

Barnes & Diehl Shareholder profiles



Craig Sampson graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in the early 1990's, and he knew he was headed for the courtroom. He owned Sampson Law Firm, PLC, for a number of years focusing on family and criminal matters. He litigated scores of cases, including complex custody, visitation, divorce, white collar, and federal drug conspiracy cases. He also represented clients before all levels of state and federal appellate courts, including successful petitions for writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court.

Craig joined Barnes & Diehl in 2006 and is a shareholder in the firm. He focuses primarily on family law matters such as divorce, custody and support. He still, however, defends clients in select criminal matters when the need arises. Craig has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond School of Law. He regularly presents at state-wide Family Law seminars. He is co-authoring the *2021 Virginia Practice, Family Law: Theory, Practice, and Forms* Treatise.

Melissa VanZile joined Barnes & Diehl in 2013, after nine years at another Richmond-area family law practice. A 2001 graduate of Mary Washington College, she earned her law degree from the University of Richmond in 2004.

She has served as president of the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association and a past board member of the Metro Richmond Family Law Bar. She is a member of the Richmond, Henrico County and Chesterfield County Bar associations. She has been listed in Virginia Super Lawyers since 2012; in 2018, she was named as one of the Top 50 women attorneys in Virginia. In 2016, she was selected as a Leader in the Law by Virginia Lawyers Weekly. She was listed in Best Lawyers in America under Family Law for the past two years.

Melissa has written and lectured extensively on family law, including presentations to the Virginia Bench-Bar Conference.



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