like myself. Helped to calm myself and my partner down when hiccups occurred. She was there from start to finish. We only recommend Deborah when other people ask us about adoption attorneys!

- Jarred T. - Google

Positive: Professionalism, Quality, Responsiveness

We presented the firm with a unique challenge during our adoption process, to pick up our case mid-stream, chart a new course, and navigate the court system during the worst of the pandemic. Debbie and her team were so professional, detailed, and helpful, and turned what was a fraught and anxious process into one we felt well-prepared for. We will always look upon their work and the outcome it produced as one of the most important - and ultimately joyous - experiences of our lives.

- Michael K. - Google

Everything about our adoption was complex. Our son's birthmother lived in a neighboring state and our adoption agency was not licensed there. Thankfully Debbie was licensed in both. It was a bumpy pregnancy, Debbie was always researching and making suggestions to make things better. After our son was born the situation was even more trying. He was in the NICU having very serious medical issues and birth mother and father were arguing with one another. We felt very torn. Debbie was always the one to calm us down. Her years of knowledge and sound legal advice helped us wait for the storm to pass...and thankfully it did just like she said. Debbie made us aware of the risks and laid out timeframes for each step. I remember on the hardest day she called me late in the evening just to make sure we were ok. Debbie is very professional and warm. She saw us through the most difficult and joyous time of our life. We had peace of mind knowing she was by our side!! I cannot say enough wonderful things about Deborah Spivack. **- Diana O. - Google**





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