

# EMILY E. CUNNIFF, J.D., M.S.W.

Emily.Cunniff@ng.legal 301-762-8999  
Admitted to Maryland (2015) and D.C. (2016)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Nichols Gelmann LLC**

**Feb. 2024 - Present**

*Senior Associate*

Practices family cases in Maryland and DC. Significant focus of practice on custody, complex financial divorces, child support, and mediation and settlement-focused alternatives to litigation. Approved by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland to serve as court-appointed child counsel. Serves as Alternative Dispute Resolution facilitator for D.C. Superior Court Domestic Relations.

### **McKinney Figini, LLC**

**Oct. 2020 – Feb. 2024**

*Senior Associate*

Practiced family cases in Maryland and DC primarily concerning custody, complex financial divorces, and mediation and settlement-focused alternatives to litigation. Approved by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland to serve as court-appointed child counsel. Served as Alternative Dispute Resolution facilitator for D.C. Superior Court Domestic Relations.

### **Delaney Stafford, LLC**

**May 2020 – Oct. 2020**

*Associate Attorney*

Practiced family and domestic violence cases in Maryland and DC. Significant focus of practice on litigating high-conflict custody cases, divorce, and domestic violence.

### **Delaney McKinney, LLP**

**Jan. 2018 – April 2020**

*Associate Attorney*

Practiced family and domestic violence cases in Maryland and DC. Significant focus of practice on litigating high-conflict custody cases, divorce, domestic violence, and relocation.

### **Tomes Salter Nichols & Gomez, LLC**

**June 2016 – Jan. 2018**

*Associate Attorney*

Practiced family, criminal, and domestic violence cases in Maryland and DC. Appointed to the Criminal Justice Act appellate panel for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

### **District of Columbia Court of Appeals**

**Aug. 2015 – June 2016**

*Law Clerk to the Honorable Senior Judges*

Served as law clerk to ten Senior Judges. Researched criminal, civil, and administrative legal issues; drafted bench memoranda and opinions; briefed judges and argued novel points of law; and prepared judges for oral arguments.

## EDUCATION

### **American University, Washington College of Law**

**May 2015**

*Juris Doctor, magna cum laude; Order of the Coif*

Honors:

- Mussey & Gillett Fellowship awarded to the highest achieving students; and
- Highest Grade Designation in the Criminal Justice Clinic.

Activities:

- AMERICAN UNIVERSITY JOURNAL OF GENDER, SOCIAL POLICY & THE LAW – Publications Editor;
- Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project - Teaching Fellow in Prince George's County, MD, public high schools;
- Dean's Fellow for the Legal Analysis Program.

Internships:

- The Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia - *Third-Year Practice Student Attorney*, Alexandria, VA;
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, The Honorable Reggie B. Walton - *Law Clerk Intern*, Washington, D.C.;

- Maryland Office of the Public Defender, District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County - *Law Clerk*, Prince George's County, MD;
- Criminal Justice Policy Foundation, Drug Policy Reform Initiatives - *Law Clerk*, Silver Spring, MD; and
- Our Place DC, United States Parole Commission Revocation Hearings - *Law Clerk*, Washington, D.C.

**University of Central Florida**

**May 2012**

*Master of Social Work & Marriage and Family Therapy Certificate*

**University of Central Florida**

**Aug. 2009**

*Bachelor of Science, Psychology, minor in Sociology*

**ADDITIONAL TRAININGS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Lecturer for the Maryland State Bar Association Family Law University 2024: A Complete Guide to Child Support
- Lecturer/trainer for the Maryland Administration Office of the Courts' Custody & Visitation-Related Assessments multi-day training, May 2023
- Certification from 40 Hour Mediation and Interest-Based Negotiation Skills Training, Oct.-Nov. 2022
- Best Interest Attorney & Child Counsel Training, April 2021
- 2020 Family Law Seminar, Maryland Association for Justice, May 2022
- Maryland State Bar Association – Hot Tips in Family Law 2021
- Domestic Violence Litigation Before & After the COVID-19 Court Closure, May 2020
- Coercive Control in Families and the Impact on Children, October 2020
- Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland – Family Law Update 2019
- Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland – Family Law & School Systems 2018
- Maryland Law Day 2017-2019

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- D.C. Bar Association
- D.C. Bar Family Law Community
- Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia
- Maryland Bar Association – Family & Juvenile Law Section
- Bar Association of Montgomery County
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)

**RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK**

During my three-year MSW program, I focused my training on treating individuals with substance use disorders and, often, co-morbid mental health disorders. Specifically, I worked in (1) a long-term residential treatment facility for adult males with substance use disorders and felony charges and/or convictions who were court-ordered to treatment; (2) an outpatient treatment program, which included medicated-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder; and (3) a transitional housing program for the chronically unhoused population with co-morbid diagnoses. In these various offices, I provided psychosocial assessments and diagnostic impressions, individual and group therapy, led motivational enhancement groups, and wrote discharge reports for court-mandated clients, all under the supervision of licensed clinical social workers. I was also a research assistant for a grant-funded program on the efficacy of training programs for child protective investigators. My social work background has continually informed my work in the law.