



THE LAW OFFICE OF
MILENA CHRISTOPHER

sponsor spotlight

MEET FAMILY ATTORNEY

MILENA CHRISTOPHER

A WONDERFUL ASSET TO OUR COMMUNITY!

Not every accomplished attorney has a master's degree in psychology counseling, but maybe they should, especially if they intend to practice family law. It's been a winning combination for Milena Christopher—and her clients.

When Milena completed law school, she went to work as a prosecutor in her hometown, Ft. Lauderdale. She started in the juvenile division, was promoted to felonies, and then to a special unit where she prosecuted sex crimes and child abuse cases exclusively. She felt like she was “wearing the white hat” and loved every minute of that job. After five years, though, she was ready for another challenge, so... she started her own law firm. Within six months, she had multiple government contracts, and within a year, she had 26 employees, including eight other attorneys working in her firm.

Soon, Milena's husband's job required them to move from Florida to Texas. (He worked for a large company, the letters of which stand for I've Been Moved!) Feeling committed to her staff of 26, Milena commuted back and forth for two years until all her employees were settled in new jobs.

When Milena first opened her practice in Dripping Springs, a longtime Dripping Springs resident, who became one of her first clients, told Milena, “Honey, you won't make it in this town until people learn to trust you. This is a small community, and everyone knows everyone. It's gonna take some time, but you'll get there!” Now, 15 years later, Milena has earned the trust of the community she lives and works in. Being named “*Best Attorney in Dripping Springs*,” four years in a row, is the most important accolade she could receive.



Milena and Husband Ken celebrating their 35th Anniversary in 2018

“As lawyers, most of us realize that we can't make everyone happy,” says Milena. “In family law especially, emotions run high. I always remind my team about something I heard a long time ago, which rings true: ‘In criminal law, you see “bad people” at their best (trying to make a good impression), but in family law, you see “good people” at their worst.’ Our clients are typically wonderful people who are going through the toughest time of their lives. It is a very emotional time, and we need to understand that. That's why being compassionate and understanding with our clients is so very important.”

Milena's psychology background has helped prepare her for that, and she has a compassionate team working with her to ensure clients are as comfortable as they can be while going through a divorce, probate, or other family matter.

Milena was born in Rome, Italy, and baptized in the Vatican! She came with her parents to the United States, where her mother was born and raised, and became a naturalized citizen at the age of four. Now a mother of three daughters, Milena is very appreciative of children's issues in her cases. “While my job is

to represent and advocate for my clients, I can't help but think ultimately what is in the best interest of their children. That's why, as much as possible, in cases involving children especially, I prefer to negotiate or mediate, rather than litigate. Litigation just makes the parties angrier and more adversarial toward each other, which in the long run, negatively affects the kids,” says Milena.

Milena's eldest was a flight surgeon in the Air Force (now a Lt. Colonel) as well as a doctor at the VA. She has a wonderful, supportive husband and two adorable kids. Milena's middle daughter has overcome some difficult times but is “one of the most caring individuals on the planet.” Last, but not least, Milena and her husband adopted their granddaughter, whom they have raised since birth, and who is now ten years old. This keeps Milena busy and proud, and also gives her a fuller understanding of the issues involved for clients who are suddenly in a position to raise their grandchildren.

Milena volunteers as much as possible in our community. She devotes her time and expertise to the DS Women's Club, Hays Caldwell Women's Center, Hill Country Senior Center, and veterans' causes. She is particularly passionate about the women's shelter. “Where do victims of abuse go after their 30 days at the shelter? Many women have no choice but to go back to their abuser. We are getting ready to build transitional housing for women and children who have been abused and need a place to live while they get back on their feet. It's exciting to think how many people we can help with this project,” says Milena.

Today, Milena keeps busy with her full-time practice, handling mostly family law cases, wills, and probate with her full legal team. Her husband, Ken, is a crucial part of the office, doing the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the office running smoothly. “We tease that sometimes all he has to do is walk into the room and all



(Left to right)
Kayla Brightkrite (paralegal), Milena Christopher and Danielle Korn, Chief Paralegal and Office Manager



Milena and husband Ken in Italy



Family Christmas in Ft. Lauderdale

the computers start working correctly again!” Milena says her team feels like family. “We work hard, but we play hard, too! We often have our meetings over lunch and enjoy time together outside the office. Family

law can be tense, so anything we can do to help the stress level is worthwhile,” says Milena. And this translates into a sensitive and compassionate experience for her clients. “Whether we are going to court, negotiating, or mediating, we are always caring about our clients.”