



# COGNETTI LAW GROUP

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Maria P. Cognetti, Esq.

717-909-4060

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## EDUCATION

- **University of Pittsburgh School of Law**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
  - J.D. - 1978
- **Franklin and Marshall College**, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
  - B.A. - 1975
  - Major: Psychology

## BAR ADMISSION

- Pennsylvania, 1978
- U.S. District Court Western District of Pennsylvania, 1978
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Pennsylvania, 1982
- U.S. Federal Courts, 1978
- Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 2010
- Supreme Court of the United States of America, 2004

## HONORS

- AAML Fellow of the Year
- Pennsylvania Bar Association Special Achievement Award
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Presidential Service Award
- Appointed to the Hearing Committee of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
- Appointed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Domestic Relations Rules Committee
- Appointed to Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Domestic Relations Law Chairman, Subcommittee on Custody
- Appointed to Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Domestic Relations Law Member, Subcommittee on Property Rights
- Appointed to Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Domestic Relations Law Member, Subcommittee on Alimony
- Appointed to Commission for Justice Initiatives in PA Changing the Culture of Custody Committee
- Rated "AV" by Martindale Hubbell
- Recognized as a Preeminent Lawyer by Martindale Hubbell
- Listed in Best Lawyers in America
- Chosen as Central Pennsylvania's Best Lawyers, Family Lawyer of the Year
- Listed in Pennsylvania Super Lawyers

## CLASSES & SEMINARS

- Speaker, NBI Divorce Law A to Z, Harrisburg, PA, 08/22/2013 to 08/22/2013

- Course Planner/Moderator, Family Law Practice in Central Pennsylvania, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, November, 2012
- Speaker, Family Law Seminar, Iowa Bar Association, Des Moines, IA, October, 2012
- Speaker, AAML Custody Evaluation Standards, Hartford County Annual Family Law Case Management Conference, Bel Air, MD, September, 2012
- Speaker, Custody Evaluation: What Are We Looking At, National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges National Conference, Las Vegas, NV, March, 2012
- Speaker, Key Issues Under the New Custody Act, Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, Philadelphia, PA, February, 2012
- Speaker, Advanced Issues in Child Custody: How Divorce Lawyers and Mental Health Professionals Work With and Against Each Other, AAML/AFCC, Philadelphia, PA, September, 2011
- Speaker, Mental Health-Attorney Consultation in Child Custody Cases Ethical and Methodological Considerations, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, June, 2011
- Course Planner/Moderator, Presentation of a Custody Evaluation in a Complex Custody Trial, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, May, 2011
- Course Planner/Moderator, Presentation of a Custody Evaluation in a Complex Custody Trial, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, May, 2011
- Course Planner/Moderator, Presentation of a Custody Evaluation in a Complex Custody Trial, PBI, Pittsburgh, PA, May, 2011
- Course Planner/Speaker, Intersection of Legal and Mental Health Issues in Custody Cases, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, February, 2011
- Course Planner/Speaker, Intersection of Legal and Mental Health Issues in Custody Cases, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, February, 2011
- Speaker, The New Custody Law In Pennsylvania, Franklin County Bar Association, Lunch & Learn, Chambersburg, PA, January, 2011
- Speaker, HB 1639, PBI, PBA Family Law Section Winter Meeting, Lancaster, PA, January, 2011
- Speaker, HB 1639 - The Ins and Outs of the New Custody Law, Cumberland County Bar Association, Lunch & Learn, Carlisle, PA, January, 2011
- Speaker, 14th Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, November, 2010
- Course Planner/Speaker, Custody Evaluation Standards, AAML, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November, 2010
- Speaker, AFCC Ninth Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Boston, MA, October, 2010
- Speaker, Drafting Marital Settlement Agreements, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, February, 2009
- Speaker, Pitfalls of Family Law - Malpractice/Ethics, PBI, PBA Family Law Section Winter Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, January, 2008
- Speaker, Pitfalls of Family Law - Malpractice and/or Ethical Dilemma, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, August, 2007
- Speaker, How to Ace Your Appeal, PBI, Family Law Institute, Mechanicsburg, PA, April, 2007
- Speaker, How to Ace Your Appeal, PBI, PBA Family Law Section Winter Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ, January, 2007
- Speaker, Analyzing Tax Returns, DRAP Conference, Valley Forge, PA, November, 2006
- Speaker, Ethics for Family Lawyers, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, August, 2006
- Speaker, Fundamentals of Family Law, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, July, 2006
- Faculty, Intensive Trial Advocacy Program, Widener University, Harrisburg, PA, May, 2006,
- Speaker, Ninth Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, November, 2005
- Speaker, General Practitioner's Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, June, 2005

- Speaker, Earning Capacity in Support Cases, DRAP Conference, Nemaocolin, PA, November, 2004
- Speaker, Eighth Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, October, 2004
- Testified, Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee Public Hearing on pending Custody legislation, Harrisburg, PA, August, 2004 (appeared on behalf of the Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Domestic Relations Law)
- Speaker, General Practitioner's Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, June, 2004
- Speaker, Drafting Marital Settlement Agreements, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, December, 2003
- Speaker, Seventh Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, November, 2003
- Speaker, Family Law Practice in Central Pennsylvania, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, October, 2003
- Speaker, General Practitioner's Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, June, 2003
- Speaker, Finding Hidden Income The Balance Sheet: What You Need to Know PBA Family Law Section Winter Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, January, 2003
- Speaker, Sixth Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, October, 2002
- Speaker, Earning Capacity in Support Cases and Tax Return Analysis, DRAP Conference, Nemaocolin, PA, October, 2002
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Trial of a Custody Case, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, August, 2002
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Trial of a Custody Case, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, August, 2002
- Speaker, General Practitioner's Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, June, 2002
- Testified, Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee Public Hearing on pending Custody legislation, Harrisburg, PA, May, 2002 (appeared on behalf of the Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Domestic Relations Law)
- Speaker, How to Read Tax Returns, Franklin County Domestic Relations Office, Chambersburg, PA, May, 2002
- Speaker, Dealing with Earning Capacity in Support Actions, Cumberland County Bar Association, Carlisle, PA, January, 2002
- Speaker, Litigating Custody Cases, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, January, 2002
- Speaker, Business Valuation in Equitable Distribution, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, December, 2001
- Speaker, How to Read Tax Returns, Dauphin County Domestic Relations Office, Harrisburg, PA, November, 2001
- Speaker, Fifth Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, October, 2001
- Speaker, Family Law Potpourri, PBI, Philadelphia, PA April, 2001
- Testified, Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee Public Hearing on pending Presumptive Joint Custody legislation, Harrisburg, PA, April, 2001 (appeared on behalf of the Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Domestic Relations Law)
- Moderator/Speaker, , Family Law Practice in Central Pennsylvania, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, February, 2001
- Speaker, Fourth Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, November, 2000
- Speaker, Tax Consequences in Divorce: Avoiding the Pitfalls, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, August, 2000
- Speaker, Practicum on Custody and Divorce, DCBA, Harrisburg, PA, April, 2000
- Moderator/Speaker, , Fundamentals of Family Law, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, March, 2000
- Speaker, Joint State Government Commission Recommendations on Custody, PBA, Philadelphia, PA, January, 2000
- Speaker, Third Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, November, 1999
- Speaker, Joint State Commission Update: What You Need to Know, PBA, New York City, NY, July 1999
- Testified, Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee Public Hearing on pending Paternity legislation, Harrisburg, PA, April, 1999 (appeared on behalf of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Family Law Section)

- Speaker, Tips from the Frontline: Pragmatic Custody, PBI, Mechanicsburg, PA, April, 1999
- Speaker/Author, Evidentiary Issues at Trial and on Appeal, PBA, Pittsburgh, PA, January 1999
- Speaker/Author, Advanced Custody Relocation Seminar, AAML, PA Chapter, Pittsburgh, PA, January, 1999
- Speaker, Evidence for Family Lawyers, NITA, Mechanicsburg, PA, December, 1998
- Speaker/Author, Second Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, November, 1998
- Speaker, Reading Tax Returns for the Self-Employed Defendant, D.R.A.P. Conference, Harrisburg, PA, September, 1998
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Trial of a Custody Case, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, April, 1998
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Trial of a Custody Case, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, April, 1998
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, First Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Harrisburg PA, November, 1997
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, First Annual Family Law Update, PBI, Pittsburgh, PA, October, 1997
- Speaker, Collateral Issues in Family Law: Tax Fraud, Criminal Actions, and Bankruptcy, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, June, 1997
- Speaker/Author, Update on the Support Guidelines, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, May, 1997
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Family Law Arbitration and Mediation, PBI, Pittsburgh, PA, April, 1997
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Family Law Arbitration and Mediation, PBI, Harrisburg, PA February, 1997
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Family Law Practice in Central Pennsylvania, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, February, 1997
- Speaker, Drafting Marital Settlement Agreements, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, November, 1996
- Speaker, Equitable Distribution Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, October, 1996
- Speaker, Fundamentals of Family Law, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, March, 1996
- Speaker, Advanced Family Symposium, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, December, 1995
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Hot Issues in Custody, PBI, Pittsburgh, PA, November, 1995
- Speaker/Author, AAML Advanced Mediation Training, AAML, Chicago, Illinois, November, 1995
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Hot Issues in Custody, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, October, 1995
- Course Planner/Speaker/Author, Hot Issues in Custody, PBI, Philadelphia, PA, September, 1995
- Speaker, Tax Traps in Divorce Law, PBI, Harrisburg, PA July, 1995
- Speaker/Author, AAML Mediation Training, AAML, Chicago, Illinois, January, 1995
- Speaker, Women and Divorce: The Legal Aspects, Woman Care, Harrisburg, January, 1995
- Speaker, AAML Mediation Training Panel, AAML, Chicago, Illinois, November, 1994
- Speaker, AAML Mediation Training, AAML, Chicago, Illinois, June, 1994
- Speaker/Author, Fundamentals of Family Law, PBI, Scranton, PA, March, 1994
- Speaker/Author, Fundamentals of Family Law, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, February, 1994
- Speaker, Equitable Distribution Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA March, 1993
- Speaker, Family Law Update, DCBA/PBI, Harrisburg, PA, November, 1993
- Audio Lecture, College Support in Light of Blue v. Blue and Act 62, PBI, October, 1993
- Speaker, Support Law Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA July, 1993
- Speaker, Child and Spousal Support, PBI, Harrisburg, PA March, 1992
- Speaker, Tax Aspects of Divorce, PBI, Harrisburg, PA November, 1991
- Speaker, Equitable Distribution Update, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, October, 1991
- Speaker/Author, How to Challenge Psychological Evidence in Custody Cases, PBI, Harrisburg, PA July, 1991
- Speaker/Author, Tax Aspects of Separation and Divorce, PBI, Harrisburg, PA November, 1989

- Speaker/Author, Prenuptial Agreements, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, September, 1988
- Speaker/Author, Prenuptial Agreements, PBI, Pittsburgh, PA, September, 1988
- Speaker/Author, Prenuptial Agreements, PBI, Allentown, PA, September, 1988
- Speaker, Family Law Statewide Institute - The Evolution of a Contested Domestic Relations Case, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, November, 1984
- Speaker, Shaping the Future, D.R.A.P. Conference, Harrisburg, PA, September, 1988
- Speaker, Family Law Developments 1987, Dickinson School of Law, Carlisle, PA, April, 1987
- Speaker, What the Divorce Code Can Do to Your Estate and Business Clients, PBI, Harrisburg, PA, October, 1986
- Speaker, The Nuts and Bolts of the Family Law Case, PaTLA, Champion, PA, July, 1986
- Speaker, Annual Update of the Law, PaTLA, White Haven, PA, July, 1985
- Speaker, Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Law Offices, PBI, Hershey, PA, May, 1983
- Speaker, Family Law Statewide Institute, PBI, Sunbury, PA, November, 1981

## **PRO-BONO ACTIVITIES**

- Member, Kiwanis Club of Harrisburg, 1996 to 2002
- Member, Board of Directors, Kiwanis Club of Harrisburg, 1996 to 2002
- Member, Pennsylvania National Horse Show Steering Committee, Kiwanis Club of Harrisburg, 1996 to 2002
- Chair, Merchandise Committee, Kiwanis Club of Harrisburg, 1996 to 2002
- Founding Member, Christopher Columbus 1492 Society, 1992 to Present

## **PAST POSITIONS**

- Maria P. Cagnetti & Associates, Sole Proprietor, 2000 to 2012
- Law Offices of Maria P. Cagnetti, Sole Proprietor, 1994 to 1999
- Mette, Evans & Woodside, Shareholder, 1990 to 1993
- Killian & Gephart, Partner, 1980 to 1990
- Meyers & Desfor, Associate, 1979 to 1980
- Zupancic & Somerton, Associate, 1978 to 1979
- Court-Appointed Custody Conference Officer, County of Dauphin, 1985 to 2005

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, President , 2013 to 2014
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Chair, By-Laws Committee, 1988 to Present
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Chair, Custody Standards Committee, 1988 to Present
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Past Member, Board of Governors, 1988 to Present
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Past Co-Chair, CLE Committee, 1988 to Present
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Past President, Pennsylvania Chapter, 1988 to Present
- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Past Member, Board of Managers and Board of Examiners, Pennsylvania Chapter, 1988 to Present
- Fellow, International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Past Editor, Newsletter, 2002 to Present
- Diplomate, American College of Family Trial Lawyers, 2012 to Present
- American Bar Association, Member, 2008 to Present
- American Bar Association, Family Law Section, Member, 2008 to Present
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, Member, 1978 to Present
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, Family Law Section, Past Chair, 1978 to Present
- Dauphin County Bar Association, Member, 1980 to Present
- Dauphin County Bar Association, Member, Court Relations Committee, 1980 to Present

- Dauphin County Bar Association, Member, Family Law Section, 1980 to Present
- Dauphin County Bar Association, Past Member, Board of Directors, 1980 to Present
- Dauphin County Bar Association, Family Law Section, Past Chairman, 1980 to Present
- Cumberland County Bar Association, Member, 2000 to Present
- Cumberland County Bar Association, Family Law Section, Member, 2000 to Present
- Franklin County Bar Association, Member, 2003 to Present
- Franklin County Bar Association, Family Law Section, Member, 2003 to Present
- Cumberland County American Inn of Court, Master, 2001 to Present
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Member, 2010 to Present
- Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Past Member
- Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Past Member, Board of Governors
- Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Past Chairman, Family Law Section
- Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Former Casenotes Editor for The Barrister
- American Trial Lawyers Association, Past Member
- Dauphin County Seminar for Separating Parents Task Force, Past Member
- Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association LAW PAC, Past Member

## **CERTIFIED LEGAL SPECIALTIES**

- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers