ILKHANOFF & SILVERSTEIN, PC

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Paula S. Silverstein, Senior Partner and Chair Family Law Practice

Email: *paula@islawyers.com*

Firm Telephone Number: +1 (717) 227-1115

BACKGROUND: Having practiced law for more than 30 years, Paula S. Silverstein is an experienced attorney that seeks to make a difference in her clients' lives through administering effective legal solutions and delivering caring client service in her firm as a Senior Partner. Having the experience of handling a variety of complicated cases over the years, she knows how to advise on complicated Family Law matters.

Leading up to her legal career, Paula attended the undergraduate program at **Muhlenberg College** in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In 1991, Paula graduated from **Widener University School of Law**, having served as Law Clerk to the City of Philadelphia's Law Department for over a year, where she appeared in State and Federal Trial and Appellate Courts throughout Pennsylvania. The same year of her graduation from law school, Ms. Silverstein was appointed as an **Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia** and its Operating Departments, where she contributed as Counsel to the Philadelphia Mayor's Office and the City of Philadelphia's Police Department and was assigned to the Major Trials Unit.

Seeking to enter into the private sector, Paula accepted an **Associate Attorney position with the large law firm of Post & Schell, P.C.** based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. Silverstein was an Associate in the General Liability Department, where she gained valuable experience handling a wide range of civil litigation matters and doing primarily insurance defense work.

Adding yet another valuable area to her experience, Ms. Silverstein left Post & Schell, P.C. to serve as in-house counsel for two major insurance carriers, where she handled cases concerning general liability, construction and surety construction cases and insurance issues from the carrier perspective. The experience she gleaned from her time as an insurance defense attorney now

contributes to her ability to foresee and understand her opponents' strategies when representing her clients in a wide range of personal injury and civil litigation conflicts. After that, she opened the **Law Firm of Ilkhanoff & Silverstein, P.C. in 1999** with her legal partner and husband, Bernard Ilkhanoff. Paula has concentrated her practice in the area of Divorce and Custody cases and handles a wide range of matters from multi-million-dollar complex divorce matters to smaller matters, which are no less important to the wide range of clients that her firm services. In addition to family law matters, the firm is a general practice firm, and she handles several other areas of the law.

In 2015, Ms. Silverstein trained to be a Mediator. Being a proponent of mediation and participating in many family law and personal injury mediations, she decided that it was time to train to mediate matters herself. She has had a wide range of additional training and education in the field of mediation over the past decade. She has mediated hundreds of matters since she did her first training. She is recognized with high statistics of success for her work in the York County Courts as a Mediator, being appointed by several judges and doing custody mediation specifically for the courts. She has a thriving private mediation practice doing multi-million-dollar divorces and smaller volume divorces, wherein the parties wish to have a private mediator, rather than the high costs and delays of formal litigation through the court system.

In addition to her Mediation practice, Ms. Silverstein is a Parenting Coordinator. She is routinely appointed by the York County Courts to perform this function. She is asked by her colleagues and Judges on the Common Pleas Bench to serve in this capacity while carrying a caseload of parenting coordination matters, wherein reports and proposed Court Orders to the Judges are routine for her to handle.

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Ms. Silverstein is licensed to practice in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey and she is also admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States and Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- **York County Bar Association:**

  - Director on the Board for two terms of three years.
  - Nominating Committee Member for several years.

- Served as Chair of the Family Law Section.
- Served as Co-Chair of the Solo and Small Firm Section.
- Served on the Bench Bar Committee.
- Served on the Professionalism Committee to re-write the local rules strictly on professionalism.
- Currently serve on the Fee Dispute Committee.
- Leadership training through the Bar Association.

- **Lancaster County Bar Association:**

- Currently serve as Vice President on the Board.
- Served as Vice Chair and then named Chair of the Solo and Small Firm Section 2021.

- **Mediation Memberships:**

- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Member
- PA Council of Mediators, Member

BOARD SERVICE:

Vice President & Board Member of the Lancaster Bar Association – Appointed January 2026

Lancaster General Health Foundation Board of Trustees – Appointed October 2024

Served as President of the Southern York County YMCA and past Board Member.

Sunrise Rotary Club of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Past Board Member.

CERTIFICATIONS:

Certified General Mediator with an updated emphasis on Divorce and Custody Mediations with specialized trainings in 2019 and 2022.

Court-Appointed Mediator in Custody Matters for York County Court of Common Pleas 2022.

Court-Appointed Parenting Coordinator for York County Court of Common Pleas 2024.

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS:

- Co-taught “Dealing with Difficult People in Legal Practice”
- 7 Mediation Skills Every Attorney Should Know
- Mediation and Restorative Practices: Conflict and Communication Culture
- Mediation Training- PA Council of Mediators – Into the Fire-Mediating and Facilitating when the Stakes are High
- PA Council of Mediators – Further Family issues and mediation Training – Divorce and Custody Additional 40 hours of Training
- Divorce and Custody Mediation training certificate – Advance training to help parties with divorce mediation process, Assets and property division, navigating child support, Parenting arrangements
- Parenting Coordination Training – Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination 16 hours through AFCC
- Identifying and Addressing Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Issues for Parent Coordinators, Family Law Arbitrators
- Parenting Coordination Training – Skills for Survival
- Advanced Mediation Techniques Training
- Basic Mediation training certificate – learned to use effective communication skills and the facilitative mediation structure to help people listen and resolve their disputes 40 hours through Advoz.
- Continuing Legal Education Course – The Attorney’s Tech Toolkit: Ethics, AI & Digital Security
- Continuing Legal Education Course – Legal Ethics at the Lancaster County Bench Bar
- Continuing Legal Education Course – Empowering Family Law with AI: Practical Tools for a Smarter Future
- Mediation Advocacy: Top Ten Mistakes Advocates Make
- Pennsylvania Council of Mediators 33rd Annual Conference
- Identifying and Addressing Domestic Violence Issues
- Difficult Issues to Mediate, Litigate and Deal with
- Routinely attend the County Conference of Bar Leaders

- Parenting Coordination in 2026: Rules, Recommendations, and Redemption of Best Interests:
    - Included Domestic Violence – Guidance on Screening
    - Handling the PC Role
    - AI in PC
    - Parents/Clients Abuse of the PC process
- Engaging and Developing New Leaders
- Leading Organizations during times of Transition
- Statewide Leadership Perspective on Issues facing the legal profession
- Introduction to Conflict, Communication & Culture
- Identifying and Addressing Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Issues for Parenting Coordinators, Family Law Arbitrators, Family Lawyers and More