

# A focus on helping others

## Attorney Stefanie C. Gagliardi wants to 'create a positive change in as many lives' as she can

Families in need of expert legal advice can expect to receive great compassion and dedication from lawyer Stefanie C. Gagliardi whose practice is located in Washington Township.

A graduate of New York's Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, her 16 years in the profession as a court-approved family law mediator and divorce attorney has earned her accolades from various organizations.

In 2015, 2016 and 2017, she was honored as one of New Jersey's 10 Best Attorneys by the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys, and Super Lawyers recognized her on its Rising Star list in those same years. She also accepted an invitation to join The Expert Network, a service for distinguished professionals where she is considered as a Distinguished Lawyer based on peer reviews and ratings, dozens of recognitions, and accomplishments achieved throughout her career.

Upon graduation from law school, Gagliardi's initial task as a first-year associate was creating a family law practice for a small firm. Self-taught and determined to learn all that she could about domestic relations and family-related issues, she grew to love this area of the law.

"It became, basically, just a part of me," she said. "It became like a second language."

Fast forward to 2021 and Gagliardi's private practice involves issues from mediation to divorce, from pre-nuptial agreements to wills, from interstate family disputes to asset distribution.

She enjoys being the lead on every case handling each one with thoughtful consideration.

"It's allowed me to treat my clients the way I think they

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deserve to be treated," she said about going solo.

Gagliardi takes pride in crafting settlement agreements specifically tailored to a family's needs. "The law affords me the opportunity to be creative," she said. "That's the great benefit about settlement conferences and mediation — that the parties can come together and create an agreement that works for their individual family."

She credits her thriving practice with being a good listener and responsive to the people she represents. Success means that her clients feel that ultimately everything went well. Family law eventually became the impetus for her to expand into real estate closings. The two fields are closely associated according to Gagliardi.

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The round-the-clock hours during the busy pandemic real estate selling season has been motivation for her to implement a new business plan, and she is exploring ways to grow

the practice in that direction while still undertaking serious domestic issues within family law.

"For me, practice-wise, I like to have a mix of that," she said about specializing in both areas. As an individual whose personal and professional life has always focused on helping others, her enduring goal is to "create a positive change in as many lives as I can."

That objective is reflected in her pro bono work and as a volunteer for organizations such as the Women's Centers at County College of Morris and Centenary College, the Self-Help Resource Program at the Morris County Courthouse, the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, and United Way of Hunterdon County throughout the years.

She is active in community projects such as Grow a Row and fosters nursing canines and their litters for a local animal shelter.

Gagliardi's office is located at 43-45 Broad St. in Washington Township. For more information, visit [www.gagliardi-lawllc.com](http://www.gagliardi-lawllc.com) or call the office at 908-689-0992.

— Debra Stevko Miller