

FROM THE DESK OF

## Jeffrey M. Williams

What a year. So much negativity and worry, on so many levels. Just when we thought we had made it through some aspect of difficulty, it seemed a new surprise was waiting for us around the corner. Absolutely every segment of the population was affected. Every industry, every age group, every income level. It was - and in some ways still is - hard. I was on the phone with one of my kids the other day, discussing a pandemic-related hiccup they were navigating. I did not have any answers for him, but what I did say was, "Do not worry. We will figure this out together."

As a firm, we have been busy this year, and not just with the dissolution of marital unions that were a little too stressed by the togetherness of stay-at-home orders. We guided people navigating custody issues in a co-parenting situation. We answered questions about support issues during fluctuating economic times. We prepared countless prenuptial agreements for people excited to start new unions but who also wanted to protect their respective assets going in.

We are honored to have the opportunity to help our clients, and we appreciate the calls and referrals of our colleagues, even if we cannot thank you personally with lunch. Well, not just yet, anyway.

So, hopefully we are closer to the end of this than the beginning. Regardless, one thing I know: we will figure this out together.



## Online

SUSAN SMITH TO LAUNCH CO-PARENTING BLOG

Partner Susan Smith is just weeks away from launching her personal blog, "The Mom and Pop Co-Op." Susan will share her thoughts, experience and advice to help moms and dads who are parenting separately do so with respect, kindness and, above all, a focus on the children.

[www.themomandpopcoop.com](http://www.themomandpopcoop.com) will be live in January, 2021.





# Appointed

ROBERT SALZER NAMED FELLOW OF AAML

Partner Robert Salzer was appointed a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), an honor reserved solely for skilled negotiators and experienced litigators who represent individuals in all facets of family law. AAML Membership is a highly selective process with just 1,600 fellows nationwide. With this selection, Williams Family Law is now the only law firm in Bucks County with two AAML fellows: Bob Salzer and firm founder Jeffrey Williams.

## Online Reviews

“ He is definitely the best family law attorney in Bucks County. His knowledge, experience and expertise in negotiating a settlement and handling very sensitive matters are what make Mr. Williams stand out as a ‘force’ in family law.”

From Google, written by “Laura”

# Facts and Stats

A QUICK LOOK AT SOME OF THE MOST CURRENT TRENDS AND FIGURES IN FAMILY LAW.

## 7 Guidelines for Sharing Custody During the Pandemic:

Adapted from an article on AAML.org

**1**

**Be Healthy**  
Stay informed on CDC guidelines and comply.

**2**

**Be Mindful**  
Be honest about the seriousness of things but try to stay calm.

**3**

**Be Compliant**  
Follow court orders and custody agreements.

**4**

**Be Creative**  
Disney vacay cancelled? Bond with your kids through nearby venues, shared books, games, even FaceTiming when they are not with you.

**5**

**Be Transparent**  
Be honest with your ex about possible virus exposure; collaborate on steps to protect your child.

**6**

**Be Generous**  
Offer makeup time to a parent who missed out due to work. Flexibility reaps rewards... and kindness.

**7**

**Be Understanding**  
This is hard on everyone. Work to overcome adversity and focus on what is best for your child.

# Welcome

## MARIS WEINER & DAVID HAMILTON JOIN WILLIAMS FAMILY LAW

We were delighted to welcome two new attorneys this year: Maris J. Weiner and David C. Hamilton. Maris is a skilled litigator with over 20 years of experience. Her practice covers a wide range of domestic relations matters including divorce, support, custody, equitable distribution, and prenuptial/postnuptial agreements, representing parties throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. David was admitted to the bar last year and most recently served as a judicial law clerk in the State of Delaware Family Court, where he researched all aspects of family law and was substantially involved in drafting and editing orders regarding family law matters.



## Published

### SHAUNA QUIGLEY SHARES SEVEN STRESS STRATEGIES

This year, Shauna Quigley authored several articles for the “Young Lawyer” column of The Legal Intelligencer, the oldest law journal in America. In “Seven Ways to Help Lawyers Deal with the Stress of 2020,” she shared simple but significant ways that anyone can implement to take better care of oneself during a period of so many demands on your time. You can find the full article on our website in the “News” section.

## Honors and Awards

Each year, we are proud to be notified of the firm’s inclusion in a number of “best,” “top” and “highest” lists – way too many to publish. But, as the most recognized in the industry, some certainly deserve mention:



Jeffrey Williams, Susan Smith  
and Robert Salzer



Jeffrey Williams, Susan Smith  
and Shauna Quigley



Jeffrey Williams, Susan Smith  
and Robert Salzer



Williams Family Law was named a 2021 Best Law Firm by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers. The firm received a Tier 1 designation – the highest possible ranking for Family Law in the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

## Online Reviews

“ Susan took over my case after the first attorney lost control, and I was more than thankful she did. Susan is no-nonsense and extremely knowledgeable on all aspects of family law. Her direct and methodical approach ended up saving me both money and time. I highly recommend Susan!”

From Avo.com, anonymous review

FROM OUR

## Family Law Blog

From legislative alerts to tips and tactics, the attorneys of Williams Family Law regularly share information and insight on legal issues they see every day on our Family Law Blog. Some of our recent posts covered:



### Child Custody in the Time of Coronavirus

What happens when another parent sharing custody of your child is allowing playdates or continues to let third parties come into their homes during the pandemic?



### The Latest Pre-Marriage Trend: A Prenup

Prenuptial agreements have long been a tool of the wealthy to protect their assets before marriage. A growing trend involves a new group of people using these agreements.



### What Happens when a Spouse Dies During the Divorce Process?

If your spouse dies before final divorce papers are signed, what complications can happen?



### Who Can Claim Dependents After a Divorce?

When divorced couples share custody, who can claim dependents on their tax returns?



### How to Minimize Taxes Without the Alimony Deduction

A lost deduction may be changing the way divorcing couples determine alimony.