

KRISTI ANDERSON WELLS, Esq.
Wells Family Law | PC
1660 Lincoln Street, Suite 1525
Denver, Colorado 80264
(303) 309-1077
kristi@wellsfamilylawcolorado.com
<https://wellsfamilylawcolorado.com>

BAR ADMISSIONS:

- 2007 Admitted in Colorado
- 1999 Admitted in Maine (inactive)
- 1997 Admitted in Washington (inactive)

EDUCATION:

- 1998 University of Washington School of Law - Seattle, Washington: Master of Laws (LL.M.), Federal Taxation
- 1997 University of Washington School of Law - Seattle, Washington: Juris Doctor (J.D.)
 - With honors
 - Member and Contributing Editor, Washington Law Review
- 1994 University of Washington - Seattle, Washington: Bachelor of Arts (B.A), Journalism
 - Magna Cum Laude
 - Phi Beta Kappa

LITIGATION EXPERIENCE:

Litigation practice focuses on complex domestic relations cases, including managing ancillary criminal and civil issues that arise in such cases, with an emphasis on characterizing and dividing executive compensation such as incentives, stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, supplemental pensions and deferred compensation. Other aspects of practice include complex benefits and tax issues, closely held businesses, trusts, premarital agreements, and other financial matters arising in divorce. Collaboratively trained.

- President and CEO, Wells Family Law | PC, Denver, Colorado 2019 to Present
- Of Counsel, Hunnicutt & Appelmann, P.C., Denver, Colorado 2017-2019
- Vice President and Shareholder, Gutterman Griffiths, PC, Lone Tree, Colorado 2012-2017
- Associate, Willoughby & Eckelberry, Denver, Colorado 2010-2012

BENEFITS AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION EXPERIENCE:

Practice focused on employee benefits and executive compensation for employers ranging from small professional partnerships to Fortune 500 companies. Emphasis on assisting companies with Internal Revenue Code and Department of Labor compliance. Drafted plan documents for qualified and nonqualified plans, drafted employment and severance agreements; performed due diligence regarding benefits and executive compensation in mergers and acquisitions.

- Associate, Sherman & Howard, L.L.C., Denver, Colorado 2008-2010
- Associate, Faegre & Benson LLP, Denver, Colorado 2007-2008

- Associate, Preston Gates & Ellis, LLP, Seattle, Washington 2003-2007
- Associate, Birmingham, Thorson & Barnett, PC, Seattle, Washington 2001-2003
- Associate, Benefits Department, Verrill & Dana LLP, Portland, Maine 2000-2001

ESTATE AND PROBATE EXPERIENCE:

Transactional and litigation practice focused on preparing estate plans and estate probate actions.

- Associate, Estate Planning Dept., Verrill & Dana LLP, Portland, Maine 1999-2000
- Associate, Lane Powell Spears Lubersky, PC, Seattle, Washington 1997-1998

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE:

Summer clerk 1L and 2L summers at the Washington State Attorney General’s Office, Division of Labor and Industries. The first year I completed a comprehensive survey of the federal and state Fair Labor Standards Act for use by attorneys in analyzing cases. The second year, I supported attorneys in preparing for two major wage claim cases, researching discrete issues, assembling exhibits, and attending witness preparation.

- Summer clerk, Washington State Division of Labor and Industries, Olympia and Seattle Washington 1995 and 1996

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Colorado Super Lawyer in the field of Family Law: 2015-Present
- Top 100 Colorado Super Lawyers 2021-2024
- Best Lawyers in America 2022-2024
- 10 out of 10 “Superb” rating on AVVO
- Martindale Hubbell AV rated
- Client Distinction Award Martindale Hubbell – 2013 and 2015
- Top 50 Colorado Women Lawyers – 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024
- ColoradoBiz Magazine “Women to Watch” – 2017 and 2023

VOLUNTEER WORK AND BOARD MEMBERSHIPS:

- Colorado Bar Association Family Law Section Executive Council - 9/2015-9/2017; 9/2018-Present
- Chair of 2024 Family Law Institute
- Colorado Collaborative Divorce Professionals, Past President and Board of Directors, 2017-Present
- Metro Volunteer Lawyers, Volunteer 2010-Present
- Denver Bar Association, Access to Justice Committee – Law Line 9 Volunteer
- Colorado Judicial Institute, Secretary, Board of Directors, 2019- 2022
- Colorado Judicial Institute, Family Law Committee, 2013-2018
- Colorado Bar Association, Domestic Violence and Legal Issues Committee, 2011-2012
- Western Pension & Benefits Conference, Secretary of the Board, 2010-2011

PUBLICATIONS:

- Colorado Bar Association Family Law Section Bench Bar Book, Section 25: Alternative/Executive Compensation and Benefits (Stock Options, Restricted Stock Units, Etc.), Contributor and Editor, (May 2024)
- A Primer on Executive Compensation in a Colorado Divorce – Part 2, *The Colorado Lawyer*, June 2022
- A Primer on Executive Compensation in a Colorado Divorce – Part 1, *The Colorado Lawyer*, May 2022
- Colorado Bar Association Family Law Section Bench Bar Book, Section 25: Alternative/Executive Compensation and Benefits (Stock Options, Restricted Stock Units, Etc.), Co-Contributor and Co-Editor, (June 2021)
- Kristi Anderson Wells and Jon Eric Stuebner, The Executive Compensation Handbook: Stock Option Awards, Restricted Stock Grants, Cash Bonuses, Incentives and Other Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation in Divorce (1st ed. 2018)
- (For April Fools’ Day, We Remind You): A Fool and His Money are Soon Parted, *ColoradoBiz Magazine* (online), April 2017
- How to Make the Holidays Work When You’re Divorcing, *ColoradoBiz Magazine* (online), November 2016
- Benefits Issues Arise When Same-Sex Relationships End, *The Colorado Lawyer*, August 2013
- Supreme Court Ruling on DOMA Raises More Questions Than It Answers for Colorado Families, *CBA-CLE Legal Connection*, June 28, 2013, co-authored with Ann Gushurst
- Disgracebook: How Technology and Social Networking Inform the Divorce Process, *Colorado Serenity Magazine*, December 2011
- COBRA Subsidy Program Extended, Sherman & Howard Employment Law Newsletter (January 2010), co-authored with Ted Olsen
- Sherman & Howard LLC ERISA Advisory: Congress Extends COBRA Premium Subsidy (December 2009)
- Sherman & Howard LLC ERISA Advisory: New Notice, Disclosure and Special Enrollment Rights in CHIPRA (February 2009)
- Faegre & Benson LLP Practical 409A: Continued Insurance Coverage, Reimbursement and In-Kind Benefit Commitments Under 409A (March 2008), co-authored with R. Geggelman
- Faegre & Benson LLP Practical 409A: The Impact of Disability on Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Under Code Section 409A (November 2007), co-authored with R. Geggelman
- Faegre & Benson LLP Employment Law Update: IRS Issues Transition Relief Under Section 409A, but Don't Stop Compliance Efforts (October 2007), co-authored with P. Lin
- What's New Under the Final 409A Regulations? Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis Compensation and Benefits Alert (May 2007), co-authored with D. Ellis
- Preston Gates & Ellis E-Alert: IRS Extends Transition Relief for Section 409A Compliance (October 5, 2006)
- Implementing a Domestic Partner Benefits Program, Maine Business and Employment Law (Northern New England Publishers, Inc., Naples, Maine), January 2001, at 3
- Domestic Partner Benefits: Legal Issues, Maine Business and Employment Law (Northern New England Law Publishers, Inc., Naples, Maine), December 2000, at 1
- Note/Comment, The Uncertain Scope of Sovereign Immunity in Washington After Savage v. State, 71 Wash. L. Rev. 1069 (1996)

PRESENTATIONS/RADIO BROADCASTS:

- Presentation: *Recent Changes to CRCP Rule 16.2 and Legislative Update*, co-presented with Chelsea Augelli, Esq. and Kaela Zihlman, Esq., Colorado Bar Association Family Law Spring Update (April 11, 2024)
- Presentation: *Calculating Income After DePumpo: The Good, Bad and Ugly*, Colorado Bar Association Family Law Fall Update (November 3, 2023)
- Presentation: *Thundering Through Stock Rights: Options, Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units*, Colorado Bar Association Family Law Fall Update, Lightning Round (November 12, 2021)
- Presentation: *Breaking Up is Hard to Do: How Movies Shape Our Ideas About Divorce*, Metropolitan Denver Interdisciplinary Committee Luncheon (November 3, 2020)
- Presentation: *Don't Get Caught with Your Pants Down: Preparing for a Successful Mediation*, co-presented with Richard Rotole, Esq. and Justin Ross, Esq., Family Law Institute (August 2020)
- Presentation: *Don't Worry, Be Happy: A Family Lawyer's Guide to Tax Return Illumination*, co-presented with Shari Lutz, CPA, ABV, CFF ASA, American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers Advanced Family Law Institute (December 2019)
- Presentation: *The Sexy Side of Stock Rights: A Beginner's Guide to Mastering Stock Awards in Divorce*, Colorado Bar Association Family Law Section Young Attorney Breakfast (November 2018)
- Moderator: *Judicial Panel on Maintenance*, Colorado Bar Association Family Law Institute, Vail Colorado (August 2018)
- Presentation: *Rocky Mountain High – Navigating the Marijuana Divorce Without Losing Your Mind*, co-presented with Carolyn Witkus, Colorado Bar Association Luncheon CLE (March 2018)
- Presentation: *Civility in the Practice of Family Law*, co-presented with Rebecca Alexander, Colorado Bar Association Fall Family Law Update (October 30, 2015)
- Presentation: *Advanced Tax Issues in Divorce*, co-presented with Brian Campbell, CPA, 2015 Family Law Institute, Vail Colorado (August 8, 2015)
- Presentation: *Trial Preparation and Practice*, co-presented with John Tatlock, Colorado Bar Association, 2014 Fall Family Law Update (October 31, 2014)
- Presentation: *Division of Benefits in Same-Sex Break-Ups: Assisting Clients in a Complex and Unsettled Area*, co-presented with Ann Gushurst, International CLE, “Civil Unions: Family Law and Estate Issues in a Time of Rapid Change” (November 4, 2013)
- Presentation: *Attorney Fees in Family Law*, co-presented with Alex White, Family Law Institute in Vail, Colorado (August 10, 2013)
- Presentation: *The Duty to Confer*, Family Law Institute in Vail, Colorado (August 10, 2013)
- Presentation: *Divorce: Classifying, Valuing, and Dividing Executive Employment Benefits*, co-presented with Noah B. Rosenfarb, CPA, a Strafford Webinar (July 30, 2013)
- Presentation: *Unveiling the Mysteries of Dividing Executive Compensation, Stock Rights and Severance in Divorce*, at the Family Law Institute in Vail, Colorado (August 11, 2012)
- Moderator: *Judge's Panel Re Business Valuations in Divorce*, Colorado Bar Association Family Law Update (2011)
- Presentation: *Spoils of War: Dividing Deferred Compensation in Divorce*, Colorado Bar Association, 2011 Spring Family Law Update (May 13, 2011)
- Presentation: *New Administration: New COBRA Premium Subsidy Rules*, Van Gilder Breakfast Club (April 2009)

- Presentation: *New Administration: New Issues in Employee Benefits*, Southeast Metro Law Club luncheon (March 2009)
- Presentation: *What's Up with Your 403(b) Plan in 2008?* Integrated Delivery Systems Roundtable, Co-Sponsored by Faegre & Benson LLP and the Medical Group Management Association (2008)
- Presentation: *SEC's Proposed Rules on Executive Compensation Disclosure*, Seattle Pension Roundtable (March 16, 2006)
- Presentation: *New COBRA Notice Requirements* (Presented to the Seattle Pension Roundtable (December 2004)
- Presentation: *A Brief Summary of Taxation of ISOs and Nonquals*, University of Washington School of Law (Spring 2003)
- Commentary: *Complex Taxes*, National Public Radio broadcast, Morning Edition (April 15, 2002) (to access all commentaries, go to www.npr.org and search prior name "Bjornerud")
- Commentary: *New Tax Law*, National Public Radio broadcast, Morning Edition (August 21, 2001) (to access all commentaries, go to www.npr.org and search prior name "Bjornerud")
- Commentary: *Estate Tax - the Mysterious Disappearing Repeal of the Estate Tax*, National Public Radio broadcast, Morning Edition (June 7, 2001) (to access all commentaries, go to www.npr.org and search prior name "Bjornerud")
- Commentary: *Tax Time Commentary -- An Ode to the Code*, National Public Radio broadcast, Morning Edition (April 16, 2001) (to access all commentaries, go to www.npr.org and search prior name "Bjornerud")

MEMBERSHIPS:

- Colorado Bar Association, Family Law and Tax Sections
- American Bar Association, Family Law Section (Taxation Committee)
- Academy for Collaborative Law Practice, Fellow
- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
- Metro Denver Interdisciplinary Committee
- Colorado Collaborative Divorce Professionals
- Colorado Women's Bar Association
- Alliance of Professional Women
- Colorado Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Colorado Judicial Institute

EXPERT TESTIMONY:

In Re Marriage of E.S.B. and S.A.W., 2023DR030179, El Paso County District Court, March 2024 – Prepared report and testified for Petitioner regarding characterization of Respondent's unvested Restricted Stock Units as property in dissolution of marriage action.

In Re Marriage of N.M and J.M., 2021DR030648, Douglas County District Court, December 2023 – Prepared report and testified for Respondent regarding reasonableness and necessity of Petitioner's attorney fees in dissolution of marriage action.

In Re Marriage of J.S. and A.D.S., 2018DR002774, Denver District Court, June 2022 – Prepared report and testified for Petitioner regarding reasonableness and necessity of her own attorney fees incurred with respect to a discrete issue in post-decree modification of support action.