

SHAYLA S. STOKES, ESQ.

9701 Apollo Drive, Suite 301, Largo, MD 20774 ♦ (301) 588-0475 ♦ (301) 887-3319 ♦
shayla.stokes@settlerslaw.com

EDUCATION

HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Washington, DC, J.D. 2005

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, Amherst, MA B.A., Political Science 1999
Cum Laude

BAR ADMISSION

United States District Court for the District of Maryland 2009
District of Columbia 2008
Maryland 2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Attorney, Settlers Law, LLC, Largo, MD 2009-present

- Solo practitioner in divorce, child custody, and child support cases; interview clients, analyze financial documents, draft pleadings, design discovery plans, conduct discovery, file motions and all other aspects of pre-trial litigation; participate in settlement conferences, emergency negotiations, motion hearings and full trial.
- Serve as a Court Appointed Best Interest Attorney for Prince George’s County Circuit Court in contested child custody cases (2014-present). Research, analyze, and interpret Maryland’s Best Interest of the Child Standards. Interview and consult with parents, children, attorneys, judges, and other appropriate parties to present an independent assessment of the case.
- Serve as Parent’s Counsel for Abused and Neglected Children Panel for District of Columbia Superior Court (2016-present). Represent parents and caretakers in child abuse and neglect cases. Research, analyze, and interpret D.C. Code and Superior Court neglect statutes and rules.

Arbitrator, *Settlers Law, LLC/Better Business Bureau*, Baltimore, MD 2011-2014

- Served as liaison between consumer and manufacturer for the Auto Line/Lemon Law Complaint Program; conducted investigative work to research and respond to customer complaints based on specific issues.
- Resolved numerous consumer warranty complaints by interpreting, analyzing and applying Maryland Lemon Law to various manufacturer automobile warranties.
- Conducted hearings, interviewed witnesses and parties, and analyzed evidence to provide a neutral assessment and resolution of approx. 12 disputed issues per year.
- Submitted non-binding decisions to the manufacturers and consumers resulting in denials, repurchases, replacements or repairs.

ADDITIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Guardian Ad Litem, *DC Lawyers Volunteer Project* 2011-2012

- Served as a court-appointed Guardian Ad Litem in custody disputes involving child abuse/neglect and/or domestic violence.
- Researched, analyzed, and interpreted DC Code- Child Best Interest Standards. Interviewed and consulted with parents, children, and other appropriate parties to present an independent assessment of the case.
- Served as lead co-attorney for DC Lawyers Volunteer Project; provided written recommendations on findings to the Court. Assessed child risks and determined whether safety measures should be

SHAYLA S. STOKES, ESQ.

9701 Apollo Drive, Suite 301, Largo, MD 20774 ♦ (301) 588-0475 ♦ (301) 887-3319 ♦
shayla.stokes@settlerslaw.com

implemented; identified child's service needs; researched and provided recommendations to the court about custody and visitation arrangements.

Mediator, Access Youth, Washington, DC 2010-2011

- Conducted mediation services for juveniles through a restorative justice program at DC Public Schools; facilitated dialogue between high school victims and offenders to address the needs of the victim and/or allow offenders to make amends for their mistakes; assisted in training and evaluating student mediators from Georgetown Law School on mediation techniques for DC Public Schools Restorative Justice Program.

Attorney, Community Legal Services, Riverdale, MD 2009

- Provided pro bono legal representation to low income individuals in Prince George's County in divorce and child custody cases; knowledgeable of Prince George's County laws; executed filing of lawsuits, planning, investigation, organization and presentation of arguments.

Attorney, District of Columbia Bar Pro Bono Bankruptcy Program, Washington, DC 2008-2009

- Provided pro bono legal services to low income individuals in Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy actions; interviewed clients; analyzed financial documents; and filed documents for United States Bankruptcy Court.

Attorney, Civil Justice, Inc., Baltimore, MD 2008

- Provided pro bono legal services to homeowners in distress at various Foreclosure Solutions Workshops across MD; analyzed loan documents and interviewed and advised homeowners on various recourses to foreclosures; negotiated with lenders on behalf of homeowners regarding forbearance or loan modification agreements.

Associate, Law Office of Ellen L. Lee, Esq., Rockville, MD Jan. 2006- Oct. 2006

- Managed cases in a general family law practice with a concentration in divorce litigation; drafted and responded to various pleadings and correspondence (e.g., complaints, memoranda, answers, interrogatories, document production requests, etc.); conducted extensive legal research and analysis on divorce, alimony, child custody/support issues; interviewed potential clients and kept clients abreast of developments in case.
- Assisted Managing Attorney with deposition and interview support by coordinating witnesses, summaries, meeting notes, track data; provided status updates.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Certified Arbitrator, Better Business Bureau National Panel of Arbitrators	2011
Child Counsel Training	2013
Certified Mediator	2009

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Maryland State Bar Association
Prince George's County Bar Association