

Oakley & Eckstein, LLC  
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## SUZY ECKSTEIN

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**Suzy Eckstein** is a principal in the law firm of OAKLEY & ECKSTEIN, LLC and an established family law practitioner with extensive experience in guardianships, step-parent adoptions, divorce, custody, probate and wills and estate planning. She is a member of both the Maryland and District of Columbia Bars and a trained mediator. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Law, teaching Collaborative Law and Practice. Ms. Eckstein is featured in Bethesda Magazine as one of the top 25 divorce lawyers in the Montgomery County area. She was the founding Co-President of the Collaborative Project of Maryland, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting clients of modest means to have access to the Collaborative Process. Ms. Eckstein frequently speaks and writes on the subject of Collaborative Law. She also litigates when necessary for her clients and successfully argued what the Family Law Monthly described as the landmark case of *Rock v. Rock*, a precedent-setting decision on the award of indefinite alimony. Locally, former CBS reporter Jan Fox featured her advice regarding prenuptial agreements on the Consumer Reports segment of Channel 9's Eyewitness News.

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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Bachelor of Science, Allied Services (concentration in Counseling), University of Hartford,  
*Cum Laude* **1983**

*Juris Doctor*, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law **1987**

40-hour Mediation Training **2005**

Collaborative Divorce Training **2004, 2006, 2011**

Civil and Commercial Applications Collaborative Law Training **2013**

Pepperdine University School of Law Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution- Advanced  
Family Collaborative Law **2013**

Pepperdine University School of Law Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution- Preventing  
Bad Settlement Decisions and Impasse **2015**

Estates and Trusts Collaborative Law Training **2017**

### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

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*Nominations & Elections Committee Member* Bar Association of Montgomery County **2001  
and 2004**

*Member (Barrister)* Montgomery County Inns of Court **2003-2006**

*Founding President* Collaborative Dispute Resolution Professionals **2005-2006**

*Court Appointed Domestic Relations Facilitator* Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD  
**2006**

*Secretary* Bar Association of Montgomery County **2006/2007**

*Executive Committee Member* Bar Association of Montgomery County **2007-2009**

*Board of Governor's Member* Maryland State Bar Association **2009-2011**

*Executive Committee Member* Maryland State Bar Association **2009/2010**

*Council Member* Maryland State Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section **2007-2010**

*Secretary* Maryland State Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section **2013/2014**

*Vice Chair* Maryland State Bar Association, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section **2014/2015**

*Chair* Maryland State Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Section **2015/2016**

*Founding member* Collaborative Practice Center of Greater Washington **-Present**

*Founding member* Collaborative Practice Center of Montgomery County **2012-Present**

*Founding Board member* Maryland Collaborative Practice Council

*Founding Co-President* Collaborative Project of Maryland **2011/2012**

*Board member* Collaborative Project of Maryland **2012-2017**

*Chair*, Bar Association of Montgomery County Collaborative Law Section **2010-2013**

*Member*, Bar Association of Montgomery County Fee Resolution Dispute Committee 2004-Present

*Board member and Chairperson (Civil)* District of Columbia Academy of Collaborative Professionals **20-**

*Member* ADR Committee of the Commission on Child Custody Decision-Making **2014**

*Board member and Chairperson (Civil)* Collaborative Dispute Resolution Professionals **2016-2017**

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Collaborative Dispute Resolution Professionals (Montgomery County MD) (CDRP)

International Association of Collaborative Professionals (IACP)

District of Columbia Academy of Collaborative Professionals (DCACP)

Divorce Roundtable of Montgomery County

District of Columbia Bar Association

Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)

Montgomery County Bar Association (BAMC)

## **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

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Collaborative Dispute Resolution Professionals-President's Award **2009-2010**

Bar Association of Montgomery County, MD Section- Co-Chair of the Year • **2013**

Maryland Collaborative Practice Council (MCPC)- Trailblazer Award **2015**

The Best lawyers in America- Collaborative Law; Civil, Collaborative Law; Family Law and Family Law **2012-2016**

Washington DC Super Lawyers **2007-2018**

Maryland Super Lawyers **2007-2018**

U.S. News & World Report- Best Law Firms **2015, 2016**

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## **ARTICLES**

ADR Report (MSBA ADR Section Newsletter) "ADR Trends: Collaborative Law and Business" **Winter 2008**

Maryland Bar Bulletin, Maryland State Bar Association Newsletter "Collaborative Law Nears a Tipping Point" Co-authored Suzy Eckstein, Craig J. Little, Mary S. Pence and Darcy Shoop **April 15, 2008**

MCPC Newsletter- "Attorney's Column- How do we advocate?" Co-authored Suzy Eckstein and Anne Marie Wall **April 2009**

Family Law News (MSBA Family Law Section Newsletter) "The Anatomy of a Collaborative Case- A Glimpse" Co-authored Suzy Eckstein and Mary Pence **2010**

ADR Report (MSBA ADR Section Newsletter) "Collaborative Happenings-Maryland Judiciary Supports Collaborative Law Training" **2011**

Family Law News (MSBA Family Law Section Newsletter) "Judicial Support Provides a life for Collaborative Practice" **2011**

Maryland Bar Journal "Advocacy Within The Collaborative Process: A Comparative Case Study" Co-Author Suzy Eckstein and Annemarie Wall **March 2012**

ADR Report (MSBA ADR Section Newsletter) "Maryland Families of Modest Means can now Access the Collaborative Process under New Program" **June 2012**

Family Law News (MSBA Family Law Section Newsletter) "Maryland Court of Appeals Adopts Collaborative Law Rules" **Fall 2015**

ADR Report (MSBA ADR Section Newsletter), The History of Collaborative Law Practice in Maryland **Spring 2015**

The Collaborative Review (The Journal of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals) "The Collaborative Project of MD: How *Pro Bono* Projects Can Find a Place in the Collaborative Community" Co-authored Suzy Eckstein and Wayne Warren **Winter 2014**

MSBA ADR Section Newsletter "Maryland Court of Appeals Adopts Collaborative Law Rules" **March 2015**

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## **PRESENTATIONS**

The Equitable Financial Companies- Small Estates and Life Insurance **October 1992**

The Equitable Financial Companies- Small Estates and Life Insurance & Titling of Investments **November 1994**

Speakers Bureau of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation- U.S. Constitution Seminar: Grandparent's Visitation Rights, Fundamental Right of Parents to Rear & Control a Child; Genetic Testing for Paternity in Maryland-Will It Undermine Families? **September 2000**

MSBA Annual Meeting, Solo and Small Firm Day- Collaborative Law: How It Can Improve Your Practice **June 2006**

MACRO Mediator's Convention **December 2006**

Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland Bar Foundation Continuing Legal Education Program- ADR Approaches in Family Law- Arbitration, Mediation, or Collaborative Law- A Panel Discussion **October 2007**

Maryland Mediator's Convention- Where do We Fit In? Mediators in the Collaborative Process in Civil and Family Matters **December 2008**

National Family Resiliency Center Conference- Building a Roadmap For Families in Transition: A Multidisciplinary Approach **February 2009**

Divorce Roundtable of Montgomery County- The Role of Advocacy in the Collaborative Process

MSBA Annual Meeting, ADR Section Program-ADR HOT TOPICS, Innovative Uses of ADR, including the Use of Mediation and the Collaborative Process, in crafting Pre-Nuptial Agreements **2009**

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum Workshop-Defining Advocacy in the Collaborative Process **October 2010**

Bar Association of Montgomery County (Collaborative Law Section) Continuing Legal Education Program- Collaborative Practice In Civil and Commercial Law **November 2011**

Bar Association of Montgomery County Annual Meeting- The UCLA: Not Just for Family Law **April 2011**

Bar Association of Montgomery County Annual Meeting (Collaborative Law Section) - Where in the World is Collaborative Practice? (and why should you care?) **April 2012**

Maryland State Bar Association ADR Section Presentation- Why you need to know about Collaborative Practice **June 2012**

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum Workshop-spread the Word About Collaborative Practice: All the Tools you Need **October 2012**

Administrative Office of Courts Legal Service Providers Intake Training **November 2012**

Administrative Office of Courts Family Law Coordinators Training **February 2013**

Bar Association of Montgomery County Annual Meeting (Family Law and Collaborative Law Section)- The Great Collaborative Law Debate **April 2013**

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum Workshop-Bringing the Collaborative Process to Families of Modest Means: A Maryland Case Study **October 2013**

Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Family Administration, Masters Educational Series-Collaborative Law and The Uniform Collaborative Law Act **2014**

Wealth Counsel DC Metro/Virginia Forum Meeting- Preserve Your Client's Personal & Business Relationships through Collaborative Law **June 2014**

University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Innovations in Family Dispute Resolution Conference- Enhancing Access to Justice for Families Through New Lawyering Models **2015**

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum Workshops- 1. Anatomy of the First Meeting: Tending to Emotions and Business, and 2. Collaborative Practice in the Law Schools: Key to the Future **October 2015**

Maryland State Bar Association ADR and Family Law Section Presentation: Fifty Shades of Resolution **June 2015**

Maryland Judiciary, Court Professional Certificate Program- Overview of Alternative Dispute Resolution (Collaborative Project of Maryland) **April 2016**

Suburban Hospital, Estate Planning Journal Club- Divorce Law Update **November 2016**

New Beginnings Divorce 101- Children's Issues: Custody Arrangements, Child Support **2012 -2017**

#### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND LEADERSHIP**

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*Treasurer and Founder, Board of Directors* Shaare Torah Congregation **1997**

*Trustee, Board of Directors* Shaare Torah Congregation **1998-2001**

*Treasurer* Quince Orchard High School PTA **2005-2007**