

Our Attorneys



PHOEBE P. HALL, ESQUIRE, is a graduate of Georgetown University law school. She is a co-founder of the law firm of Hall & Hall, PLC. She has served as a substitute judge in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and Richmond General District Courts and a Judge pro tempore in Circuit Court. Mrs. Hall's area of concentration is in the practice of family law, wills and estates. In addition to being a litigator, she is a mediator and a founder of ZSmartsm Divorce.



JULIE M. CILLO, ESQUIRE, is a 1992 honors graduate of Dartmouth College and a 1995 cum laude graduate of American University's College of Law. A partner in the firm, she is admitted to practice in Virginia & Maryland, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit & the United States Supreme Court. Mrs. Cillo focuses her practice on domestic relations including equitable distribution, support and custody. She offers services in litigation, mediation and collaborative law, and wills and estates.



FRANKLIN P. HALL, ESQUIRE, obtained his Juris Doctor degree and MBA from American University. He is the House Minority Leader with the Virginia General Assembly and has been serving as a legislator since 1976. Mr. Hall is a co-founder of the law firm. He is a seasoned attorney in negotiations and litigation. His practice encompasses metropolitan Richmond and beyond, with appearances in both Circuit and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts. Frank has been active in many civic organizations working for the betterment of our community.



MELISSA S. VANZILE, ESQUIRE, is a graduate of the University of Richmond School of Law. She handles family law issues as a litigator and in settlement efforts, including collaborative law. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar, Family Law Section and Young Lawyer's Conference; American Bar Association, Family Law Section; Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association; Metropolitan Richmond Family Law Bar Association; Henrico County Bar Association and the Chesterfield County Bar Association. She works hard to serve her client's needs. She also handles wills and estates.

To discuss your situation with a family law attorney, call (804) 897-1515 to schedule a consultation or visit our website at www.divorceandbeyond.com

Our Services

- **Consultations**

Experienced family lawyers are available for office consultations and advice.

- **Agreements by Mail**

We can draft an agreement based on answers to Questionnaires.

- **Uncontested Divorces**

When you have a written agreement and your spouse cooperates and there are no issues, the divorce is uncontested.

- **Collaborative Divorces**

When there are some things to be worked out, some conflicts, each side can have a lawyer but all agree that they will meet and work collaboratively to find a solution that will work for both sides without a court battle; this is collaborative law.

- **Mediation**

Both parties come together to us as a neutral mediator to help them talk and work out an agreement they make together. A mediator cannot be an attorney for one party.

- **Lawyer for Mediation**

Where the parties are seeing a third party, (not Hall & Hall, PLC) as a neutral mediator one party can have us represent him or her as an attorney and advise him or her in connection with the mediation.

- **Prenuptial Agreements**

Where a person is planning to marry and wants an agreement about finances and family matters to be effective during the marriage and in case of death or divorce, we can help.

- **Litigation**

When matters are contested and cannot be resolved through another approach, a party may need to seek Court intervention through a lawsuit filed in Circuit or Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and will need a strong advocate like Hall & Hall to help protect his/her interests.

- **Wills, Trusts & Estates**

When you need a Will or Trust or have estate matters, we can help.



**Law Offices of
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Divorce Solutions**

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The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The information contained herein is not intended to constitute legal advice. You should consult an attorney for advice regarding your particular legal situation.

How Long Do I Have To Answer A Divorce Suit In Virginia?

- * You have 21 days from the date you are “served” with the divorce suit to file an Answer to the Complaint in Court.
- * Your lawyer can tell you what constitutes being “served”.
- * You may have been “served” with other papers as well that require attention on your part.
- * You should consider filing a Counterclaim as well.

What Should I Do If The Divorce Papers Set A Hearing Or Have Deadlines?

- * See a lawyer promptly.
- * Don't wait until the last minute.
- * Realize the lawyer needs time to prepare.
- * You will need to retain a lawyer for ongoing representation.

SEEK A JUST RESULT

Does The Person Who Files First Have An Advantage?

One advantage is that the first to file usually has been planning it for a while and has a scheme in mind. The other person has a short time to get up to speed. Another advantage is that the person who files first gets to go first and last. However, the Defendant can take steps to get on the offensive.



FAMILY MATTERS®

Trend of the Law: Divorce Suits

By Phoebe P. Hall, Attorney, Mediator and Former Judge

Increasing numbers of people are divorce. Many persons who come to served with suit papers or need to file simply want advice. Families being impacted by divorce.

There are good and bad ways to go divorce process. The first step is to way to save your marriage. A divorce contested or uncontested.

divorces occur when people have first written agreement settling all matters related to the divorce and separation.

Contested divorces result when people do not first try to work out the issues in their divorce or when they try but cannot resolve them successfully. If parties cooperate, even contested suits can be handled in a relatively civil and cost-effective way, but

Our law firm is dedicated to family law matters, and we are called upon by people from all walks of life to counsel them about courses of action they are contemplating, situations they are facing or to provide ongoing representation.

filing suits for us have been a suit. Others everywhere are through the see if there is any suit can be Uncontested worked out a

Special points of interest:

- *Serving Richmond for over 30 years*
- *Convenient offices in Chesterfield & Henrico*
- *Offering prompt and affordable services*
- *Friendly and experienced staff*
- *Client centered options*
- *Contested and uncontested matters and mediation*

Our services include:

- Wills and estates
- Separation
- Divorce
- Mediation
- Custody and visitation
- Child support
- Spousal support
- Equitable distribution
- Zsmart™ Divorce

• Collaborative Law

We help with:

- Advice and guidance
- Prenuptial agreements
- Property settlement agreements
- Negotiations
- Litigation
- Uncontested matters
- Contested matters

We seek to provide what



What Things Are Covered in a Divorce Suit?

- * Grounds for Divorce
- * Custody and Visitation of children
- * Child Support
- * Spousal Support (alimony)
- * Division of assets and debts (equitable distribution)
- * Attorney fee awards

What Do I Do If I am Served With Divorce Papers?

1. Don't Panic!
2. Hire the best divorce lawyer you can.
3. Go to your own lawyer, not your spouse's lawyer.
4. Don't sign anything
5. Don't move out without talking with a lawyer of your own.
6. Find out your rights and responsibilities.
7. Make sure you meet all deadlines and court dates to protect your rights.
8. Try to get on the offensive and seek a good resolution.