

WOMEN OWNED LAW

SEPTEMBER 2021 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Shira Katz Scanlon

Shareholder, [Martine, Katz Scanlon & Schimmel, P.A.](#)

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Tell us about your firm or business including history, specialization, and years in business.

We exclusively practice all areas of family law in Southern NJ and the greater Philadelphia area. We opened in December, 2012, have grown by adding a third named partner, an of counsel attorney and, after Labor Day, our first associate is joining us!

What's an interesting fact about you or your firm that most people don't know?

I recently started taking ballet classes again (after a 30-year hiatus!)

What's a favorite moment of your career so far?

I gave birth to both of my children since we opened the firm and I took two-week maternity leaves with each. This was somewhat more challenging with my second (ten-pound) child, but I know my strengths. Of course, I adore my kids, but lawyering is where my strength lies, and staying home with a newborn simply is not. I loved the flexibility that being my own boss afforded me to help me overcome the challenges around trying to work full-time beginning two weeks postpartum; for example, my caregivers were able to bring my daughter to me to nurse at the office when I first came back to work. Even when I was on a Judge's schedule and had to carry a pump to Court and scrounge to find a private corner and a few minutes, I was always happy knowing I was able to maintain my professional self, which is so deeply part of my identity, and that allows me to be present for my kids on their time. I am acutely aware that I could not have succeeded in any of this without the incredible support of my husband, our parents and my business partner.

What challenge are you most proud of overcoming?

We hired our first associate, which very much feels like a milestone. We started with the two partners and one assistant. We brought in two more attorneys in 2019, and another assistant in 2020 -- during the height of COVID. Now we will have an associate attorney and expect we may need another associate, and another staff member, imminently. We are really proud of how we have been able to grow steadily and in a healthy, sustainable way. This was always the goal!

Tell us about a recent professional accomplishment of yours?

I am being honored with a young leadership award by the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey. It is so rewarding to know that the various ways in which I am involved with the organization are impactful.

Tell us about a recent personal accomplishment of yours?

My husband and I have raised three amazing young adults and this fall will have an empty nest as our daughter heads to the University of Pennsylvania.

What advice would you offer new business owners?

Keep overhead low at first and if you want to grow, make a plan to grow deliberately.

How can you help other Women Owned Law members improve their businesses?

Whenever possible, I refer to members of Women Owned Law and I spread the word about WOL to other women-owned firms. I try to exclusively refer to women anyway, so it is a win-win!

How has Women Owned Law been of value to you and your career?

WOL has been instrumental in assisting me in forging connections with like-minded women. I can't imagine a more valuable benefit of membership. I have developed friendships with talented, bright, incredible women whom I admire and am more than happy to recommend to clients.

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About Women Owned Law

Women Owned Law is a ground-breaking group created to connect and advance women legal entrepreneurs. WOL supports its members and other women entrepreneurs in the law in their business endeavors at every point in the business lifecycle. We advocate on behalf of women legal entrepreneurs and have been instrumental in raising the profile of women entrepreneurs in the law.

For additional information about Women Owned Law visit www.womenownedlaw.org