



Since 1997, Elizabeth Schwartz, author of *Before I Do: A Legal Guide to Marriage, Gay & Otherwise* (The New Press, 2016) has been practicing law and advocating for the legal rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. She is board certified by the Florida Bar in Adoption Law. While her Miami-based firm works with straight and gay clients in matters of family formation (adoption and surrogacy) and dissolution, estate planning and probate, she has been on the forefront of providing crucial legal protections for LGBT families before and since the arrival of marriage equality. Elizabeth served as counsel on cases challenging Florida's marriage ban and Florida's ban forbidding gays and lesbians from adopting children. In 2011, she obtained the first marital dissolution for a same-gender couple in Florida. She is the co-chair of the national board of SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders), a fellow of the Academy of Adoption & Assisted Reproduction Attorneys, and a longtime member of the Collaborative Family Law Institute. A Miami Beach native, Elizabeth received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993 and her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law in 1997. A lefty and a Scorpio, Elizabeth lives with her wife, writer Lydia Martín, in downtown Miami.