



PILAR C. NICHOLS
 Principal, Bethesda

PRACTICE FOCUS

Pilar C. Nichols is a Principal attorney in Offit Kurman’s Family Law Practice Group where she has extensive trial experience and practice in various areas of Family Law. Her concentration focuses in the litigation and settlement of divorce, child custody and visitation, mediation, spousal and child support, property division (including complex property issues and those that require business valuations), negotiating and drafting of separation agreements, guardianship proceedings, and adoptions.

Her niche is in the area of domestic violence where she has extensive experience in representing clients in (and has presented on) domestic violence protective orders and any accompanying criminal charges. Ms. Nichols has experience in divorces involving the spouses of international organizations, such as the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. She is regularly court appointed to represent children in contested custody cases as child counsel. In addition, Ms. Nichols is a trained mediator, having completed the general mediation training and both the property division and custody training. In addition to her family law practice, Ms. Nichols, a former criminal prosecutor, practices criminal and traffic defense, including appeals at all stages of post-conviction.

Prior to joining Offit Kurman, Ms. Nichols was a founding partner of the law offices of Tomes, Salter, Nichols & Gomez, LLC, in Montgomery County, Maryland. Prior to that, she founded The Law Offices of Pilar Nichols as a solo practitioner and private criminal defense attorney, having previously worked for a private law firm under one of Montgomery County’s top criminal lawyers. Before private practice, she served as an Assistant State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County and as Legislative and Regulatory Counsel for the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.

Ms. Nichols received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. While a student at Penn State, she studied at the Universidad de Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain where she obtained her minor in Spanish. She then attended The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC, where she earned her Juris Doctor and a specialized certificate from the law school’s Institute for Communications Law Studies. While in law school, Ms. Nichols served on the executive board of the Student Bar Association, as a writer for the *CommLaw Spectus: Journal of Communications Law and Policy*. She also earned the “Extra Mile Award” for outstanding service to the law school and a specialized certificate from the law school’s Institute for Communications Law Studies.

Ms. Nichols is a member of the Bar Association of Montgomery County, previously serving on the bar’s executive committee and currently serving as a co-chair of the Family Law Section and a member of the Judicial Selections Committee. She has been a Barrister on the Montgomery County Inns of Court since 2011. She is a former MSBA Leadership Academy Fellow and currently serves on the Leadership Academy Committee. Ms. Nichols was recently named Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee for the Maryland State Bar Association. She is also a current board member and past president of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association and continues to serve on the association’s Judicial Nominations Committee.

In addition to her law practice, Ms. Nichols is an Adjunct Professor at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law where she teaches *Managing A Law Practice*. She is also standing faculty at the Judicial College of Maryland where she presents on various family law topics to Judges as part of their training.

Ms. Nichols is fluent in Spanish and resides in Montgomery County with her husband, two children and lovable Rottweiler, Guinness.

“I guide and advocate for my clients through one of the most challenging times in their lives by balancing legal strategies, strength and compassion.”

— Pilar Nichols

PRESENTATIONS AND PRO BONO WORK

- Presenter: "Making Yourself Relevant: How to Thrive as an Attorney in Turbulent Times" presented by Maryland State Bar Association's Diversity & Inclusion Committee (2020)
- Presenter: "Look Both Ways: Practicing at the Intersection of Family Law and Criminal Law" for the Bar Association of Montgomery County (2017)

PRACTICE AREAS

- Criminal Defense Litigation and Appeal
- Family Law

ACTIVITIES

- Co-Chair, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Maryland State Bar Association, 2020 - 2021
- Past President of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, 2011 - 2012
- Maryland Hispanic Bar Association Judicial Selections Committee, 2010 - 2015
- Montgomery County Bar Association, 2007 - Present
- Montgomery County Inns of Court Barrister, 2011 - Present
- Women’s Bar Association, 2010 - Present
- Maryland Criminal Defense Attorney’s Association, 2007 - Present
- Adjunct Professor at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of La

- Panelist: “Law Enforcement and the Latino Community” at the Second Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, presented by the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (2016)
- Presenter: “Law School for the Public: Guardianships in Maryland” (2016)
- Presenter: “Family Law University - Alimony and Child Support” at the Judicial College of Maryland (2015, 2017)
- Presenter: “Solo Practice – From Start to Finish” at Bar Association of Montgomery County’s “Law Day” (2015)
- Presenter: “Legal Process of Divorce and Separation” for Montgomery County Commission for Women (2013, 2016)
- Panelist: “Advice from the Bench: Real Talk and Tips for Aspiring Maryland Judges” for Bar Association of Montgomery County, Specialty Bar Associations Committee (2013)
- Panelist: “Attorney Voices: Overcoming Challenges Minorities Face in the Legal Workplace” (2012)
- Pro Bono: Casa De Maryland Pro Bono Legal Clinic (2011, 2012)
- Pro Bono: Casa De Maryland Pro bono Fair (2011, 2012)
- Presenter: “Nuts and Bolts of Practicing Law” at the Bar Association of Montgomery County’s “Law Day” (2011)
- Presenter: “Nuts and Bolts of Practicing Criminal Law” for the Bar Association of Montgomery County (2010)
- Presenter and volunteer: Women’s Bar Association “Preparing for Success” Fall Forum (2007 – present)
- Cast and organizational committee member: Montgomery County Bar Foundation “Bar Review” (2007-2013)

POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- Top Lawyer 2020, Family Law, Washingtonian Magazine
- Named to *The Daily Record's* Leadership in Law, recognizing attorneys whose dedication to their occupation and to their communities is outstanding, in 2020
- Named to *The Daily Record's* Leading Women, honoring 50 women aged 40 or younger, in 2020
- *Bethesda Magazine* Top Attorneys, Family Law (recognition honors the region’s most respected legal practitioners, as chosen by their peers), 2019
- Named to the *Best Lawyers in America* listing in the Family Law category in 2018 - 2021
- Presented the “Outstanding Leadership” award by the MSBA Young Lawyers Section and the University of Maryland, Francis King School of Law for “outstanding leadership” and “continued commitment to diversity”
- 2019-2021, included in "Top 50 Women Maryland Super Lawyers List"
- 2019-2021, included in "Top 100 Maryland Super Lawyers List"
- 2016 - Present, included in "Maryland Super Lawyer List"
- 2012 - 2015, *Super Lawyers* magazine named Mrs. Nichols a Rising Star among Maryland attorneys
- 2013, elected a Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation
- In 2010, Mrs. Nichols was among 15 Fellows appointed to the Maryland State Bar Association Leadership Academy, an exclusive 12-month program designed to assist attorneys to become leaders and offering opportunities for future leadership roles in the MSBA.

EDUCATION

- Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, J.D.
- Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Science

ADMISSIONS

- State of Maryland
- District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the District of Maryland
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States Supreme Court