

Ashley Watkins McDowell
Turner McDowell, PLLC
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EXPERIENCE

Partner, Turner McDowell, PLLC, Dallas (October 2017 to Present)

- Represent clients in all aspects of family law practice including divorces, conservatorship, possession and access, child support, enforcement and modifications of prior orders, from the case's inception through the trial or resolution of the matter.
- Take and defend the depositions of witnesses, including financial experts, mental health professionals, fact witnesses and parties.
- Collect, evaluate and analyze financial information to advise clients on the division of the marital estate.

Partner, Verner Brumley Mueller Parker Family Law, Dallas (January 2015 to September 2017)

- Represent clients in all aspects of family law practice including divorces, conservatorship, possession and access, child support, enforcement and modifications of prior orders, from the case's inception through the trial or resolution of the matter.
- Take and defend the depositions of witnesses, including financial experts, mental health professionals, fact witnesses and parties.
- Collect, evaluate and analyze financial information to advise clients on the division of the marital estate.

Shareholder, Koons Fuller, P.C., Dallas (2009 to January 2015)

- Represent clients in all aspects of family law practice including divorces, conservatorship, possession and access, child support, enforcement and modifications of prior orders, from the case's inception through the trial or resolution of the matter.
- Take and defend the depositions of witnesses, including financial experts, mental health professionals, fact witnesses and parties.
- Collect, evaluate and analyze financial information to advise clients on the division of the marital estate.

Owner/Partner, Cleaves & McDowell/The McDowell Firm, Dallas and Austin, Texas (2005 to 2009)

- Represented clients in family law matters including divorces, custody, child support and modifications.
- Appointed as an attorney ad litem for children in cases involving Child Protective Services.
- Appointed by the court to act as a guardian ad litem for minor children to review and approve settlements in personal injury cases.

Senior Associate, Waters & Kraus, Dallas, Texas (2000 to 2005)

- Represented clients involving injuries or illnesses due to exposure to toxic substances in cases filed and tried to verdict across the state of Texas.
- Managed all phases of the client's case management including drafting pleadings, propounding and answering discovery, taking and defending clients and experts in depositions.
- Served as a member of the firm's management committee, supervised departments within the firm and managed the firm's law clerk program.

EDUCATION

St. Mary's University School of Law, Juris Doctor (1998)

- Graduated in the top 15% of the class
- Student Bar Association, Vice President
- Research Assistant for Professor Raul Sanchez
- Teaching Assistant for Federal Civil Procedure

Texas Christian University, Bachelor of Science – Public Relations (1993)

- Kappa Alpha Theta sorority
- Panhellenic Association, Vice-President and Junior Representative

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HONORS

Fellow – American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

Board Certified in Family Law - January 2012

Texas Monthly Rising Star – 2008, 2009 and 2011

Texas Monthly Super Lawyer – 2014-2018

Best Attorneys in Dallas, D Magazine – 2015-2016, 2018

Completed Mediation Training (SMU Dispute Resolution Program), 2005 and Collaborative Law Training

AFFILIATIONS

Member – State Bar of Texas (Family Law Section)

Member – Dallas Bar Association, Family Law Section (Board of Directors)

Member – Dallas Bar Association; Collin County Bar Association

Member – Collaborative Divorce Texas

Member – Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists

Member – Family Law Foundation; Legislative Bill Review committee participant

ARTICLE AND PRESENTATIONS

“The Ultimate Judge’s Notebook,” Ultimate Trial Notebook Seminar 2009 (Co-author)

“The Judge’s Notebook,” Denton County Paralegal Association 2009 (Presentation)

“Drafting an Enforceable Protective Order,” Advanced Family Law Seminar 2009 (Co-author)

“Third Party Standing in Suits Affecting Parent-Child Relationship,” Interoffice presentation 2009 (presenter)

“Agreements between Counsel and Parties. Rule 11, MSAs, and Other Settlement Agreements,” Advanced Family Law 2010 (Contributing author)

“Domestic Violence, Divorce & Protective Orders,” How to do a Pro Bono Divorce – Texas Young Lawyers Association 2013 (author and presenter)

“Representing a Pro Bono Client in a Simple Divorce,” Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program 2013 (presenter)

“Pleadings, Supporting Documents and Standing Orders,” Nuts and Bolts Training 2016 & 2017; Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (presenter)