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Caroline Bass

Education 1974 Bradley University Peoria Illinois
B.S. cum laude, Psychology

1986 Northern Illinois University DeKalb, Illinois
J.D. cum laude

Professional licenses

1986 Licensed in Illinois

1989 Licensed in New Mexico

2019 Licensed in Arizona

Professional experience

2019-Present Caroline Bass, Attorney at Law Santa Fe NM
Attorney in
Private Practice

Advise clients, draft documents, represent clients in court at hearings and at trials. Negotiated with attorneys and opposing clients to obtain best outcome for client. Emphasis in children's law and special education law.

2018 – 2019 New Mexico Department of Santa Fe NM
Assistant General Education, Special Education
Counsel Bureau

Provide senior level professional legal services to the Special Education Bureau of the state Department of Education. Duties include providing legal advice to the Special Education Bureau, investigations of claims that school districts have violated IDEA, writing reports on those investigations based on the facts and applicable law, legal research and analysis pertaining to the issues in those complaints.

2018 – 2018 Children Youth and Families Silver City NM
Children's Court Department
Attorney

Provided senior level professional legal services for child protective services cases in litigation, counsel, interpretation of law, research, analysis, mediations in a complex and high-stress field of law.

2017 – 2018 New Mexico Human Silver City NM
Attorney, Child Services Department
Support Enforcement

Provided legal services to the Child Support Enforcement Division of the New Mexico Human Services Department. Represented the Division in courtroom proceedings, advise Department employees in the legal

aspects of their work with the purpose of collecting child support for custodial parents and for reimbursement of the State for TANF and medical support.

2015 – 2017 Children Youth and Families Santa Fe NM
Children’s Court Department
Attorney

Provided senior level professional legal services for protective services cases in litigation, counsel, interpretation of law, research, analysis, mediations in a complex and high-stress field of law.

1999 - 2015 Attorney in Private Practice Santa Fe NM
Attorney at law

Solo practitioner with an emphasis in family and children’s law. Advised clients, drafted documents, represented clients in court at hearings and at trials. Negotiated with attorneys and opposing clients to obtain best outcome for client. ***Performed duties under contract with the court as guardian ad litem for children or respondent’s counsel in child abuse/neglect cases,*** and as court-appointed counsel for clients accused of contempt of court.

Domestic Violence Hearing Officer

Conducted hearings on petitions for orders of protection under the New Mexico Family Violence Protection Act, as well as petitions for the involuntary commitment of the mentally ill. Issues included domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, calculation of child support and interim income allocation, child custody and temporary division of property.

1993 – 1998 Attorney in Private Practice Santa Fe, NM

Guardian ad Litem and General Practitioner

Under contract with the First Judicial District Court, represented abused and neglected children who were the subject of abuse/neglect petitions filed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families. Visited children in foster homes and homes of parents, worked closely with social workers, foster families and treatment professionals to obtain the best outcome for client. Tried termination of parental rights cases before the bench. Represented clients in divorce, adoption and juvenile delinquency cases. Under contract with the court, represented children and adults who were the subject of mental health commitment petitions.

1990 – 1993 First Judicial District Santa Fe, NM
Attorney’s Office

Child Abuse Prosecutor

Prosecuted felony cases involving allegations of child abuse, primarily those of sexual abuse. Tried high profile cases before the jury. Advised and worked closely with victims and their families, treatment professionals and law enforcement. Prepared victims, experts and other witnesses for trial.

1989 – 1990
Deputy General
Counsel

New Mexico Department Santa Fe, NM
New Mexico Department Of Corrections

Represented major state agency in personnel matters. Defended Corrections Department and its employees in lawsuits filed by inmates.

1988 – 1989
Children's Court
Attorney

Kane County State's Geneva, IL
Attorney's Office

Prosecuted children's court matters including both juvenile delinquency and abuse and neglect cases. Tried cases before the bench.

1986 – 1988

Chicago Title Company Geneva, IL

Made Kane County Illinois safe for real estate transactions.