



## Christine M. Hanisco

Attorney

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Chrissy works with clients to find innovative, cost-effective solutions to pressing legal issues involving their most precious asset: their families. She focuses on complex trial practice, criminal law and family law matters, with a special focus on assistive reproductive technology law (ART law). She has extensive experience in public service, having held staff attorney positions with agencies such as the Disabilities Rights Center (Concord, New Hampshire), the Department of Social Services (Worcester, Massachusetts), and over eleven years with the New Hampshire Public Defender's Office (Concord and Manchester, New Hampshire).

### **Personal Information:**

Chrissy has been practicing law since 2000, and has a long history of legal service for indigent and needy populations. Before joining Stein Law, Chrissy spent 11 years with the New Hampshire Public Defender's Office, where she represented indigent criminal defendants facing prosecution. Often, Chrissy was able to help her clients successfully resolve their legal issues without extensive, drawn out litigation. Prior to her work with the Public Defender's Office, Chrissy spent several years representing adults and children with disabilities at the Disabilities Rights Center in Concord, where, among her other accomplishments, she helped successfully settle a large class action lawsuit involving the Americans with Disabilities Act and a national department store chain. She was appointed Guardian Ad Litem in a number of cases — for adolescents with disabilities — and effectively advocated for them within their school districts, community mental health centers, with police departments, and in court. Chrissy, as Assistant Regional Counsel, litigated cases involving child protection, guardianship, and other issues in for the Department of Social Services in Worcester (MA).

Originally from Connecticut, Chrissy first came to New Hampshire in 1989 as a student at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. She graduated, *cum laude* in 1993 and then spent several years working at the

New Hampshire Department of Justice, first as a mediator and then a Paralegal, in the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau.

Chrissy earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from New York Law School in 2000. She was the recipient of several honors and awards and was the Executive Articles Editor of the *New York Law School Journal of Human Rights*. She also held several legal internships and clerkships, including for the Trial Court for the Commonwealth, Juvenile Court Department, in Boston, Massachusetts. Chrissy is also deeply involved in professional and community service. Currently, she is an Executive Board Member of the Capital Region Mothers of Multiples, a group that provides outreach to parents and expectant parents of multiples in New Hampshire. She also spent several years as an adjunct faculty member at the New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord, where she taught legal writing and legal research in both the Paralegal Program and the Legal Nurse Consultant Certificate Program.

#### **Honors & Affiliations:**

- Society For Ethics in Egg Donation & Surrogacy, 2016 – present
- Society For Ethics in Egg Donation & Surrogacy Grievance Committee, 2017 – present; Chair 2020 – present
- American Bar Association: Assisted Reproductive Technology Committee, 2016 – present
- RESOLVE New England, Member and Volunteer, 2013-present, Professional Member, 2016 – present, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Secretary 2017 – present
- New Hampshire Women's Bar Association, 2016 – present
- New Hampshire Bar Association, 2002 – present
- New Hampshire Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, former member
- Capital Region Mothers of Multiples, Executive Board Member, 2014-2016, 2020 – 2022
- Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, Big Sister 2000- 2008
- Girl Scouts of Swift Water Council, Senior Scout Leader, 2005-2008
- Joseph P. Solomon Public Service Fellowship 1998-1999
- Professor Vincent Lo Lordo Award for Excellence in Administration of Criminal Justice, 2000
- Journal of Human Rights Award, 2000
- Phi Delta Phi Balfour Scholarship, 1999
- Dean's Merit Scholarship, 1997-1999
- Joseph T. Arenson Scholarship, 1997-1999
- New Hampshire Bar Association Board of Governor's as a Governor-at-Large, 2019 – present

## **Practice Areas & Bar Admissions**

### ***Family Law: Assisted Reproductive Technology/Surrogacy***

Chrissy knows from experience the stress and heartache of infertility. With 1 in 6 couples experiencing fertility issues, thousands are turning to assisted reproductive technology (commonly referred to as ART) to build their families. Chrissy is excited to develop this practice area and utilize her legal experience and decades of negotiation skills to help her clients achieve their dream of being parents. Chrissy can assist with all the legal aspects of gestational surrogacy, gamete donation, embryo donation, and embryo disposition. She represents intended parents, as well as donors and surrogates.

### ***Criminal Law:***

Chrissy has spent most of her career as a member of the New Hampshire Public Defender. As a member of that State's largest law firm she handled thousands of cases in both Merrimack and Hillsborough Counties. She is practical in her approach, a skilled negotiator and is never afraid to proceed to trial when desired by her client. Chrissy achieves the best outcome for her clients.

New Hampshire, United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### **Publications:**

- Embryo Law, in Adoption and Reproductive Technology Law in Massachusetts 10-1 (MCLE, Inc., 2nd ed. 2018).
- Establishing Parentage Post-Obergefell for Same- Sex Couples, New Hampshire Bar News, (February 2018)
- Surrogacy 101: What Surrogates and Egg Donors Need to Know About Tax Season! (February 2016)