



The Quattro Firm About Town

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Welcome to The Quattro Firm

At the Quattro firm, we believe in viewing our client as a whole person as opposed to just a set of legal issues. We believe that in order to be a successful advocate, we must be able to understand the full needs of our clients, not just the legal needs. By using this full understanding, we advocate with compassion.

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Meet The Quattro Firm



Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi, Esq. is the founding member of the Quattro Firm. She is a 2008 Southern Methodist University Law School graduate and a 2004 Wake Forest University Graduate. Nicole is a licensed Texas attorney where her practice involved mostly civil and commercial litigation. Nicole has been licensed in Florida since 2014 and has centered most of her practice on domestic relations law.

Nicole has spent a lot of time volunteering in her legal career whether it be through pro bono cases or through assisting at the Hurricane Katrina Relief Clinic in law school. Nicole believes in viewing the client as a whole person and not just a specific legal issue and therefore has, thus far, taken every case that the firm can handle, regardless of inability to pay. She is a passionate and compassionate attorney who looks forward to working with people across the spectrum of life with all of their legal needs.



Melanie Bruchet, Esq. is a 2012 graduate of Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Georgia, where she received her J.D. and a Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research, and Drafting from Mercer's top rated legal writing program. Melanie served on the Board of Directors for the Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia as well as completed internships at CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

Melanie has presented nationally on the subjects of human trafficking and LGBT youth in the juvenile court system. She also co-authored an amicus brief to the Georgia Supreme Court on the issue of post-separation custodial rights and the emotional effect on children of divorced parents. Melanie maintains an active bar license in Georgia and is sworn in to both the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court. A South Florida native, she currently lives in Asheville, North Carolina. Melanie has been with the Quattro Firm for three years.



Monique L'Italien, Esq. is a civil and commercial litigator and appellate attorney who has practiced in Florida since 2001. She has broad experience at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state court. Her practice areas include bankruptcy, contract disputes, family law, real property and some criminal. Prior to entering private practice, Ms. L'Italien was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Florida, handling criminal appeals and civil litigation matters.

Ms. L'Italien earned her B.A., cum laude, from Trinity College in Washington D.C and her J.D. from Vermont Law School. Ms. L'Italien enjoys traveling, running, spending time with her animals including her horse Dancer, an off track thoroughbred rescue, and doing other animal welfare work. Monique has been with the Quattro Firm for almost 2 years.



Shavonne M. Pierre is a new member of the Quattro Firm. She is a graduate of South University where she studied and received her Bachelor Degree in Legal Studies. She has over 18 years experience in the legal field working for several prestigious firms in the Palm Beach County area. Her previous work experience has been in Insurance Defense, Civil Litigation, Securities & Arbitration, Commercial Litigation, Worker's Compensation, Family Law and Personal Injury. Shavonne has 4 children that are her main focus as well as her budding legal career.

Read more about The Quattro Firm at www.thequattrofirm.com

Meet The Quattro Firm



Maria Kontos obtained her Bachelor of Arts from Florida Atlantic University in 1995. Ms. Kontos has over 16 years of experience working on complex and voluminous civil, criminal and family law cases which involve organizing thousands of documents, discovery and file organization.

Ms. Kontos is intricately involved in the defense of all of the firm's clients' cases and takes great pride in assisting and working toward a favorable outcome in each case. Maria has been working with the Quattro Firm for 3 years.



Sarah Kontos has been working professionally in accounting since 2005. Her experience includes conducting, supervising, and reviewing annual audits, bookkeeping and payroll, and compilations and examinations of the financial records of a wide range of businesses including non-profits, law firms, restaurants, 401(k) plans, and other service industries.

Sarah attended Florida Atlantic University earning her degree in Mathematics and attending an additional two years of studies in Accounting and Business Administration. She is originally from West Palm Beach, FL. She is a supporting member of Compass Lake Worth, United Way and Farm Sanctuary, and she volunteers at various fundraising events for local charities. Sarah has been working with the Quattro Firm for 3 years.



Carol Goldberg is the File Clerk and Paralegal Assistant at the Quattro Firm. She is a lifelong resident of Palm Beach County. She received her BA Degree in Social Work and her Paralegal Certification from Florida Atlantic University. She is an advocate for the elderly and disabled. She has worked extensively for Elder Law firms processing Nursing Home Medicaid and Estate Planning. She also worked for many years at DCF, processing Medicaid for the Disabled. She believes in the strength of family, and a good cup of coffee!

Read more about The Quattro Firm at www.thequattrofirm.com

The Quattro Firm About Town



Left: Nicole Quattrocchi and Carol Goldberg pack up the Metrocentre temporary location for the move to Belvedere Road.

Below: Shavonne Pierre poses in front of boxes on our last day at the Metrocenter location.

Further Below: Sabrina poses with a baby goat at YouFarm.



+ Our Practice Areas

- Adoption
- Bankruptcy
- Business Formation
- Civil Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Contract Drafting & Review
- Corporate Matters
- Estate Planning
- Family Law & Domestic Relations
- Family Law Mediation
- General Litigation
- Immigration
- LGBT Issues & Custody
- Marital Contracts
- Probate Litigation
- Probate Administration
- Wills & Trusts

The Quattro Firm About Town:



Left: Nicole poses with some flowers given to her by Shavonne at the office.

Below: Monique, Shavonne and Nicole enjoy a working lunch at Lime.

Further Below: Nicole, Sarah and Maria enjoy a birthday celebration for Maria.



Fall Promotion:

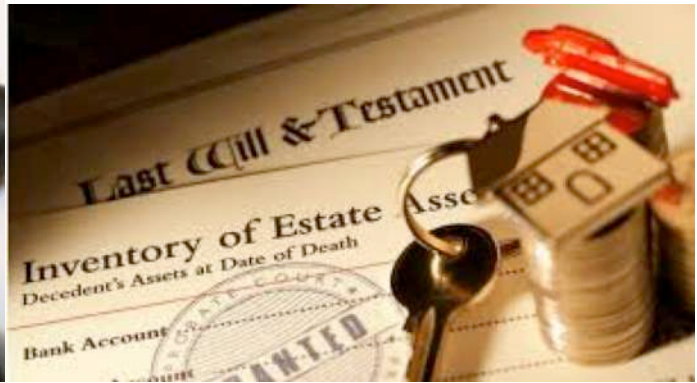
We are offering a 10% discount on flat rate fees. If you are interested in an estate plan, contract review, uncontested litigation or other flat rate cases, mention the newsletter and we will give you 10% off!

As always, please follow us on social media. If you'd like to submit a review either on Facebook or through our website, please get in touch with us.

To Probate or Not to Probate: That is the Question.

By: Nicole McNamara Quattrocchi

Families often ask us whether or not they should probate a loved one's estate. While no one can tell a person what to do, the decision is often financial. When a loved one dies leaving assets that cannot be distributed because he/she either died without properly allocating assets via will, trust or real property records or he/she failed to update an estate plan or he/she did not account for some or any assets, the decision to probate is a personal decision.



If one has passed leaving real property or other assets, which exceed the value of \$300, then probate is often financially worthwhile and generally necessary. Most people believe that a will alone can give him/her rights to a loved one's real property. This is not always the case. Sometimes even if there is a will, probate will become necessary for any and all real property.



**"A lot of people are afraid to say what they want.
That's why they don't get what they want."**

—Madonna

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Assets below \$300 in value may not be of value as the filing fee for a probate case is usually over \$300. If a loved one left a bank account, for instance, with a value of less than \$300 and the bank which holds the account is unwilling to accept paperwork other than through the probate court, it may not be worth the effort and expense of probate. Some banks will allow loved ones to provide documentation for small accounts, but this depends on which bank and the biological relationship to the decedent.



In Florida, there are three types of probate: summary, formal and ancillary. A summary administration is the quickest and generally the least cumbersome. The estate must have a value below \$75,000. This value would not include a homestead property. So if a loved one passes away with a homestead property and an estate valued less than \$75,000 in assets, it's advisable to probate the estate and proceed with a summary administration. Many attorneys in this area will accept a flat rate fee for such service. Depending on your county, this is a proceeding that could be completed in a couple of months.



For estates that exceed \$75,000, a formal administration is required. Depending on which county the decedent lived in, the proceeding can take six months or even years. Formal administrations require numerous steps and often incur hourly rates for the attorneys who file them. Some large estates can be probated through a contingency fee. The percentage will depend on both the attorney hired and the guidelines for value from the state of Florida.

value from the state of Florida.

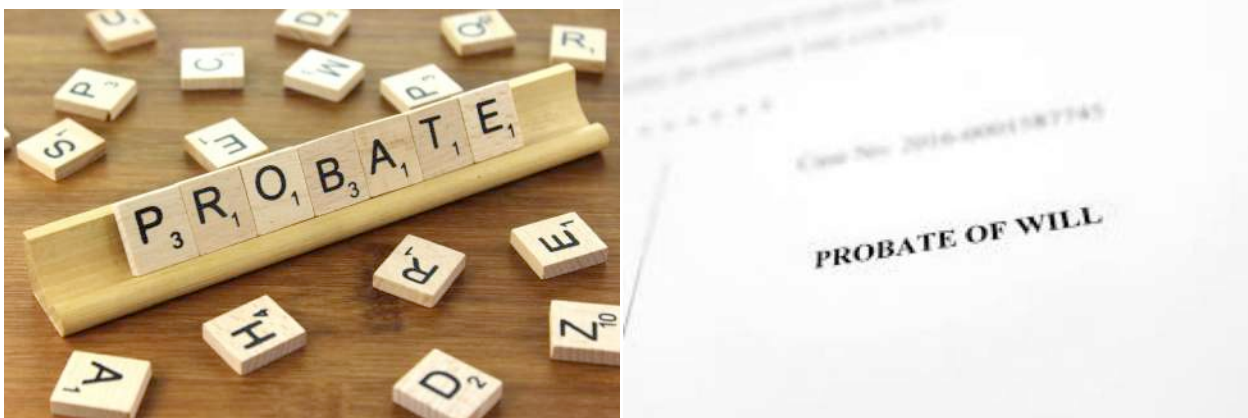
An ancillary administration refers to property that is located in Florida, but the decedent was a resident of another state. The same can be true of a Florida resident who holds real property in another state. If an ancillary administration is required, one would need to contact an attorney in the state where the property is located to determine the fees required and pleadings required. Each state is different. Florida requires the same pleadings as either summary or formal administration (depending on the value) with a few extra documents that are required only of an ancillary proceeding.



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Probate is also a requirement to get a loved one's medical records after an accident or incident of potential medical malpractice. A family member cannot make a claim for medical malpractice, wrongful death or the like on behalf of his/her loved one without first being named the personal representative of the estate of the loved one by a court of law, or in a properly drafted estate plan. If one has a family member who is a victim of medical malpractice, wrongful death or another accident which causes his/her death, he/she may need to speak to both an attorney specializing in medical malpractice and/or personal injury law as well as speaking to another attorney who will file the probate matter to have the claimant named as the personal representative.



When a loved one passes away, it's often difficult to think about assets and distribution, particularly if the death is unexpected, surprising or sudden. In order to ensure that probate will not be required, it is best to meet with an attorney to discuss your estate plan. It may not be pleasant to think about death, but it is the way to ensure that one's wishes are carried out properly and one's family is spared the expense and burden of probate.

If a loved one has passed away and you're not sure what you will need to do, please contact the Quattro Firm to help you decide whether or not to probate your loved one's estate.



A Note From The Quattro Firm

As we begin the fall season in Florida and depart from hurricane season, please think of us when it comes to ensuring that your loved ones are properly protected. Thank you again for all of your support.

Thank you.



The Quattro Firm

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