



Sandra C. Fava

Partner

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Sandra is a partner in the firm's Family Law Practice. From the inception of her legal career as a clerk to the presiding family court judge in Morris County to her current role as chair of the Essex County Bar Association's Family Law Committee, Sandra has emerged as a leader in New Jersey divorce and family law.

Sandra has dedicated her legal career to the thoughtful and diligent representation of clients in divorce and family law matters. A certified mediator and a compassionate and creative attorney, she takes a solution-oriented approach, working closely with clients to identify their goals and develop a strategy that effectively and efficiently meets those goals.

Sandra's clients are as diverse as the issues they face. She provides legal representation at every level, including complex and sophisticated family law matters, often representing high net worth individuals, entrepreneurs, corporate executives, professionals and business owners or their spouses. She handles a full range of family law matters, from the negotiation of prenuptial agreements to separation and divorce proceedings, mediations and arbitrations, trials and post-judgment matters and appeals.

Sandra's divorce clients face issues of alimony, child custody, child support and the equitable distribution and division of a wide range of assets, including family businesses, real estate, vested and unvested stock options and inherited or family wealth.

She also represents clients in a full array of post-judgment matters, including property or marital settlement agreement enforcement, college contribution disputes, modifications of alimony or child support and appeals from unfavorable judgments. Additionally, she assists clients in negotiating prenuptial agreements to protect premarital assets, income, family assets and future inheritances.

Sandra represents same-sex couples in complex and rapidly evolving areas of family law that include custody disputes between biological and non-biological parents and same-sex alimony, child support and asset distribution.

Her multifaceted family law practice also includes:

- Divorce
- Alimony
- Custody & parenting time
- Dissolution of civil unions & domestic partnerships
- Equitable distribution and division of assets

- Prenuptial/Ante-nuptial agreements
- Palimony
- Child support
- Non-dissolution matters
- Domestic violence
- Paternity
- Grandparent visitation
- Post-judgment enforcement and modification of agreements, judgments and orders
- Mediation & arbitration
- Collaborative divorce
- Appellate practice

Services

- Family Law
- Litigation

Before Fox Rothschild

Sandra was previously a partner in the Morristown office of a New Jersey law firm, where she served as head of the family law practice group. Sandra was a law clerk to the Honorable Stephan C. Hansbury of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Family Part, Morris County.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

Sandra is active in the legal community. She formerly served as a trustee of the Essex County Bar Association, as well as chair of its Family Law Committee. Additionally, Sandra volunteers as a pro bono attorney for the National Council for Jewish Women and for Partners for Women & Justice.

Sandra was appointed to the Supreme Court of New Jersey District XB Ethics Committee for West Morris and Sussex Counties. She is also a panelist for the Essex and Morris County Matrimonial Early Settlement Panels, and frequently speaks at various continuing legal education seminars.

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey

Education

- Seton Hall University School of Law (J.D.)
- Rutgers University, New Brunswick (B.A.)

Memberships

- Essex County Bar Association, Trustee
 - Family Law Committee
- New Jersey Association for Justice, Family Law Section Committee
- National Association of Professional Women
- New Jersey State Bar Association, Family Law Section
- CASA Board of Trustees

Sandra's Approach

Over two decades handling some of the most complex family law cases in New Jersey, Sandra is proud to have earned a solid reputation as a legal advocate who is zealous, yet compassionate; unflinching, yet empathetic; and most importantly unwavering in her determination to do what is right for her clients and their families.

She has always fought hard for what she believes is right and just. This instinct serves her clients well. She treats each client as she would a member of her own family. They laugh. They cry. They work together to rebuild lives.

Unfortunately the law doesn't always seem fair.

What may seem logical and appropriate to the reasonable person isn't always aligned with what the law dictates. Every divorce is unique. No two are alike — they are like fingerprints. And a minor factor in life circumstances can make an enormous difference in the outcome of a case.

That's why it's essential to be represented by a legal professional who knows the law *and* considers the big picture as it affects you and your family's needs and goals. You and your attorney must be able to work closely together to craft a strategic legal plan that will produce a positive outcome for you and your family.

The unknown can be frightening, so Sandra has provided reference materials to serve as a valuable resource for those looking to gather reliable information and educate themselves as they navigate each phase of their family law issue. Whether it's a prenuptial agreement for a client or their child; a divorce; mediation; a post-divorce issue such as changes to support or custody; contribution to college expenses; domestic violence; distribution of assets; executive compensation and benefits; grandparent visitation; palimony; or appeals, Sandra is there to guide her clients through what may be a personally challenging time.

When you are ready, contact Sandra at sfava@foxrothschild.com and she will work with you to make a legal plan to get you to a happier and healthier place, so that you can embrace the next chapter in your life.

Life After Love Gone Wrong Podcast Series

Family law issues are never easy and rarely black and white. Partner **Sandra Fava** hosts this family law podcast series that discusses the tough decisions people encounter as they contemplate and go through a divorce. Over the course of the episodes, Sandra and guests provide insight to help listeners prepare for the legal hurdles inherent in divorce, custody, prenuptial agreements and more.

Season 3

Episode Seven - Invisible Scars: The Impact of Coercive Control on Children

[View the Transcript](#)

Living with a manipulative parent who exercises coercive control can be a silent struggle for children.

Dr. Christine Cocchiola, DSW, LCSW, a clinician and social work professor, joins **Sandra Fava** to highlight the profound consequences of parent-on-parent abusive relationships on a family.

They detail the often unexpected and counterintuitive responses that can manifest for children as coping mechanisms when a parent is abusive. They also discuss the best ways to support a child who is experiencing this in their family life.

With laws already changing in some states, Christine and Sandra speculate on how the court and legal systems could better respond to families and individuals victimized by coercive control abuse.

Episode Six - Reshaping Your Legacy: Estate Planning After Your Divorce

[View the Transcript](#)

If something happens to you, would you want your ex or soon-to-be-ex to have the right to make decisions on your behalf?

If your answer is no, then stop everything you're doing and listen to this episode.

Melissa Terranova of our Taxation & Wealth Planning Practice joins host **Sandra Fava** to dig into the estate planning considerations that arise during the divorce process. They discuss the documents that are critical to review and update — or create — as you close one chapter and begin a new one, including health care directives, powers of attorney, wills, beneficiary designations and more.

Episode Five - Parallel Proceedings: The Intersection of Criminal Law and Family Law

[View the Transcript](#)

Allegations of domestic violence can complicate an already complex family law matter. It's important to understand how criminal proceedings involving accusations of violence can impact your civil case.

Marissa Koblitz Kingman of our White-Collar Criminal Defense & Regulatory Compliance Practice joins host **Sandra Fava** to provide clarity on how family law civil cases can intertwine with criminal prosecutions. Their discussion details what behavior qualifies as abuse in New Jersey and help listeners make informed decisions about who they want – and need – on their legal team.

Episode Four - Splitting Costs: Forensic Accounting in Divorce

[View the Transcript](#)

Your attorney is your advocate. A forensic accountant is your financial fact-finder.

In this episode, **Sandra Fava** and guest **Megan Sartor (Partner, SAX)**, a forensic accountant, explore the symbiotic relationship between lawyers and accountants in divorce proceedings, including the pros and cons of using a joint forensic expert versus separate experts and the value of clear communication among all parties.

As you look to disentangle finances, make sure you know the right questions to ask and what to expect of your attorney and experts involved in your case.

[View the Transcript](#)

Episode Three - Understanding the Role of Parent Coordinators

Not a judge. Not a lawyer. Not a therapist.

Host **Sandra Fava** and her guest, **Eric Solotoff**, Co-Chair of Fox Rothschild's Family Law Department, explore the role of parent coordinators in New Jersey family law disputes.

Despite a shaky and questionable history, the role has received greater clarity after the state debuted a new Parenting Coordinator Program last fall.

Sandra and Eric, who set precedent in New Jersey family court on this subject, explore the past and anticipated future of parent coordinators and convey the pros and cons of the role, which seeks to resolve day-to-day parental disputes without court intervention.

[View the Transcript](#)

Episode Two - Mortgage Mastery: Charting a Financial Course Post-Divorce

Make informed financial decisions on the home front as you weather a separation or divorce.

Host **Sandra Fava** and her guests, **Cathy Maloney** and **Dina Parla** of Guaranteed Rate Affinity, share practical tips on managing mortgages during this challenging time. They provide clarity on using alimony or child support for mortgage payments, managing credit scores and so much more.

Tune in and empower yourself with the knowledge to navigate the twists and turns of home finances during divorce or separation.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Episode One - The Truth Behind Coercive Control

Guided by a tragic story that rocked the Tri-State area last summer, **Sandra Fava's** podcast returns with a look at the twin poisons of parental alienation and coercive control.

Joined by Amy Polacko, a journalist and divorce coach, the episode dispels myths surrounding the two terms and explores how Hollywood stories shed additional light on these issues and situations.

With an inside look at coercive relationships and tips on protecting yourself, this is an episode you won't want to miss.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Season 2

Episode One: To Be Loved

Sandra and certified divorce coach Allyson Fusella discuss why it's critical to make time for self-love and self-care as you navigate the financial and familial arrangements related to divorce proceedings.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Episode Two - My Little Love

Wealth advisors Christina Duffy and Gina Nelson join Sandra to discuss solutions to the challenges you might be facing while establishing or reassessing a trust for your disabled child during divorce proceedings.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Episode Three - Cry Your Heart Out

Cynthia Lischick, Ph.D., LPC, DVS and Sandra explain coercive control, from how it presents in relationships to how the law can improve to truly help victims and their children.

[View the Transcript](#)

Episode Four - I Drink Wine

One of the most important documents in a divorce proceeding is the Case Information Statement. Sandra breaks down why this is so critical to the process and what information you'll need to complete it, and she shares her tip to clients to help make the undertaking a bit more palatable.

[View the Transcript](#)

Episode Five - Can I Get It

Discovery is a critically important but often overwhelming part of the legal process. Sandra explains the many elements that comprise this exchange of information between parties and why it is so beneficial to help resolve the issues at hand in family law matters.

[View the Transcript](#)

Season 1

Episode One: Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

Sandra delves into the key issues to consider when deciding whether to file for divorce.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Episode Two: Meet Me Halfway

What do the words mediation, arbitration and collaborative divorce actually mean? Are any of these avenues right for you?

Sandra breaks down these legal buzz words.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Episode Three: Mo Money Mo Problems

Hear from forensic accountant Daniel Roche of Marcum LLP, a national accounting firm, in this podcast about handling finances in a divorce.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Episode Four: Sweet Child of Mine

For parents going through a divorce, custody disputes can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences they will ever face.

In this episode, Sandra tackles what happens when parents cannot reach an agreement.

[View the episode transcript.](#)

Episode Five: Step by Step

Often overlooked, but critically important, the stepparent/stepchild relationship shapes many blended families. Sandra will talk with one stepparent about how working collaboratively can benefit everyone.

[View episode transcript.](#)

Episode Six: Love Is a Battlefield

When it comes to awkward conversations, raising the idea of a prenuptial agreement ranks near the top. Sandra discusses how to determine if you need a prenup, how to design one and how a prenup can affect a divorce.

[View episode transcript.](#)

Episode Seven: Say My Name

Are you thinking about changing your name after a divorce? Sandra tackles the steps to do that.

[View episode transcript.](#)

Episode Eight: It's All About the Benjamins

Financial adviser Felicia Garland joins Sandra in this episode to discuss the benefits of hiring an investment planning professional during a divorce proceeding.

[View episode transcript.](#)

To ask Sandra a question, provide feedback or suggest a topic for a future episode, please email lifeafterlove@foxrothschild.com.

Sandra's Insights

In her two decades as an attorney, Sandra has learned some basic truths about Family Law, which she shares with clients.

Video: The Legal Reality of Divorce

Every Divorce is Unique

"They are like fingerprints. No two are alike. A minor factor difference in life circumstances can make an enormous difference in the outcome of your case."

Know What You Don't Know

"Decisions about your family can never be made lightly. Before you hire a family law attorney, you must educate yourself and recognize you need to know what you don't know. It's important to gather correct and practical information right from the start. It is well worth the investment of your time and money."

Video: Preparing for Your Divorce

You Need a Trusted Ally

"Family law issues are complex and emotional. Dispute resolution rarely happens overnight. There are factors you can control and many that you cannot. You need a trusted and zealous advocate to see you through - someone who will provide you with effective strategies, innovative solutions and compassionate counsel."

There is Life After Divorce

"With divorce behind you, it's time to figure out the next chapter of your life. You will likely need to reassess your needs and the needs of your family. Do you need to find a new home? Start saving for your child's college education? Explore insurance policies? My team and I can help you navigate these issues as you reset your life and discover your 'new normal.'"

— *Sandra C. Fava*

Practical Advice

Sandra and the Family Law team at Fox Rothschild provide these helpful resources outlining key concepts in a easily understandable format, from custody evaluations to the distribution of marital property.

How to Prepare for a Custody Evaluation

Custody proceedings can be scary. Learn key steps on how to put your best foot forward.

Practical Tips for Dividing Personal Property

How can divorcing couples fairly divide the possessions they've accumulated during a marriage?

Assessing the Value of Marital Property: Is the Home a Key Marital Asset in a Volatile Market?

Understand how real estate is valued in the context of a divorce proceeding, and review key questions and areas of concern.

Considering a Prenuptial Agreement: Should My Children Have One?

Learn the reasons any marriage can benefit from a solid prenuptial agreement, and how to go about creating one.

Preparing for the Divorce Process: How to Save Money and Time While Protecting Your Interests

Divorce is complicated. There are key steps anyone contemplating the dissolution of their marriage should take to prepare.

Preparing for Trial

Most divorce trials follow a standard format. Know what to expect so you can be ready.

Video Library: B.I.G. Network

Sandra Fava is a "Better Together Partner" in Believe, Inspire, Grow (BIG), a national women's empowerment network that provides resources and support to help women achieve all they are meant to achieve. Sandra provides group members with important information on family law topics, including divorce, child custody and division of marital assets, through virtual seminars and videos hosted on BIG's YouTube channel.

Her videos include series titled "Life is Messy" and "Tackling Family Dilemmas," as well as individual videos on prenuptial agreements, divorce preparation and other key topics.

[View Sandra's BIG Videos](#)

Client Testimonials

Sandra takes a personal approach to representation that inspires confidence in her clients during what is a very difficult time in their lives. Here is what a few of them have to say about her work.*

"Sandra Fava is compassionate, yet tough. She is an aggressive lawyer that is passionate in her work. Walking into court with her makes me feel comfortable and like I am with someone who will truly advocate for me, and for the best interest of my child. She will tell you the truth about your case, and provide you with the best options available. I couldn't have picked anyone better."

— **Monica C.**

"Thank you so much for everything you've done for me this past year-and-a-half. You have been incredible. Your knowledge, compassion and kindness made a very difficult situation bearable. The way you treated my family, getting to know about all of my children, understanding my concerns for their well-being not only monetarily, but their emotional well-being gave me the courage to continue to fight for what I knew to be the right thing for them."

— **Christina S.**

"Sandra is currently working on my divorce settlement. I have gained 100% confidence in her. She is very responsive, experienced and assertive, She will work in your best interest. Sandra has certainly earned this review and is very highly recommended!"

—**Ken T.**

* Results may vary depending on your particular facts and legal circumstances.

Honors & Awards

- **Selected to the *Chambers High Net Worth Guide* list of ranked attorneys for Family/Matrimonial: High Net Worth in New Jersey (2022, 2023)**
This award is conferred by Chambers & Partners. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Selected to the "Leaders in Law" list (2021)**
This award is conferred by NJBIZ. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Selected to the "Family Law Trailblazers" list (2019)**
This award is conferred by The National Law Journal. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Selected to the "Best Lawyers in America" list for Family Law in Morristown, NJ (2019-2024)**
This award is conferred by Best Lawyers. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Selected to the "Best 50 Women in Business" list by NJBIZ (2019)**
This award is conferred by NJBIZ. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Selected to the "Super Lawyers " list for Family Law in New Jersey (2021-2024)**
This award is conferred by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Selected to the "Super Lawyers - Rising Stars" list for Family Law in New Jersey (2008-2020)**
This award is conferred by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology is [available here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.
- **Selected to the 2018 Top 25 Leading Women Intrapreneurs list**
- **Recipient, Good Scout Award by the Boy Scouts of America (2018)**

- **Selected for inclusion in the National Association of Professional Women**

News

July 20, 2023

Fox Attorneys Ranked in 2023 Chambers High Net Worth Guide

July 14, 2022

Fox Attorneys Ranked in 2022 Chambers High Net Worth Guide

December 15, 2021

NJBIZ Winners Circle – Where Are They Now

August 24, 2021

Us Too: Cuomo's Departure Highlights Need for Coercive Control Laws in U.S.

August 5, 2021

My Ex-Husband Won't Let Me Vaccinate Our Son

July 14, 2021

Demystifying Family Law

September 16, 2020

After Hours: Essex County Bar

August 20, 2020

More Than 200 Fox Attorneys Selected to the List of "Best Lawyers in America"

March 29, 2020

Divorce During COVID-19: Are Lawyers Getting More Calls? Yes. But Not Necessarily Why You Might Think

September 4, 2019

Wonder Women: Sandra Fava

August 15, 2019

176 Fox Attorneys Selected to the 2020 List of Best Lawyers in America

July 17, 2019

Why Smart People Don't Spot Financial Infidelity in Their Relationships

June 25, 2019

Sandra Fava Discusses Why She Practices Family Law

April 19, 2019

4 Tax Strategies That Could Make a Divorce Settlement Easier

April 10, 2019

Trailblazers in Family Law

April 3, 2019

Sandra Fava Selected by the National Law Journal to Its Family Law Trailblazers List

April 1, 2019

Family Law Trailblazers

February 11, 2019

NJBIZ Names Sandra Fava to Best 50 Women in Business List

November 28, 2018

The Face of Divorce Law

September 26, 2018

LWE 2018 Top 25 Intrapreneurs: Sandra Fava of Fox Rothschild

August 17, 2018

Sandra Fava Earns 'Good Scout' Award from Boy Scouts of America

August 15, 2018

115 Fox Attorneys Selected to List of Best Lawyers 2019

August 7, 2018

Sandra Fava Named a 'Top 25 Leading Woman Intrapreneur'

July 2, 2018

Fox Rothschild's Family Law Practice

May 15, 2018

Leading Women Entrepreneurs Names 75 Honorees for '18

March 9, 2018

Family Law Attorney Sandra Fava Joins Fox Rothschild in Morristown

March 8, 2018

New Partners Yearbook 2018

February 5, 2018

Family Law Attorney Sandra Fava Joins Fox Rothschild in Morristown

Publications

March 27, 2024

Life After Love Gone Wrong

March 20, 2024

Lawyer's View: Divorce Court Basics

The Connection Magazines

January 22, 2024

Lawyer's View: Five Tips for Preparing for Divorce in NJ

The Connection Magazines

October 30, 2023

Lawyer's View: How to Prepare for a Custody Evaluation

The Connection Magazines

August 25, 2023

Lawyer's View: Tips for Dividing Marital Property

The Connection Magazines

August 3, 2023

Lawyer's View: Assessing the Value of the Marital Home: It's a Matter of Timing

The Connection Magazines

May 25, 2023

Lawyer's View: Should My Children Have a Prenup?

The Connection Magazines

February 3, 2023

Lawyer's View— Five Tips for Preparing for Divorce in New Jersey

The Connection Magazines

November 13, 2022

Lawyer's View: Debunking New Jersey's Family Law Myths

The Connection Magazines

February 10, 2022

Life After Love Gone Wrong

November 7, 2019

Episode Eight: All About the Benjamins

Life After Love Gone Wrong – A Fox Rothschild Family Law Podcast Series

October 30, 2019

Episode Seven: Say My Name

Life After Love Gone Wrong – A Fox Rothschild Family Law Podcast Series

October 16, 2019

Episode Five: Step by Step

Life After Love Gone Wrong – A Fox Rothschild Family Law Podcast Series

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Life After Love Gone Wrong – A Fox Rothschild Family Law Podcast Series

June 25, 2019

Episode One: Breaking Up Is Hard to Do

Life After Love Gone Wrong – A Fox Rothschild Family Law Podcast Series

July 13, 2018

Helicopter vs. Free Range: Endorsement of Parenting Style in the Law

New Jersey Law Journal

Events

October 17, 2023

What Everyone Needs to Know About Divorce: Legal Issues

Park Ave Club

August 30, 2023

Finding Hidden Assets

Virtual | Webinar

November 14, 2022

Financial Aspects of a Divorce: An Essential Guide to Achieving the Best Result

New Jersey Law Center

January 29, 2022

Have a Narc Free New Year Virtual Workshop

Webinar

August 27, 2020

Finding Hidden Assets Using Tax Returns and Other Means

Webcast

November 14, 2019

Overcoming Unconscious Bias: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott

September 19, 2019

Women at the Wheel

Park Avenue Club

November 29, 2018

The Intersection of Estate Planning and Divorce

Stony Hill Inn