



**FLORENCE M. FASS, ESQ.**

*Matrimonial Law Specialist*

The distinguished legal career of Florence M. Fass includes her exclusive practice of matrimonial and family law as a seasoned litigator, mediator and collaborative law practitioner for nearly 40 years. She is uniquely familiar with the complex financial aspects of the New York State equitable distribution law, while continuing to maintain an awareness and appreciation of the enormous stress which the divorce process places on the parties involved. As such, she believes they are best served by helping them to focus on the financial realities of their cases, while handling their emotional concerns with the patience and the respect they deserve.

Ms. Fass prides herself on being at the forefront of current developments in matrimonial and family law matters, believing it to be crucial to her effectiveness as a neutral. When involved in a case, her many years as an experienced trial attorney have given her an appreciation of the importance to have parties control as much of their financial and emotional destiny as possible, rather than leaving it to the determination of the court. As a result, her goal as a neutral, is to recognize when a matter is ready to be resolved, and to work with the parties in choosing a resolution that is in their best interest, often bringing creative solutions to difficult financial and emotional issues.

Her legal career began in the litigation department of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, one of New York City's "top ten" law firms. Thereafter, she joined two prominent Nassau County divorce firms, becoming a partner in the firm of Gassman Fisher & Fass LLP, and later launched her own firm in 1995.

Her experience as a litigator has reinforced her strong belief that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is the most effective and cost-efficient method of moving matrimonial disputes to resolution. Her advocacy for the ADR forum, along with her years of experience as a trial attorney and negotiator of hundreds of settlements in these matters, makes her an exceptional addition to the NAM Matrimonial Roster.

Ms. Fass is committed to share her extensive knowledge of the law and conflict resolution practices with her colleagues, the judiciary and the public, and has been a frequent lecturer for the New York State Bar, Nassau County Bar, Suffolk County Bar and New York Women's Bar Associations. She is a longstanding member the Top Ten Leaders on Long Island in Matrimonial and Divorce Law, and was the first woman to be included in that group. She has been selected as a member of the Top 50 Most Influential Women on Long Island, and has consistently been named a New York Super Lawyer in the field of matrimonial and family law.

Florence M. Fass, Esq. is available to arbitrate and mediator matrimonial and family law matters throughout New York State.

**AREAS of EXPERIENCE**

- Divorce Mediation
- Collaborative Divorce
- Divorce Settlements
- Pre- and Post-Nuptial Agreements
- Uncontested Divorce
- Contested Divorce
- Child Support
- Spousal Maintenance
- Equitable Distribution
- Property Valuation
- Counsel and Expert Fees
- Custody/Parental Rights
- Paternity

## **LECTURES, PUBLICATIONS and TELEVISION APPEARANCES**

- Extensive lecturing experience statewide in the field of matrimonial and family law for the New York State Bar Association, Nassau County Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association and Women's Bar Association of New York.
  - Topics include with limitation: custody litigation and strategies; trial preparation, professional ethics; taxation and valuation; settlement strategies; case law updates; support and equitable distribution.
- Columnist for monthly feature in the New York Law Journal focused on problems confronting solo and small firm practitioners, 2005 - 2008
- Workshop Participant, Hofstra Law School, *Negotiations in Matrimonial Settlements*, 1992, 2000
- Co-Author, Financial Disclosure, *New York Practice Guide, Domestic Relations* (Matthew Bender), 1988
- Fox News, Legal commentator on issue of non-traditional marriage
- CNBC News, Legal commentator on "switched babies" in custody dispute
- CNBC News, Legal commentator on paramour litigation
- NewsTalk TV, Legal commentator on several programs involving affirmative action reforms

## **HONORS and AWARDS**

- "AV" rated by Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, "AV", 1995 - Present
- Member, "Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyer," Martindale-Hubbell
- Fass & Greenberg LLP, also member of the "Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers," Martindale- Hubbell
- Member, Super Lawyers, 2008 - Present
- Member, Top Ten Leaders in Divorce Law on Long Island, 2003 - Present
- Honoree, Top 50 Most Influential Women on Long Island (Long Island Business News, 2013)
- Honoree, Face-to-Face, (for work with victims of domestic violence), 2004
- Honoree, The We Care Fund (for charitable contributions to the community), 2006, 2019

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

- Senior Partner, Fass & Greenberg, LLP, 1995 - Present
- Special Master (Mediator) for the New York Supreme Court, Matrimonial Center, Nassau County, NY, 2013 - Present
- Arbitrator, Part 137 Fee Dispute Panel, Office of Court Administration, Nassau County, N.Y., 1994 - present
- Partner, Gassman Fisher & Fass, 1992 - 1995
- Sole Practitioner, Law Office of Florence M. Fass, Esq., New York and Vermont, 1986 - 1991
- Associate, Law Office of Willard H. DaSilva, Esq. and Law Office of Stephen Gassman, Esq., 1982 - 1986
- Associate, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, Litigation Department 1980 - 1982
- Law Clerk/Intern, Magistrate Nina Gershon (Ret.), Southern District of New York, 1978 - 1979

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS and ADMISSIONS**

- New York State Bar, Second Department, 1980
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 1980
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 1980
- State of Vermont, 1989 - 2012

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS and ASSOCIATIONS**

- Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Master, New York Family Law, American Inns of Court
  - Executive Committee 2017 - Present
- Member, New York State Bar Association
  - Family Law Section, Executive Committee (1994 - Present)
  - Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section
  - General Practice Section
  - Animal Law Committee
- Member, Nassau County Bar Association
  - Member, ADR Committee
  - Member and Former Chair, Matrimonial Law Committee
  - Member, Diversity Committee
  - Co-Chair, Animal Law Committee
  - Member, The We Care Fund Advisory Board
  - Former Member, Judiciary Committee
  - Former Member, Board of Directors
- Member, Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York and Nassau County

**EDUCATION | CERTIFICATES | ADVANCED STUDIES**

- Fordham Law School, J.D. 1979
- New York University, M.A. Public Administration, 1976
- New York University, B.A., 1969
- Certified Collaborative Attorney. New York Association of Collaborative Professionals, 2015
- Transformative Mediation Training, Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, 2007
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Certified Mediator
- New York University, Summer Taxation Institute
- Instructor, National Institute of Trial Attorneys (NITA)
- Divorce Taxation, Washington, D.C.