

ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHY



Grace C. Roessler

Partner

Tel: 617.391.2160 | **Fax:** 617.275.4958 | **Email:** groessler@mirickoconnell.com

Boston Office: 175 Federal Street | Suite 1220 | Boston | MA | 02110-2210

Legal Administrative Assistant

Marie L. Ritt

Tel: 617.391.2161 | Email: mritt@mirickoconnell.com

Practice Groups and Specialty Areas

Family Law and Divorce

Litigation

Probate, Trust and Fiduciary Litigation

Grace is a partner in Mirick O'Connell's Family Law and Divorce Group. Grace concentrates her practice in the areas of divorce and family litigation, including pursuing and defending the following actions:

- Divorce
- Custody
- Child Support
- Modification
- Contempt
- Requests to permanently remove children out of the Commonwealth
- Paternity
- Restraining Orders
- Department of Children and Families Investigations
- Elder Divorce
- International Child Custody Issues
- International Hague Convention Wrongful Removal and Retention Matters

She also represents clients in equity actions, including petitions to partition real estate, claims for life insurance proceeds against an ex-spouse's estate, and actions for relief from a court order or judgment.

Grace has experience serving as a third party neutral, including court-appointed discovery master, and is a certified mediator. While she aims to settle cases amicably and efficiently, including attending voluntary mediation or conciliation, Grace is prepared to litigate the matter if it is in the best interest of the client.

Grace regularly appears before Probate and Family Court judges for motions and trials to litigate on behalf of her clients. She volunteers with the Middlesex and Suffolk Probate and Family Court Lawyer for the Day programs, is an active member and contributor to the Boston Bar Association, and serves as Co-Chair of the Boston Bar Association Pro Bono Committee.

Grace was included in the 2024 edition of the *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America*TM for her work in the field of Family Law. First listed 2021. She was also listed as *The Best Lawyers in New England: Ones to Watch*© 2021 in the field of Family Law, Boston. Grace has been named a Massachusetts "Rising Star" by *Boston* magazine and *Law & Politics* every year since 2019.

Prior to joining Mirick O'Connell, Grace was an associate at the firm of Brick, Sugarman, Jones & McBrien, LLP.

Publications/Presentations

- "Why a Settlement Agreement in a Divorce Needs a Provision for Death," *The Divorce Hour with Ilyssa Panitz*, podcast (May 2024) (guest)

Education

JD, *cum laude*, New England School of Law (2011); named "Most Promising Mediator"; associate editor, New England Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement

BA, *with honors*, University of Wisconsin; Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society

Bar and Court Admissions

Massachusetts

Wisconsin

Certified Mediator

Professional/Community Affiliations

Boston Bar Association, Co-Chair of the Pro Bono Committee of Boston Bar Association Family Law Section (2022-present), former Co-Chair of the Communications Committee (2018-2022), Attorney Mentor, Family Law Mentoring Program

Massachusetts Bar Association

Harvard Radcliffe Community Chorus

Wisconsin Alumni Association, Boston Chapter

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Publications/Presentations (continued)

- "Protocols for Dealing with Pro Se Litigants in the Probate & Family Court," MCLE Seminar (March 27, 2024)
- "Divorce Fundamentals Series: The Divorce Client Interview," Boston Bar Association Series (November 1, 2023)
- "Ask the Experts," Jane Does Well (December 14, 2023)
- Quoted in "Why The Kevin Costner's Divorce Continues to Go From Bad to Worse," *Authority Magazine*, August 15, 2023
- "Discovery and Depositions in Family Law Cases," MCLE New England Seminar (June 23, 2023)
- "Life Insurance Policies and Divorce," *The Divorce Hour with Ilyssa Panitz* podcast (May 2023) (guest)
- "Upgrade your Medicaid Toolbox: The impact of divorce on Medicaid eligibility," MassNAELA Elder Law Institute (May 11, 2023)
- "Divorce Fundamentals Series: The Divorce Client Interview," Boston Bar Association Training Series (October 18, 2022)
- "Divorce Fundamentals: Post-Judgment Issues: Division of Retirement Assets, Contempts, and Modification," Boston Bar Association webinar (May 18, 2021)
- "[February is Heart Awareness Month](#)," *On Air with Mirick O'Connell* legal podcast (February 2021)
- "[Remembering RBG: Her Life and Legacy](#)," *On Air with Mirick O'Connell* legal podcast (November 2020)
- "Divorce Fundamentals: The Divorce Client Interview," Boston Bar Association webinar (September 30, 2020)
- "After Department of Revenue v. Grullon," Massachusetts Bar Association webinar (July 22, 2020)
- "[The Role of Life Insurance in Divorce Matters](#)," *On Air with Mirick O'Connell* legal podcast (June 26, 2020)
- "[Family Law and Divorce during COVID-19](#)," *On Air with Mirick O'Connell* legal podcast (March 29, 2020)
- "[Unknown U: Emerging College Issues in Divorce Actions](#)," Boston Bar Association Family Law Newsletter, Fall 2019 (co-author)
- "[Fur Baby Divorces: Tackling Pet Ownership, "Custody" and Costs in Divorce Litigation](#)," Boston Bar Association Family Law Newsletter, Spring 2019
- "Hey, That Was Supposed to Be Mine! The Tort of Intentional Interference with Expected Inheritance," Bloomberg Tax, March 2019
- "[It Takes Two: The Payee's Duty to Secure and Actively Monitor the Payor's Life Insurance Obligation](#)," Boston Bar Association Family Law Newsletter, Fall 2018
- "Bankruptcy After Divorce: Protecting The Bargained-For Contract," Boston Bar Association Family Law Newsletter, Spring 2018
- "What About Johnny's Blanket? Navigating Personal Property Division Early and Effectively in Divorce Proceedings," Boston Bar Association Family Law Newsletter, Fall 2016
- "Late Love: Pre Nuptial and Post Nuptial Agreements for Seniors and Their Families," *Community Advocate*, September 2016