



## The Quattro Firm About Town

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## Welcome to The Quattro Firm

At the Quattro firm, we believe in viewing our client as a whole person as opposed to just a set of legal issues. We believe that in order to be a successful advocate, we must be able to understand the full needs of our clients, not just the legal needs. By using this full understanding, we advocate with compassion.

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## Meet The Quattro Firm



**Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi** is the founding member of the Quattro Firm. She is a 2008 Southern Methodist University Law School graduate and a 2004 Wake Forest University Graduate. Nicole is a licensed Texas attorney where her practice involved mostly civil and commercial litigation. Nicole has been licensed in Florida since 2014 and has centered most of her practice on domestic relations law.

Nicole has spent a lot of time volunteering in her legal career whether it be through pro bono cases or through assisting at the Hurricane Katrina Relief Clinic in law school. Nicole believes in viewing the client as a whole person and not just a specific legal issue and therefore has, thus far, taken every case that the firm can handle, regardless of inability to pay. She is a passionate and compassionate attorney who looks forward to working with people across the spectrum of life with all of their legal needs.



**Robert J. Fraxedas** specializes in Estate and Tax Planning, as well as Estate Administration and Litigation. He is a 2015 University of Miami graduate (LL.M. – Estate Planning) and a 2005 University of Florida graduate (J.D.). Robert has been licensed in Florida since 2006, and currently lives in Boca Raton.

Robert regularly presents seminars on estate planning and probate matters throughout the state of Florida. A former president of Citrus Civitan, Robert believes in donating time and hands-on effort to the less fortunate. He has organized fundraising events for people with congenital disabilities, mentors underprivileged school-age children, and volunteers at homeless shelters. He strongly believes in providing all clients the best legal counsel possible, from highly compensated executives to impoverished individuals.



**Denise Desmond** is a seasoned family law and appellate attorney, as well as a certified family mediator. She received her juris doctorate from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law in 1990 and has practiced predominately family law for the majority of her career. Denise is a member of the Florida Bar and an inactive member of the California Bar. She has been an AV rated attorney with Martindale-Hubbe for over 15 years. She was named one of America's Most Outstanding Lawyers in 2004, and named as a top legal leader in the family law section of the Wall Street Journal's Legal Leaders South Florida Publication in 2012 and 2015. In addition, she appeared on Court TV as co-counsel in a high profile watercraft personal injury litigation case. In law school she received the Book Award in Legal Drafting (highest grade in the class) and was named to Who's Who among American Law Students.

Denise has herself been divorced and understands both the legal and emotional difficulties involved in the process. Her goal is to provide her clients with quality legal representation and emotional support so that their experience with the litigation/mediation process is not so overwhelming.



**Melanie Bruchet** is a 2012 graduate of Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Georgia, where she received her J.D. and a Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research, and Drafting from Mercer's top rated legal writing program. Melanie served on the Board of Directors for the Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia as well as completed internships at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

Melanie has presented nationally on the subjects of human trafficking and LGBT youth in the juvenile court system. She also co-authored an amicus brief to the Georgia Supreme Court on the issue of post-separation custodial rights and the emotional effect on children of divorced parents. Melanie maintains an active bar license in Georgia and is sworn in to both the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court. A South Florida native, she currently lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

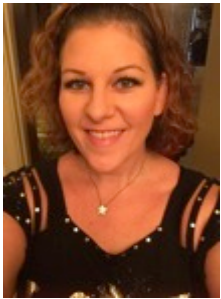
Read more about The Quattro Firm at [www.thequattrofirm.com](http://www.thequattrofirm.com)

## Meet The Quattro Firm



**Maria Kontos** obtained her Bachelor of Arts from Florida Atlantic University in 1995. Ms. Kontos has over 16 years of experience working on complex and voluminous civil, criminal and family law cases which involve organizing thousands of documents, discovery and file organization.

Ms. Kontos is intricately involved in the defense of all of the firm's clients' cases and takes great pride in assisting and working toward a favorable outcome in each case.



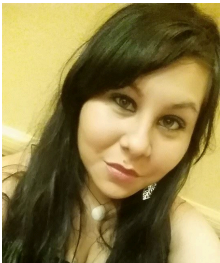
**Sarah Kontos** has been working professionally in accounting since 2005. Her experience includes conducting, supervising, and reviewing annual audits, bookkeeping and payroll, and compilations and examinations of the financial records of a wide range of businesses including non-profits, law firms, restaurants, 401(k) plans, and other service industries.

Sarah attended Florida Atlantic University earning her degree in Mathematics and attending an additional two years of studies in Accounting and Business Administration. She is originally from West Palm Beach, FL. She is a supporting member of Compass Lake Worth, United Way and Farm Sanctuary, and she volunteers at various fundraising events for local charities.



**Jennifer Mondone** is the office manager of the Quattro Firm. Jennifer grew up in upstate New York. She is a graduate of the Ohio State University where she studied financial management and business administration. Since graduating she's lived in North Carolina and settled in Florida for the last 13 years. This is her first job at a law firm but has previously dabbled in the insurance and mortgage industry, most recently in management for restaurants, from start ups to corporate chains and sales.

Jennifer also assisted in co-creating 2 humans which for the last 6 years has been her main focus and accomplishment. She enjoys spending her time with the family, paddle boarding, volunteering at the kids school, movie nights and anything involving wine or mimosas.



**Kristin Fitzpatrick** was born in New York, but raised in Florida. Her background is Early Childhood and as much as she loves her field, she also loves learning new things and being a well-rounded person. Her ultimate goal is to finish college where she is currently studying to be a speech-pathologist for children who have special needs.

Kristin is conversational- fluent in American Sign Language, and some Spanish. She enjoys cooking, reading, helping others and traveling. She also loves watching criminal cases/law shows. Kristin cannot wait to learn more about the law and enjoy all of the experience that the Quattro Firm has to give her.

Read more about The Quattro Firm at [www.thequattrofirm.com](http://www.thequattrofirm.com)

## The Quattro Firm About Town



Maria Kontos and Nicole Quattrocchi take the moment to smile during a busy work day.

Nicole Quattrocchi and Jennifer Mondone prepare for another full day of advocating for Quattro Firm clients.



### + Our Practice Areas

- Family Law & Domestic Relations
  - Marital Contracts
  - Civil Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate Matters
- Business Formation
- Contract Drafting & Review
- Family Law Mediation
- General Litigation
- LGBT Issues & Custody
- Estate Planning
- Wills & Trusts
- Probate Litigation
- Probate Administration



During a day off from school, Sabrina lent some support to the Quattro Firm and enjoyed some Harry Potter accessories.

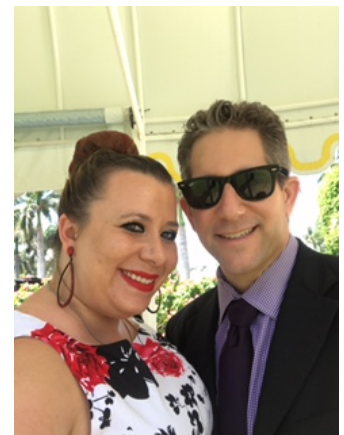
## The Quattro Firm About Town



Nicole Quattrocchi and Angie McNamara attend the annual Palm Beach Civic Association meeting where they learned of innovative projects, some founded by children to enhance life and protect the planet. One such endeavor is to eliminate plastic bags from Palm Beach and lead to the Civic Associations' creation of reusable bags.



Nicole Quattrocchi and Steve Quattrocchi and their family take part in Easter bunny cakes at Mar-a-lago and celebrated Easter Sunday at Mar-a-lago



## May Promotion:

**We couldn't make it through the day without our pets. We are celebrating animals and pets this month by offering 10% off all flat-rate fees to anyone who uploads a picture of their pet to our Facebook page and uses the hashtag #theQuattroFirm**

Nicole, Steve and their daughter, Sabrina support local businesses during lunch.



## The Top Eleven Mistakes Made When Contemplating or Getting a Divorce

By Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi and Melissa Gannon

1. **EXPENSES:** People often enter divorce with no firm grasp on his/her pre- and post-divorce expenses. This would additionally include not asking for spousal support at all, or not asking for enough spousal support. There seems to be a lot of pride involved when one finally makes the decision to divorce and somehow the day to day expenses seem to be forgotten. People often tell us that they “forgot” about regular expenses and now find that they cannot afford the lifestyle that he/she previously had with a spouse. Before making the decision to divorce, it’s important to realistically think



about one’s expenses currently, including groceries, vacations, phone bills, etc. and to consider how these expenses will be effected by having one less person/wage earner in the household.

2. **THE MARITAL HOME:** The home is an emotional consideration in most cases. Generally, a family was created in the home and it can be filled with happy memories. Or in some cases, it’s filled with horrible memories, but the spouse can’t imagine living without the

home. Before fighting for the home, one should consider the cost of the home and whether or not he/she can afford to maintain it.

3. **STOCKS:** An equal division of stock may not be the best decision. Special consideration must be given to whether or not the portfolio may trigger losses or gains, and the tax implications of same.



**" It took me quite some time to develop a voice,  
and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent."  
—Madeleine Albright**

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4. **QDRO:** QDRO stands for Qualified Domestic Relations Order. It is often the method for distributing retirement and pension benefits. Since it takes some time to complete, people often let it fall to the wayside and think that they will get to it eventually. However, it must be court approved and implementing the QDRO will take some time. It should be completed previous to finalizing a divorce.



5. **LIFE INSURANCE:** Life insurance can be used as a way to ensure that the family is taken care of in the event that the spouse paying the support dies. If there is a life insurance policy in tact in support of the prior spouse, the spousal support recipient or child support recipient will still have the support. In order to ensure that the spouse paying the support does not change the beneficiary after the divorce, the recipient spouse should be an owner on the policy.

6. **ESTATE PLANNING:** While the state may assume that you meant to disinherit your spouse upon divorce that is not always the intention. It's also best not to rely on the state to make your decisions for you after you are gone. Immediately upon a final divorce decree, spouses should update their estate planning to ensure that they protect those that the spouse wants to protect. This additionally applies to insurance beneficiaries and retirement fund beneficiaries.

7. **CHILD SUPPORT:** People often assume that with child support, all the



child's needs will be covered for the rest of their life. This is not true. Child support payments are made to anticipate the needs of the child at the time of the order. While they may anticipate some known expenses, they will never be able to anticipate them all. It's important to have a good working relationship between the spouses for the children and their needs both at the time of the divorce and in the future.

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8. **FINANCES:** Previous to meeting with an attorney, one should review his/her own finances. When you've made the decision to meet an attorney, you should have an idea of your regular expenses, your own wages as well as your spouses. Plan to list out your debts and assets as well. The first consultation with an attorney can be much more productive if you've thought of these things. Your attorney will be able to help much more if he/she has an accurate

picture of your finances. It's important to not only save for attorney's fees and filing fees, but to anticipate the fees that may come up during the divorce.

9. **RECORDS:** In situations where a spouse is needing to get out quickly, make sure that all pertinent records are copied before one moves out. This would include birth certificates, social security cards, and the like before leaving the home.

10. **ACCESS:** In order to be sure that all assets are accounted for, one should be sure that he/she has access to bank accounts, safety deposit boxes and the like. Once the petition is filed, parties often restrict access to assets and accounts.



11. **SUPPORT:** Divorce is a gut-wrenching and emotional process. One will need both financial and emotional support. It's important to save and secure a support system,



including confidants and friends who will help with childcare, expenses (in some cases), and emotional support. While attorneys are there to protect the client and help him/her through the process, it's not always best to rely on your lawyer for all of your emotional support.

## A Note From The Quattro Firm

As spring weather brings beautiful scenery and outdoor fun, please remember that we are here for all of your legal needs.

Thank you.



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## The Quattro Firm

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