



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.

more on **2**

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.



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.



Monique L'Italien is a civil and commercial litigator and appellate attorney who has practiced in Florida since 2001. She has broad experience at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state court. Her practice areas include bankruptcy, contract disputes, family law, real property and some criminal. Prior to entering private practice, Ms. L'Italien was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Florida, handling criminal appeals and civil litigation matters.

Ms. L'Italien earned her B.A., cum laude, from Trinity College in Washington D.C and her J.D. from Vermont Law School. Ms. L'Italien enjoys traveling, running, spending time with her animals including her horse Dancer, an off track thoroughbred rescue, and doing other animal welfare work.

Read more about The Quattro Firm at 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.



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.



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.



Alexandrea Perez is a twenty year old who just completed her junior year as an undergraduate at the University of Central Florida. She attended Suncoast High School in Rivera Beach where she graduated with her International Baccalaureate Degree. Throughout her college years Alexandra has gained a passion for international human rights law through her active participation in International Medical Outreach and Phi Alpha Delta pre-law society.

After her undergraduate graduation, Alexandra plans to participate in the Peace Corps for two years until she attends law school in either Washington D.C. or New York. After law school, Alexandra hopes to practice human rights law domestically or internationally.

Read more about The Quattro Firm at www.thequattrofirm.com

The Quattro Firm About Town



The Quattrocchi family celebrated the summer in the Palm Beach Zoo's Safari Nights' Pirate Night



+ Our Practice Areas

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

The Quattrocchi Family took in the sights at the Miami Seaquarium





The Quattro Firm enjoyed Lisa's Dance and Exercise's Summer Recital "Elena of Avalor"

Maria Kontos, Jennifer Mondone and Nicole Quattrocchi like working lunches at Nick's Dinner in West Palm Beach



The Quattro Firm About Town



Nicole and her husband support local businesses and breweries at the South Florida Fairgrounds.



The Quattrocchi and Mondone families support local teams and take the kids to watch local Jupiter baseball teams.

September Promotion:

This month we continue to honor teachers in our Back to School Promotion. Please upload your favorite pictures of kids going Back to School to our Facebook page and use our hashtag #theQuattroFirm to receive discounts of 15% off your monthly invoice or flat rate fees. Good Luck!

Additionally, any teachers, professors or tutors can enjoy 20% off flat rate fees or up front Retainer fees if you hire the Quattro Firm now through September 31, 2017.

Small Claims Court Litigation: Is it Worth It?

By Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi

A small claims action is an action for less than \$15,000 excluding costs and attorney's fees.

In the current legal climate, people often want to sue due to hurt feelings or what may be "right" or "just." We, at the Quattro Firm, often receive phone calls from people who are angry and want to sue people who have harmed them and then when we explain the costs of litigation, these same people are often surprised and confused.



A small claims court action in Palm Beach County will cost you between \$55 and \$300 just to file the claim. The amount of your claim will determine what the costs are to file your case, for example, a case worth \$100 or less will cost \$55 to file. While you may be able to file something called an "Application for Indigent Status" to claim that you are without enough income to pay fees of Court, if you own anything that's determined to have value or have a decent income, the application is likely to be denied.



Small claims actions often proceed quickly. The deadlines to respond are much faster than one would find in circuit court. The objective is to speed the case along to avoid congestion on the court's docket.

There are no juries in small claims actions and generally little to no discovery will be permitted. Discovery is the process where each party can learn more about the other's case through written tools like requests to produce and

" Anything is possible if you've got enough nerve."

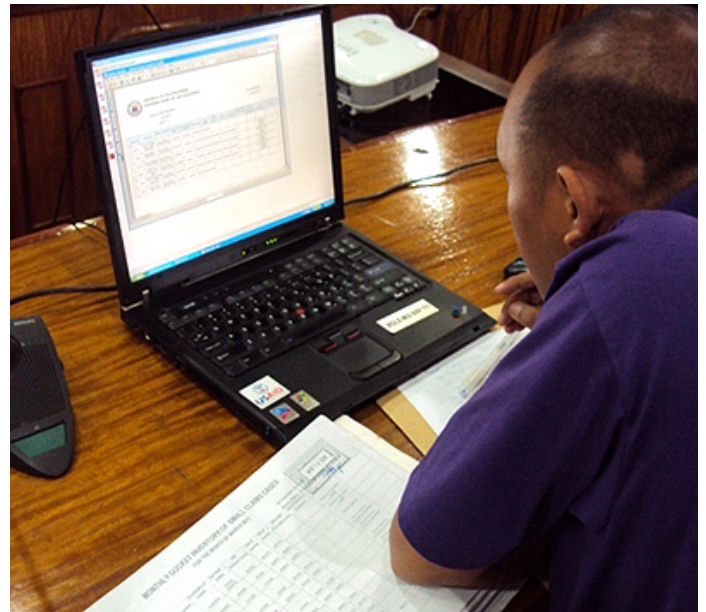
—J.K. Rowling

Small Claims Court Litigation: Is it Worth It?

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and requests for admissions as well as through other tools like inspections and depositions. Discovery is common and necessary in a circuit court action, but as most pro se litigants would not be familiar with the rules of discovery, it is generally not permitted in a small claims action unless an attorney represents the party from whom the discovery is being requested.

The next step to thinking about filing a small claims action is to determine what kind of proof or evidence one has of his claim. The rules of civil procedure are more relaxed in small claims court, but if one is under the impression that this is the venue for a strictly “he said-she said” action, then prepare to be disappointed.



While small claims court is designed to favor pro se litigants, attorneys will often be seen in this venue. One reason for this is that any landlord-tenant issue regardless of the amount of the claim will be litigated in small claims court. This will include evictions, cases regarding property damage, security deposits and the like.



Attorneys are also often in small claims actions because people would be smart to have one. While this venue is more relaxed, it doesn't mean that it's a free for all for anyone who may have a gripe. There is still a proper procedure for filing of motions, review of evidence and trial protocol. Without an attorney, a pro se litigant is often lost. Despite many pro se litigants' statements to the contrary, neither the judge of the case, nor his judicial assistant, nor the clerk can give you legal advice. While a pro se litigant may be able to gain some help with the process of how to file and where, the clerk cannot advise how to strategically succeed in the case.

Small Claims Court Litigation: Is it Worth It?

By Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi

Hiring an attorney for a small claims matter is not as easy as one may think. Most civil litigators who practice in this forum do not take any contingency work. Contingency work is a case where the lawyer would not take any money up front but would take a percentage of what is recovered. This is usually not cost-effective for an attorney in a small claims matter. If an attorney is hired for a case where the client has a claim filed for \$1,000 and the attorney is entitled to 40%, and the attorney spends 20 hours working on the case and would normally bill \$200 per hour, the math simply doesn't make sense. For lawyers who work on retainer, meaning the lawyer is paid an upfront cost and bills by the hour, the client can often spend more on fees than the claim itself is worth. While, a claim for fees is always a possibility, it may not be granted. Attorney's fees often fall to the discretion of the judge.



Claims can always attempt to be settled out of court. These are the moments in any type of case where it is useful to have an attorney. Parties often harbor animosity and hurt feelings, which can hurt negotiations. Your attorney may advocate for you and engage in negotiations without your individual feelings of ill will. Hiring a lawyer to negotiate your claim is wise.



Trials in small claims matters are more common than their circuit court counterparts. Generally, a pro se litigant is looking specifically to have "his day in court," to demonstrate how right he is and how wrong the other party is. Results can go either way and fall to the discretion of the individual judge.

Before considering any type of legal action involving litigation, one should ask if it's worth it.

While feelings of anger, resentment and hurt may increase one's desire for "justice," one should sit down and take a deep breath before filing an action in any court. In the end, will it be worth it to endure the stress of litigation and the costs of litigation, to potentially recover nothing and pay out for costs and fees? In litigation, there are no guarantees even if your case is documented and seems clear.

In the context of small claims, one should determine what his/her ideal outcome is before filing. Then consider that one may end up with the exact opposite result. In terms of advocacy, it's always recommended to have an attorney to assist in litigation, regardless of the type of case. This is a cost that should be considered when deciding whether or not to proceed with the claim.

A Note From The Quattro Firm

Thank you for your continued support and we hope that if you have legal needs, you contact the Quattro Firm. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you.



The Quattro Firm

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