STITES & HARBISON PLLC



Rebecca McKelvey Castañeda

Title: Member

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Rebecca McKelvey Castañeda is a Member of the firm in the Nashville and Franklin offices. She works exclusively in the practice known as Family Law.

Rebecca represents clients in Tennessee family law. Her practice includes many years of experience representing clients who must face divorce. Rebecca and her team can handle intellectual property matters in divorce. She helps clients with a variety of issues related to families, children, custody, grandparents and other family members, divorces, prenuptial agreements, and family relocations. Rebecca serves on the editorial committee of the Tennessee Bar Association that updates the *Tennessee Alimony Benchbook* each year.

Rebecca negotiates and litigates international family law matters, especially parental child abductions from country to country. She has significant experience with cases brought under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the International Child Abduction Remedies Act. The United States has signed this particular Hague treaty along with other 73 other countries. You can find out more about this law and how it applies, by clicking here. Rebecca's published work on the Hague Convention, *An Overview of the International Parental Child Abduction Provisions of the Hague Convention*, 7 ANKARA L. REV. 1, 65 (2010), is available upon request. Rebecca and her team have much experience in Hague Convention litigation and can help your family navigate these difficult international issues.

CAPABILITIES

Practice Areas

- Family Law
- Trusts & Estates and Family Law

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Tennessee
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee
- Past Admission Pro Hac Vice in Other Jurisdictions

RECENT NEWS, ARTICLES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- People on the Move in Nashville: Rebecca McKelvey Castañeda
  by editor, *Nashville Business Journal*, February 25, 2026
- "I absolutely believe in love," Marriage, divorce rates down in Tennessee
  by Adam Mintzer, WKRN.com, February 14, 2023
- 40 Under 40: Rebecca Castaneda, Stites & Harbison PLLC
  Nashville Business Journal, April 9, 2020
- Family Law 101
  Law Practice 101: Family Law, Power of Attorneys, and Wills 101, October 1, 2019 *,with Ashley N. Goins*
- Where Family Law and International Issues Collide
  Tennessee Attorney's Memo CLE, Nashville, October 2018
- Interpreters Communicate When You Can't
  presenter, ABA Family Law Section Spring Meeting, Nashville, May 2018
- Family Law Basics
  presenter, Nashville Bar Association, Nashville, February 2017 and 2018
- Does the Outcome of In re Carrington change Tennessee Parental-Termination Law?
  Co-Presenter, Tennessee Bar Association live webcast and webinar, 2016
- The 21st Century Family: International Family Law, Multi-Generational Families and the case of In re Baby
  Speaker and presenter, Women's Political Collaborative or TN, 2015
- Where Family Law and International Issues Collide: Relocation and Child Abduction Issues
  Speaker and presenter, Tennessee Attorney Memo statewide webinar, 2015
- Lawyers with Big Hearts
  Tennessee Bar Journal, January 2015

- International Family Law Practice
  Presenter, Southern Law Network Litigation Group, 2014
- Trends of Family Law in Tennessee: Relocations, Grandparent Visitation, and Adoptions
  Presenter, Nashville radio program, 2014
- Grandparent Visitation Law
  Speaker, Manchester, Tennessee Rotary Club Meeting, 2013
- Family Law and Rights of Grandparents in Tennessee (or Not So Much)
  Presenter, Davidson County, Tennessee, Juvenile Court Bar Meeting, 2012
- International Parental Child Abductions: Treaty Provisions
  Speaker, Tennessee Bar Association Continuing Legal Education live webcast, 2011
- Organizational Development in the Law Firm
  Guest Lecturer, Florida State University Summer Program, Valencia, Spain, 2011
- Tennessee Child Relocation Law
  Speaker, Tennessee Bar Association Continuing Legal Education live webcast, 2011
- Family Law: Tennessee Child Relocation Law
  Speaker and Presenter, Continuing Legal Education seminar, 2010
- Common and Not So Common Family Law Issues
  Speaker and Presenter, Continuing Legal Education seminar, 2010
- Family Law Round-Table Discussion
  Panelist, Continuing Legal Education seminar, 2010
- Walking Through a Lawsuit
  Guest Lecturer, Ankara University Law School, Ankara, Turkey, 2010
- Adoption Law Ethics
  Speaker and Presenter, Continuing Legal Education seminar, 2009
- Adoption Law: How to Terminate a Parent's Rights
  Speaker and Presenter, Continuing Legal Education seminar, 2009
- The U.S. Legal System
  Guest Lecturer, Iliria University, Peja, Kosovo, 2008

MEMBERSHIPS

- International Academy of Family Lawyers,
  - Fellow
- Harry Phillips American Inn of Court,
  - former Member

- International Child Abduction Attorney Network (ICAAN),
  - Referral Attorney
- American Bar Association,
  - former Family Law Section Uniform Relocation Law Drafting Committee
- Tennessee Bar Association,
  - Family Law Section, former Executive Council
  - former Family Law Section e-Newsletter Editor; former CLE Committee
- Tennessee Bar Associations, former Alimony Benchbook Committee, helping edit the alimony manual used by Tennessee judges statewide
- Nashville Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Belmont University, former Board of Trustees
- Tennessee Justice Center, former Board of Directors

EDUCATION

- Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law J.D., 2006
- Belmont University B.S., Political Economy & Broadcast Journalism, *summa cum laude* 2003

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- After a person's divorce, there are often subsequent matters for which someone needs advice from a Family Law attorney, and Rebecca assists clients with those matters.
- She represents couples adopting children, both locally and internationally, including re-adoptions and adult adoptions.
- She represented a party in one of the few grandparent visitation cases to be decided by the Tennessee Supreme Court. *Lovlace v. Copley*, 418 S.W.3d 1 (Tenn. 2013).
- She advises parents who are relocating for work or a spouse's job, or parents who are considering moving or whose child's other parent is considering moving to be with a loved one.

- She provides consultations and full representation – all the way through trial – for parents involved in cases under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and International Child Abduction Remedies Act.
- In her Hague Convention practice, among other cases, she has assisted a parent in Sweden to be restored custody of his son, and she has represented a father in having his son returned to his home in Turkey.

MORE THAN STITES & HARBISON

Rebecca is past-chair of the board of directors for the Tennessee Justice Center, served as a member of Belmont University Alumni Board of Directors (past president), and has been a member of the Belmont University College of Law American Inn of Court. She served on the Board of Trustees for Belmont University. Rebecca was awarded the Tennessee Bar Association's Harris Gilbert Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year Award (2015). In June 2011, she was chosen as a 2011 Nashville's Top 30 Under 30 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Later, Forty Under 40. In addition to being involved in her church, Rebecca and her husband enjoy reading, traveling, the Nashville Symphony, riding bikes, and snowboarding. Rebecca participated in the FBI Citizens Academy.

ACCOLADES

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Family Law (2018-27)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Nashville Family Law Lawyer of the Year (2027)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers*® (2019-25)
- *Forbes Advisor*, Best Divorce Lawyers Nashville, TN (2024)
- *Nashville Business Journal*, Best of the Bar (2021)
- *Nashville Business Journal*, 40 Under 40 (2021)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers*®, Rising Star (2012-18)
- Tennessee Bar Association, Harris Gilbert Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year Award (2015)
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Nashville's Top 30 Under 30 (2011)