

JAMES H. FELDMAN, Of Counsel

James H. Feldman is chair of the firm's Family Law Practice. High-profile and high net-worth individuals turn to Mr. Feldman for counsel in diverse family disputes. With extensive experience advocating and litigating on behalf of his clients, Mr. Feldman offers services using alternative dispute resolution models for resolving family law issues, including the Collaborative Process and mediation, as well as counseling and other services.

Mr. Feldman is a Fellow of Collaborative Divorce Illinois (formerly known as Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois) and a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. A 38-year Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Mr. Feldman was named a "Trailblazer" in 2016 by the *National Law Journal* in its inaugural issue for Divorce, Trusts and Estates lawyers. *Leading Lawyers Network Magazine-Consumer Edition* has consistently identified Mr. Feldman among the "Top 10 Leading Family Lawyers in Illinois" and, in 2019, ranked him #2 for Collaborative Divorce and #4 for Family Law. Mr. Feldman has been listed in every edition of the *Best Lawyers in America* since its first publication in 1983. He is AV Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer recognition for ethical standards and legal ability.

Mr. Feldman served as a lead member and co-drafter of the 2014 Mediation Rules for the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, and he is a court-certified mediator. He has been a faculty member of the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education and has lectured and written many publications on subjects relating to his practice area. Mr. Feldman has also chaired committees in the Litigation and Family Law Sections of the American Bar Association. He was Chair of the Board of Directors for The Family Institute at Northwestern University from 2009-2015 and has been a Board member since 2003.

Awards

- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers/Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education
Recipient of Cohen Award (for contributions to the professional education of matrimonial lawyers), 2014
- *Best Lawyers in America*, 1983-2022
Family Law; Collaborative Law: Family Law
- *Chicago Sun-Times*
Top 5 Chicago Divorce Attorneys, August 6, 2000
- *Lawdragon*
Leading Family Lawyer, 2020
- Leading Lawyers Network
Top 10 Leading Family Law Lawyers in Illinois, 2008 - 2019
Top 10 Leading Collaborative Divorce Lawyers in Illinois - 2019
Top 100 Leading Lawyers (all practices) in Illinois, 2013 - 2019
Family Law, ADR Law: Family 2003 - 2019



JAMES H. FELDMAN Of Counsel

CHICAGO

Office: 312 923-2780

Fax: 312 840-7780

Email: jfeldman@jenner.com

PRACTICE GROUPS

Family Law

Litigation

Private Wealth

EDUCATION

University of Illinois College of Law, J.D.,
1968

New York University School of Law, LL.M.,
1970

Tufts University, B.A., 1965

ADMISSIONS

California (inactive), 1971

Illinois, 1969

COURT ADMISSIONS

US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

US District Court, Northern District of
Illinois

Advisory Board Member: 2004-present

- *Illinois Super Lawyers*
Family Law, Law & Politics - 2004-present
- *The National Law Journal*
"Trailblazer," Divorce, Trusts and Estates - 2016
- *North Shore Magazine*
Top 20 Chicago Divorce Attorneys - June 1997

Community

- The Family Institute at Northwestern University
Chair, 2009-2015
Vice Chair, 2006-2009
Member, Board of Directors, 2003-present
- Illinois Humanities Council
Lead Counsel for Henry VIII of England, mock divorce trial at Field Museum for Chicago Humanities Festival, 1995
- Gannon Proctor Commission
Member, 1982-1985. Appointed by Governor James R. Thompson to study and report on problems relating to women in Illinois.

Educational

- Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education
Faculty Member, 1975-2002
Member, Planning committees for family law programs
Author of chapters of books published by Institute
Lecturer on subjects relating to matrimonial law

Service To The Bar

- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
Certified Fellow -1980-present
Completed Mediation Training - 1995
Past Member, Board of Managers, Illinois Chapter -1985-1993
Past Vice President, Illinois Chapter
Past Chair, Program Committee, Illinois Chapter
Past Member, Admissions, Court Rules and Continuing Legal Education Committees, Illinois Chapter
- American Bar Association
Section on Litigation
Chair, Domestic Relations and Family Law Litigation Committee, 1988-1990
Section on Family Law
Chair, Ethical Practice and Procedures Committee, 1988-1992
Co-Chair, Federal Legislation/Congressional Relations Committees, 1995-2000
Member, Advisory Board of Family Advocate, publication of Family Law Section, 1989-1990
Vice Chair, Continuing Legal Education Committee, 1985-1987

- American Bar Association - Standing Committee on Specialization
Member: Review Panel for Certification regarding Family Law
Trial Advocacy, 1995-1997
- Circuit Court of Cook County
Member, Advisory Committee of Chief Judge on Reorganization of Domestic Relations Division, 1986-1987
Member, ADR Exploratory Committee of the Presiding Judge of Domestic Relations Division, on New Mediation Rules, 2012-2014
- [Collaborative Divorce Illinois](#)
Fellow, 2005-present
- Illinois State Bar Association
Member, Family Law Section, 1975-present
Member, Section Council, 1982-1985
- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
Member, 2005-present
- International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
Fellow, 1991-1999
- State Bar of California
Member, Family Law Section

Publications

- Co-Author, Client Alert: Wealth Transfer and Legislative Developments 2019 Year-End Update, December 9, 2019
- "New Supreme Court Rules and Legislation," *Annual Family Law Seminar For Experienced Attorneys*, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers/ISBA, October 14, 2013
- "Two-Tiered Billing in Illinois Divorce Cases - a Critique," *Illinois Bar Journal* Vol. 96, No. 9, September 2008
- "Maintenance Review and Modification," *Annual Family Law Seminar for Experienced Attorneys*, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, October 10, 2005
- "Courts Assess Dissipation of Assets," *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, February 13, 2003
- "Initial Interview and Client Relations," *Law Ed Series, Family Law 101: Learn from the Experts*, Illinois State Bar Association, October 2002
- "Beginning Strategies and Initial Considerations," *Handbook for First Annual Family Law Conference*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, April 2002
- "The Shifting Venues of Marital Negotiations," *FairShare*, June 1996
- "Clients: How to Take on Their Problems Without Making Them your Own," *ABA Family Advocate*, Fall 1994
- "Which Confidences are Protected," *ABA Family Advocate*, Fall 1991
- "The Initial Interview" and "Ethics," *ABA Family Advocate*, Winter 1990
- "Blowing the Whistle on Another Lawyer," *ABA Family Advocate*, Spring 1990

- "Dangerous Liaison: Dealing with the Press in Family Litigation," *Annual Meeting Compendium 19*, American Bar Association, Family Law Section, 1989
- "Safeguarding Secrets," *ABA Family Advocate*, Winter 1987
- Project head; Co-author of all Annual Supplements, "Historical and Practice Notes, Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act and Husband and Wife Act," *Smith-Hurd Illinois Annot. Statutes*, West Publishing, 1982-1987
- "Silences in the Storm: Testimonial Privileges in Matrimonial Disputes," *XXI Family Law Quarterly* 189, American Bar Association, Family Law Section, 1987
- "Conflicts of Interest and the Prior Client in a Matrimonial Case: The Large Firm Perspective," *Annual Meeting Compendium 111*, American Bar Association, Family Law Section, July 1985
- "Maintenance Under Illinois Law," *Illinois Family Law Report*, June - July 1985
- "Taming Transmutation - A Guide to Illinois' New Rules on Property Classification and Division Upon Dissolution of Marriage," *Illinois Bar Journal*, March 1984
- "Matrimonial Practice in Large Firms," *Fairshare*, March 1983
- "Perspective on Five Years of Practice Under the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act," *Illinois Family Law Report*, January 1983
- "Division of Retirement Benefits in Dissolution Cases," *YLS Journal of Chicago Bar Assn.*, December 1982
- "Classification of Property Upon Dissolution of Marriage," *Illinois Bar Journal*, October 1982
- "Tax Consequences of Property Division upon Marital Dissolution," *Trust and Estates Magazine*, April 1982
- "Drafting Marital Separation Agreements," *Family Law Handbook*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 1982
- "Modification of Judgment (Maintenance and Child Support)," *Illinois Family Law Handbook*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 1978, 1981, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989
- "Enforcement of Judgment," *Illinois Family Law Handbook*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, 1975, 1978, 1981, 1984, 1985

Speaking Engagements

- "The Collaborative Process Act: A New Beginning," Jenner & Block, October 24, 2017
- "New Statutes Affecting Preservation of Claims in Collaborative Divorce Cases," Collaborative Law Institute of Illinois, Chicago, IL, May 20, 2016
- "Trauma of Divorce & Strategies to Minimize its Effects", panel, Jenner & Block, Chicago, IL, September 18, 2015
- "Financial Mediation in Family Law Cases in Cook County under the New Rules", panel, Chicago Bar Association, Chicago, IL, June 04, 2015
- "New Supreme Court Rules and Legislation," Annual Family Law Seminar For Experienced Attorneys, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Oakbrook, IL, October 14, 2013
- "Expanding Roles of Mental Health Professionals in Family Law," The Family Institute at Northwestern University Convocation Ceremony, Evanston, IL, June 22, 2013

- "Collaborative and Cooperative Settlements: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," Business Valuation Resources 2nd Annual Summit on Business Valuation in Divorce, Chicago, IL, September 24, 2009
- Panelist, "Uniform Collaborative Law Act," Family Law Study Committee Panel, Illinois General Assembly, Chicago, IL, January 30, 2009
- "Premarital Agreements for Children of Wealthy Families - What Parents Need to Know," World Presidents Organization Financial Forum, Chicago, IL, June 23, 2008
- "Collaborative Divorce Process," Illinois CPA Society, Chicago, IL, June 19, 2008
- "The Collaborative Divorce Process," The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, December 17, 2007
- "Strategies to Break Impasses," Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Chicago, IL, January 15, 2007
- "Maintenance Review and Modification," Annual Family Law Seminar for Experienced Attorneys, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Oakbrook, IL, October 15, 2005
- "Advanced Negotiation Techniques," American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Institute for Family Law Associates, Chicago, IL, June 23, 2005
- "Initial Interview and Client Relations," Illinois State Bar Association Family Law Section Seminar, Chicago, IL, October 14, 2002
- "Beginning Strategies and Initial Considerations," First Annual Family Law Conference, Chicago, IL, April 04, 2002