



## **Livia DeFilippis Barndollar**

Member

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Livia DeFilippis Barndollar has more than 35 years of experience ably representing parties in dissolution of marriage cases, post judgment and appellate proceedings and marital and premarital agreements. She also less frequently represents children in the divorce process as a *guardian ad litem* or attorney for the minor child. At times, she is asked to mediate marital disputes directly with the parties or on behalf of other family law counsel. She is a member of the firm in Pullman & Comley's Family Law Practice and co-chair of its Appellate Practice Group, both of which have been named "Department of the Year" by the *Connecticut Law Tribune*.

Livia is known among her peers and her clients as being reasonable, experienced and focused while being capable and willing to push up her sleeves to obtain results. Not all cases involve two reasonable clients and reasonable opposing counsel, so Livia gauges when negotiating needs to yield to preparation for alternative dispute resolution or trial.

Livia dedicates herself to keeping up on the law, as well as teaching others in the profession and aligned professions. She approaches her cases with knowledge of the law and the judicial system as an omnipresent backdrop.

Livia is a past president of the Connecticut Bar Association (CBA) and a past chair of its Family Law Section. She has been a member of the Executive Committee of the CBA Family Law Section since 1996 and has served as every officer of the Section. Livia just finished a three year term in the CBA House as the representative of the Family Law Section. Livia is a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, served the maximum nine years on its board, and has served as the chair of its board of directors, Nominating Committee and Fellows Nomination Committee. She also serves as a board member of Connecticut Legal Services and on the Standing Committee on Professional Ethics of the CBA.

Livia is also involved in national bar association activities and in the summer of 2019, completed her fourth term as a State delegate to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. She is a member of the American Counsel Association, its past president, and serves on its board of directors. She has been a member of the American Bar Association's Family Law Section Council and has served as its parliamentarian.

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**WATERBURY**  
203.573.9700

**WESTPORT**  
203.254.5000

**WHITE PLAINS**  
914.705.5355

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Livia wrote the chapter on alimony for the Lexis Nexis Connecticut Divorce Handbook, and takes an active role in several family law publications. She has served as the senior topical editor for family law of the *Connecticut Bar Journal* since 2000. She has been an editor of the *Bar Journal* since 1985, and was editor in chief of the journal from 1994-1997. She also serves as an editor at large of *The Family Advocate*, published by the American Bar Association's Section of Family Law and has frequently presented at educational programs at both state and national levels.

Many of the above positions and numerous positions not mentioned have involved extensive community service and service to the development of others in the legal profession. Livia is proud to mention that she has been appointed by the ABA President to the Advisory Committee to the ABA Commission on Youth at Risk, an organization committed to the improvement of child welfare laws and programs on a national level.

### Practice Areas

Appellate  
Custody, Parenting and Relocation Litigation  
Family Law  
Family Law Appellate  
Family Law Litigation - Finances  
Litigation  
Postnuptial Agreements  
Prenuptial Agreements

### Bar and Court Admissions

Connecticut  
U. S. Supreme Court  
U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut

### Education

Trinity College, B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, High Honors, 1978  
Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1981, nonmatriculant NYU School of Law, 1980-1981

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### **Publications**

The Who, When and Why of Using Experts in Contested Custody Cases  
*Family Advocate*, Spring 2021

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Bar Association - House of Delegates, CBA delegate; Family Law Section; Litigation Section  
Connecticut Bar Association - Family Law Section  
Fairfield County Bar Association  
American Counsel Association - board of directors, past president  
New England Bar Association - former board member  
The American Law Institute - ex officio member  
American Bar Foundation - Fellow  
Connecticut Bar Foundation - Sustaining Life Fellow; past director  
Connecticut Legal Services - board of directors

### **Community Involvement**

Norwalk Community College Foundation, Inc - board of directors

### **Honors & Recognitions**

Named a Moffly Media Top Lawyer in Fairfield County, 2021 - Family Law  
American Bar Association, Family Law Section Service Award, 2017, 2012  
Connecticut Bar Association Service Awards  
Isaac Hecht Client Protection Award (co-recipient with CBA), 2009  
Connecticut Legal Services Annual Recognition Award, 2008  
Selected to the *Connecticut and New England Super Lawyers* list 2007-2015, 2017-2020 in family law  
CT Italian - American Bar Association Annual Achievement Award, 2008