

# Leigh Ann Orton



## PRACTICE CONCENTRATIONS

- \* Family Law
- \* Estate Planning & Administration
- \* Elder Law
- \* Real Estate
- \* Civil Litigation

## ADMISSIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- \* Pennsylvania
- \* Tennessee

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- \* Erie County Bar Association, *Family Law Section, Member and Former Chair; Estates and Trusts Section, Member and Former Chair; Real Estate Section, Member; Fee Dispute Resolution Committee, Former Member; Mock Trial, Former Advisor, North East High School; Juror*
- \* Pennsylvania Bar Association, *Member; Collaborative Law Committee, Former Member; Women in the Profession Committee, Former Member*
- \* Estate Planning Council of Erie, *Former Member*
- \* NAELA Student Journal, *Former Article Editor*
- \* Collaborative Professional of NWPA, *Former Member*
- \* International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP), *Former Member*

## EDUCATION

- \* University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, 1995, J.D.  
*Graduated in the Top 10 of Class*  
*American Jurisprudence Award, Criminal Law, Recipient;*  
*Corpus Juris Secundum Award, Criminal Law, Recipient*
- \* Union University, 1992, B.S.B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- \* Orton & Orton, Attorneys at Law, North East, PA 2018 – Present
- \* First Assistant County Solicitor, Erie County, PA 2024 - Present
- \* Knox Law Firm, Erie, PA/North East, PA 2009 - 2017
- \* Law Offices of Leigh Ann Orton, Erie, PA 1999 - 2009
- \* Adjunct Professor, *Wills & Estates*, Gannon University, Erie, PA
- \* Settlement Agent, Select Settlement, Inc., Erie, PA
- \* Law Offices of Charles R. Perkins, Memphis, TN 1995 - 1998

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- \* Co-Founder and Advisor of North East High School Mock Trial Team
- \* Successfully litigated and obtained favorable rulings in complex custody and divorce matters
- \* Successfully obtained a favorable ruling from the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue regarding a Medicaid Estate Recovery matter
- \* Collaboratively trained in family law matters
- \* Conducted thousands of real estate transactions, both residential and commercial
- \* Editor of “Medicare Advantage...or Disadvantage?” by Emily E. Town, 4<sup>th</sup> place winner of 2010 NAELA Student Writing Competition

## HONORS

- \* Selected as Readers’ Choice “Best Attorney” of 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and “Best Law Firm” of 2019, *North East News-Journal*
- \* Selected Best Probate Lawyers in Erie 2021 by Expertise.com

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & PUBLICATIONS

- \* Authored numerous articles for Legal Lines column *North East News-Journal*
- \* “The Role of Professional Advisors in Family Law Matters”
- \* “Back to Basics: Estate Planning 101”
- \* “Brady vs Brady: Trust Planning in Divorce”
- \* “Wealth Preservation for Seniors”
- \* Long-Term Care, Estate Planning and Asset Preservation Seminars
- \* “Handling Claims and Debt,” Estate Administration from Start to Finish, National Business Institute

## COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- \* Active Member of Park United Methodist Church, North East, PA
- \* Community Nursing Services of North East, *Former President and Former Board Member*
- \* Junior League of Erie, *Former Board Member*
- \* North East Business Women’s Roundtable, *Steering Committee, Former Member*
- \* Order of the Eastern Star, Shiloh Chapter NO. 153, North East, PA, *Member*
- \* Girl Scout Troop #36009, *Former Assistant Troop Leader*
- \* Fundraisers to support the treatment and cure of Breast Cancer
- \* Former Solicitor, Arlington, TN

## PERSONAL

- \* I am married to Chris Orton and we reside in North East, Pennsylvania with our 3 children, Madeline, Mallick and Max, and our 2 dogs, Moe and Monty.