



Christian M. Lapham

Shareholder / Member of Management Committee

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OVERVIEW

Christian Lapham is a shareholder of Bean, Kinney & Korman and has been practicing law since 2002. He has a diverse background representing clients in domestic relations and civil litigation matters.

As a divorce lawyer, Christian has successfully litigated complex child custody matters, including cases involving relocation, mental illness, substance abuse, and parental alienation. He has also handled numerous complex equitable distribution and spousal support matters, including matters involving federal employees and military service members, valuation issues pertaining to businesses, and sophisticated asset-tracing issues. A former small business owner himself, Christian appreciates the challenges and nuances of a separation and divorce where one party owns a business.

Christian's approach to family law incorporates three fundamental aspects: education, counseling, and advocacy. As the son of an Arlington elementary school teacher, he believes you cannot make an informed decision unless you are educated on how to understand the legal issues and implications of this decision.

Christian is the author of a divorce toolkit, offering open source insights into this process even prior to the initial consult. He has been certified as a Collaborative attorney and has represented clients in the Collaborative Process with great success and takes a measured approach to his legal counsel of clients, understanding that decisions made during the separation and divorce process are complex and may have lasting implications for the greater family dynamic.

Finally, Christian is a zealous advocate for his clients both inside and outside the courtroom and has been negotiating and litigating family law matters in all Northern Virginia jurisdictions for two decades. While education and counseling are important, Christian understands that in certain situations, zealous advocacy inside of a courtroom is the only way to handle a difficult adversary, particularly in situations involving mental illness or a personality disorder.

In his spare time, Christian is busy chasing his two boys around the streets of Arlington and the ski slopes of Snowshoe, West Virginia.

Christian is also a member of the firm's management committee.

EXPERIENCE

- Represented a client to prevent the relocation of the client's youngest daughter to another state in a hotly contested custody and relocation case in Fairfax Circuit Court. The daughter was not relocated.
- Represented a client in the settlement of complex equitable distribution/asset tracing issues involving a large sum of separate assets maintained in trust, thereby saving the client tens of thousands of dollars in litigation expenses.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Virginia, 2002

EDUCATION

- George Mason University School of Law, J.D., 2001
- Managing Justice, Moot Court Board
- Federal Circuit Bar Journal
- University of Virginia, B.A., 1997

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

Awards

- Washingtonian, Top Divorce and Family Law Lawyer, 2021-2025
- Virginia Business, Legal Elite in Family Law/Domestic Relations, 2019-2025
- Arlington Magazine, Top Attorney – Family Law, 2019, 2021-2025
- Virginia Super Lawyers in Family Law, 2014 – 2026
- Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers in Family Law, 2015 – 2026
- Best Lawyers in America in Family Law, 2014 – 2026
- Northern Virginia magazine, Top Lawyer, 2013
- AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell

Professional Affiliations

- Collaborative Professionals of Northern Virginia
- Fairfax Bar Association (Family Law Section)
- Virginia State Bar (Family Law Section)
- Virginia Bar Association (Family Law Section)
- Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (Family Law Section)
- Habitat for Humanity (Participant, Global Village Program in Portugal)