

# JESSICA L. ZARRELLA

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## **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

### **THE LAW OFFICE OF JESSICA L. ZARRELLA, LLC**

Rockville, MD

#### ***Principal, March 2018 - Present***

- **Criminal Defense and Family Law Firm**

- Sole proprietor of criminal defense and family law practice, handling all aspects of felony, misdemeanor and juvenile criminal defense, family law, custody, divorce, child and spousal support, post-judgement modification and protective and peace order cases from intake through litigation
- Serve as Child's Counsel and Best Interest Attorney in both court-appointed and privately retained cases.
- Conduct both private and court-appointed child custody and divorce mediations.
- Trained in conflict resolution as a transformative mediator

### **THE MCKEON LAW FIRM**

Gaithersburg, MD

#### ***Associate Attorney, August 2017 – March 2018***

- **Boutique Family Law Practice**

- Responsibilities included: handling family law cases in all aspects from client intake through to litigation, including but not limited to custody, divorce, asset division, child support, protective orders and post-judgement modifications.
- Drafted all types of civil pleadings; Complaints, Answers, Motions for Modification, Contempt, To Compel and For Sanctions Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents and responses and answers.
- Drafted Pre and Post-Nuptial Agreements, attended mediations with clients, prepared for and litigated cases at trial.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Rockville, MD

#### ***Assistant State's Attorney, January 2007 – August 2017***

- **Felony Trial Team, March 2010 - October 2012 & September 2014 – August 2017**

- Assignments included several homicide cases, including serving as lead counsel, while majority of cases assigned were violent felonies including but not limited to homicide, rape, armed robbery/robbery, armed carjacking, kidnapping, first degree assault, felony use of a handgun.
- Responsibilities included: trying over 30 complex serious felony jury trials; participating in pre-indictment investigation of complex felony cases; engaging in significant and complex oral and written motions practice which include researching pre-trial legal issues and preparing written motions for

suppression hearings, and memorandums in aid of sentencing; preparing all types of witnesses for trial (police officers, juveniles, lay witnesses, expert witnesses, witness of limited educational background, and uncooperative witnesses or co-defendants); making complex felony case charging decisions.

- **Gang Prosecution Unit, August 2007 - March 2010 & October 2012 - September 2014**
  - Served as Gang Prosecutor in District Court, Juvenile and Circuit Court.
  - Tried hundreds of misdemeanor jury trials, presented specially designed “gang allocutions” for sentencing, complete with demonstrative evidence of gang membership and testimony from police department gang detectives.
  - Cultivated extensive knowledge of the use of social media used throughout long-term law enforcement investigations.
  - Handled majority co-defendant, violent crimes cases with the felony division, with complex evidentiary issues; routinely held lengthy sentencing presentations which required the presentation of witnesses; became first ASA in the county to qualify a detective as an expert witness in gang intelligence and investigation.
- **District Court Team, January 2007 - August 2007**
  - Prepared daily dockets of 30 to 100 cases per day for trial which necessitated trying a variety of different cases with very little time for advanced witness or evidence preparation.
  - Tried over 200 bench trials of varying complexity.

## **PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENTS**

- Attorney Grievance Commission, State of Maryland, Peer Review Committee, August 2013 - Present
  - Preside over and question Respondents charged by Bar Counsel with violations of the Rules of Professional Responsibility and issue written recommendations regarding case disposal to the Attorney Grievance Commission.
- Animal Review Official, City of Rockville, January 2009 - Present
  - Adjudicate complaints and violations of the Rockville City Code, by presiding over hearings of Respondents charged with animal related code violations, hear testimony, receive evidence and issue written “decisions and orders” which resolve cases by assessing fines and other conditions to Respondents found in violation.
- Maryland State Bar Association
  - June 2008 – Present
- Montgomery County Bar Association
  - Member, Criminal Law Section, 2008 - Present
  - Co-Chairman, Criminal Law Section, 2008 - 2012
  - Member, Legal Ethics Committee, 2008 - 2015
- Montgomery County Inns of Court
  - Associate 2010 - 2012
  - Barrister 2014 - Present
- Montgomery County Bar Leader
  - 2011 – Present
- Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney Association

- February 2018 – Present
- Board of Directors, 2020 – Present

## **EDUCATION**

### **THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, COLUMBUS SCHOOL OF LAW**

Washington, D.C.

J.D., May 2006

- *Cum Laude*
- Thurgood Marshall, American Inns of Court
- Moot Court Participant
- **Article Editor:** *CommLaw Conspectus: The Journal of Communications Law and Policy*
  - Published in volume 14.1, Jessica Zarrella, Comment, *Why the Traditional First Amendment Right to a Public Trial Cannot Be Applied to Military Tribunals*, 14 COMMLAW CONSPECTUS 243, 243-84 (2005).
- **Government Honors Program:** Presidential Management Fellow

### **GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**

Washington, D.C.

B.A., Government, May 2003