
Please see the Q & A submitted by our newest member Rebecca Baer, and if you haven't met Rebecca, please make a point of reaching out to welcome her. New Members bring greater diversity to our mission and more opportunities for collaboration!



Meet New Member Rebecca Baer, Attorney, Mediator

Contact Information:

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Where did you grow up? Jordan, MN

Where did you go to college? University of St. Thomas and law school at William Mitchell

Share a bit about your professional journey: I have always practiced primarily family law. I went to law school not knowing what I was interested in. I took Family Law my second year and it clicked. This was the first class I enjoyed and could relate to. I love the very personal and practical aspects of family law, that it involves children and that no two cases are the same. I worked at two small firms in Dakota County to start my career. After about 6 years of practice I relocated to Denver for my husband's employment, where I continued to practice exclusively family law at two different small firms. After our son was born in Denver, my husband and I decided to move "home" so he could be raised near our families. When we came back to Minnesota, I knew I needed flexibility and the ability to have balance while being a mother and supporting my husband working at a large law firm. Building my own practice has always been a dream of mine, and the timing finally seemed right.

Share some information about your practice/firm: I am a solo attorney re-building my family law practice in the Twin Cities. I practice exclusively family. Over time, I have decided that I want to be an expert in one area of law and really enmesh myself in one primary legal community rather than practice in various areas. I offer traditional litigation representation, unbundled/limited scope representation, Collaborative Divorce, mediation and independent contractor services. I take a practical, holistic and cooperative approach to every case I handle, while strongly advocating for my clients and litigating aggressively when necessary. I am personable and enjoy truly getting to know the people I am working with. My mediation style is similar. I am a true neutral when mediating and offer evaluative feedback when asked. I offer mediation at a rate of \$175 an hour and am willing to travel a reasonable distance as a courtesy.

What do you specialize in? Family Law.

What kind of clients/customers do you like to work with? I enjoy all clients, so long as we have a positive working relationship, which is usually the case. Some clients I have especially liked working with are clients I can laugh with and, if there are children, parents who are great parents and consistently put their children's needs ahead of their own.

How do you get new clients? Networking, referrals, online and print marketing.

How has your business changed over the years? I have always worked in small firms with 2 – 4 attorneys. Recently, I began my own solo firm. I am also trying to grow my family law practice to include more mediation and Collaborative Divorce.

What are your current professional concerns/challenges? Learning how to manage a law firm as an owner and learning to work as a solo without support staff. Also, marketing as a solo firm and competing with larger firms who have more resources.

How about family? How about family? I am the oldest of five children and the first in my very large extended family to become an attorney. I married my husband, Jacob, in 2013 and we welcomed our son, Micah, in January 2018. Baby number two (another boy!) is expected this month, and I could not be more excited. Jacob is also an attorney and practices in the areas of Energy and Real Estate at Fredrikson & Byron downtown. We bought our first home in Eden Prairie almost a year ago and are loving it.

Any hobbies/volunteer activities? A few of my hobbies/interests include: Spending time with my son and husband, building my law firm, enjoying nature (hiking, being on a lake, going for walks, camping), baseball, concerts, puzzles in the winter and traveling.

I have made volunteering an important part of my practice and need to find a few good fits now that I am back in the Twin Cities. While in Colorado, I had the pleasure of volunteering for several years with Colorado Lawyers for Colorado Veterans, a group that provides pro se legal services to veterans.

How were you introduced to CLI? I was introduced to the Collaborative practice at the first firm I worked at out of law school. I currently rent office space at the Collaborative Alliance.

How will being a member of CLI help you in your practice? I am Collaboratively trained and want a portion of my practice to include Collaborative Law. I have also found over the years that I especially enjoy networking and working with other Collaborative professionals, as even when not working on a Collaborative case, we tend to have similar philosophies, practice styles, and often even personalities. The other main reason I like being part of Collaborative groups is that they do not just include attorneys. It is so important to providing the best legal services to clients that an attorney has a solid and reputable network of non-attorneys on whom they can rely.

Thanks, Rebecca! We look forward to your participation in CLI!

CLI Membership Chair,

Audra Holbeck

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