



Sandra A. Brooks

Principal, Practice Group Leader - Family Law (South)

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Sandra ("Sandy") Brooks' practice focuses on all aspects of family law. She dedicates her time to assisting clients in domestic law matters including divorce, child custody/visitation, family mediation, spousal/child support, property division and division of retirement benefits. Sandy's other areas of deep knowledge and experience include tax consequences of divorce, mediation, prenuptial and post-nuptial agreements, negotiating and drafting of separation agreements, domestic litigation and post-judgment proceedings. Sandy is a member of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers which places her in the top 5% of family law attorneys in the United States. She is also a member of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL), which is comprised of 700 of the most highly regarded family law lawyers throughout the world.

Sandy handles cases throughout all counties in Maryland. She is also a frequent speaker and lecturer on issues related to family law.

Additional Practice Areas: Collaborative Law, Mediation, Divorce, Custody and Visitation and Child Support

Education

- University of Baltimore (J.D.)
- Towson University (B.S., *magna cum laude*)

State Bar Admissions

- Maryland

Professional Affiliations

- Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
 - Mentorship Committee Chair 2024-2025 and 2025-2026
 - Institute Faculty 2025
 - Foundation Lifetime Member

Services

- Family Law

- Maryland Chapter Secretary, 2024, 2023
- Maryland Chapter Treasurer 2025
- Maryland Chapter - has held numerous chair positions since admission in 2019
- Member of the International Academy of Family Lawyers
- American Bar Association, Member
- Bar Association of Montgomery County Maryland, Family Law Section, Co-Chair, 2015-2017
- Living with Childhood Leukemia Foundation - 501 (c) (3) Organization, Co-Founder
- Law Day, Bar Association of Montgomery County Maryland, Family Law Section, Former Co-Chair
- Maryland State Bar Association
- Women's Bar Association
- Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland
- Inns of Court, Former Member
- Maryland New Directions, Former Volunteer
- Bar Association of Montgomery County Maryland, Family Law Section, Program Chair, 2014

Recognitions

- 2025 Top Attorney for Family/Divorce, Bethesda Magazine
- Named as *The Best Lawyers*® Family Law Arbitration "Lawyer of the Year" in Bethesda (2025)
- Top Lawyer, Washingtonian Magazine (2022 - 2025)
- Top Divorce Lawyer, Washingtonian Magazine (2021)
- Selected to Maryland Super Lawyers® for Family Law (2020-2027)
- Top Attorneys, Family Law, *Bethesda Magazine* (recognition honors the region's most respected legal practitioners, as chosen by their peers) (2019-2021)
- Named *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Family Law, Family Law Arbitration (2015, 2018-2026)
- Named *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Family Mediation (2026)
- Smart CEO Power Player (2014)
- Leading Women, Daily Record (2014)
- Top 40 Under 40 National Trial Lawyers

Publications & News

July 10, 2026

32 Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Edition of Maryland Super Lawyers

December 19, 2025

24 Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Edition of Maryland Super Lawyers

November 20, 2025

Five Offit Kurman Attorneys Named to Washingtonian Magazine's 2025 Top Divorce Lawyers List

October 31, 2025

Offit Kurman Attorneys Named to Bethesda Magazine's 2025 Top Attorneys List

October 6, 2025

Offit Kurman Announces Five New Practice Group Leaders

August 21, 2025

98 Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized in Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch Lists

January 13, 2025

Offit Kurman Family Law Team Honored on 2025 Maryland Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

January 2, 2025

24 Offit Kurman Attorneys Honored on 2025 Maryland Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

November 22, 2024

Eleven Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized as 2024 Washingtonian Top Lawyers

August 20, 2024

Offit Kurman Attorney Sandra A. Brooks Named "Lawyer of the Year" for Family Law Arbitration in Washington, D.C. by The Best Lawyers in America®

May 14, 2024

Linda Ostovitz, Sandra Brooks and Cheryl Hepfer to Speak at the AAML Hot Tips in Family Law

December 18, 2023

Offit Kurman Maintains a Strong Presence on the 2024 Maryland Super Lawyers List

December 4, 2023

2023 Washingtonian Top Lawyers List Recognizes Five Offit Kurman Attorneys

November 29, 2022

Sandra Brooks to Instruct at American Academy of Matrimonial Maryland Chapter's Cross Examination Workshop

March 25, 2022

Sandra Brooks to Speak at Maryland Bar Association Montgomery County on Goodwill and Valuation Related to Family Law Pointers

March 8, 2022

Sandra Brooks to Speak at American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers 2022 Midyear Meeting

November 23, 2021

Five Offit Kurman Attorneys Named to Washingtonian Top Divorce Lawyers List

September 9, 2021

Offit Kurman's AAML Fellows to Present at 2021 Conference

June 22, 2021

Sandra Brooks Accepted Into Prestigious International Academy of Family Lawyers

April 6, 2021

Sandra Brooks Interviewed for Dave Lorenzo Video on Questions to Ask a Divorce Lawyer During Consultation

Blog Posts

July 8, 2026

Saying "I Do" Without Saying Goodbye to Family Wealth

For high-net-worth individuals, trusts and family wealth structures are often central to long-term financial planning. A common question in divorce is whether these assets can be protected from equitable distribution, particularly when a prenuptial agreement ("prenup") is in place....

June 8, 2026

Protective Orders: Criminal Lawyer or Family Lawyer

It may be best to involve a criminal defense attorney in a protective order case because the consequences often extend far beyond family court. Although protective order proceedings are technically civil matters, they can create significant criminal, constitutional, and...

April 8, 2026

What Happens to Debt in Divorce if a Spouse Files Bankruptcy?

Divorce and bankruptcy are both stressful on their own, but when they overlap, things can become especially complicated. Understanding how these two legal processes interact is critical, particularly when dividing debt. Divorce cases are handled in family court, where...

March 10, 2026

Cryptocurrency in Divorce: How Courts Handle Bitcoin, Valuation, and Disclosure

As cryptocurrencies become more common, Bitcoin is increasingly showing up in divorce cases. Unlike traditional bank accounts, dividing Bitcoin involves unique issues related to valuation, transfer, and tax consequences. In most states, including Maryland, property acquired during the marriage...

January 30, 2026

Smart Strategies for Family Law Clients: How to Avoid Common Mistakes and Keep Legal Costs Down

Family law cases — from divorce to custody and property division — can be stressful and costly. However, most expensive problems are preventable. By staying organized, managing emotions, communicating clearly, and following legal advice, clients can greatly reduce stress,...

November 11, 2025

Dividing Private Equity the Smart Way: Protecting Both Sides in Divorce

Private equity assets add a layer of complexity to divorce that goes beyond the standard

division of bank accounts and retirement plans. These interests often involve tiered payout structures, vesting schedules, capital commitments, and unpredictable future value. When a...

October 16, 2025

Keeping Divorce Out of the Spotlight

When a marriage ends, most people want the details to stay between them - not in headlines, social media feeds, or public court records. For high-net-worth individuals, business owners, or anyone with a public profile, privacy can be one of...

September 17, 2025

I Want The House! What It Takes to Keep It After Divorce

For many couples going through a divorce, the marital home is not only their most valuable asset but also their most sentimental asset. If one spouse wants to keep the home, they may need to "buy out" the other spouse's...

August 19, 2025

Can You Start Dating While Divorcing? Legal and Personal Considerations

When couples agree to divorce, one of the first questions that is often asked is: "Can I start dating?" The simple answer is yes you can, but there are things to keep in mind. Even after you've filed for...

July 28, 2025

Legal and Practical Considerations Before Leaving the Marital Home During Divorce

One of the most common and emotionally charged questions people ask when facing divorce is, "Can —or should— I move out of the marital home before we have an agreement or court order?" The answer isn't always straightforward. Moving...

April 11, 2025

How to Divide Retirement Accounts During Divorce Amid Market Fluctuations

Dividing retirement accounts during a divorce is already complex, but the process becomes even more complicated when you factor in market volatility.. Stock market fluctuations can dramatically change the value of retirement accounts, which makes equitable distribution a moving...

March 19, 2025

We Are Going to Trial! How Your Divorce Lawyer Will Prepare You for Court

Going to court can be a stressful and emotionally charged experience. Your divorce lawyer will play an important role in preparing you for court, ensuring that you understand the legal proceedings, and helping you present your case effectively. Here's...

February 17, 2025

Co-Parenting a Child with Medical Issues Post-Divorce

Divorce is challenging under any circumstances, but when a child has medical issues, teamwork is key. Effective co-parenting is crucial to ensure your child's health and emotional well-being while navigating medical appointments, treatments, and daily care. Some pointers for...

January 13, 2025

Why Divorce Lawyers Are Busy After the Holidays

The holiday season, with its emphasis on family gatherings, goodwill, and celebration, might seem like an unlikely time to consider divorce. However, for many couples, the stress and emotional intensity of the holidays often bring underlying marital issues to...

December 18, 2024

Dividing Christmas Ornaments and Other Personal Property in a Divorce Case

Divorce is a challenging process, and dividing personal property often adds emotional complexity. While big-ticket items like homes and retirement accounts might take center stage, sentimental belongings—such as Christmas ornaments, family heirlooms, and collectibles—can be just as contentious. Understanding...

November 18, 2024

Should You Race to Get Divorced Before the End of the Year for Tax Filing Status and Financial Planning?

Deciding when to finalize a divorce can be influenced by many factors—financial, emotional, and legal. One key consideration is the impact your filing date will have on your tax filing status. Since the IRS determines marital status as of...

October 29, 2024

Understanding The Role of Parent Coordinators in Custody Cases: Navigating High-Conflict Disputes for Effective Co-Parenting Solutions

In high-conflict custody cases, finding a productive way for parents to work together can be challenging. To address this, courts are increasingly turning to parent coordinators—specially trained professionals who assist families in resolving conflicts, improving communication, and ensuring that...

September 25, 2024

Divorce and the Professional Athlete: Managing Assets, Custody, and Public Scrutiny

Representing an athlete through a divorce requires a unique blend of legal expertise, emotional intelligence, and public relations savvy to guide a high-profile client through this complex and challenging period. Professional athletes live under constant public scrutiny and media...

August 13, 2024

Traveling Abroad with Children During a Divorce: What You Need to Know

Understanding the legal requirements is one of the first and most critical steps in planning an international trip with your children during a divorce. Custody and Visitation Agreements: Review your custody and visitation agreements carefully. These documents will outline...

July 11, 2024

What Happens to the Marital Home During Divorce?

The marital home is often one of the most significant and emotionally charged assets in a divorce. Deciding what happens to the home can be a complex and contentious process involving both financial considerations and personal attachments. There are...

June 4, 2024

Dividing Luxury Personal Property

Divorce proceedings can be complex and emotionally charged, particularly when substantial assets are involved. Among the most challenging items to divide are luxury personal properties such as art, automobiles, yachts, and airplanes. These high-value assets not only represent significant...

May 9, 2024

What are Capital Gains, and How can Capital Gains impact my divorce?

Capital gains are the profits realized from the sale of assets such as stocks, bonds, real

estate, or other investments. When an asset is sold for more than its original purchase price, the difference represents a capital gain. These...

April 16, 2024

Essential Components of a Parenting Plan During Divorce

Divorce can be a challenging experience for families, especially when children are involved. One of the most important aspects of a divorce involving children is the creation of a parenting plan. A parenting plan, also known as a child...

March 14, 2024

Shareholder Agreements in Divorce: A Legal Perspective

Divorce proceedings can often involve complex financial negotiations, particularly when business interests are involved. When spouses who are shareholders in a company decide to part ways, it can raise a host of challenging issues regarding the disposition of shares,...

February 15, 2024

Navigating High-Asset Divorce Cases

High-asset divorces typically involve couples with substantial wealth, including real estate, investments, business interests, and other valuable assets. These cases require a meticulous approach to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of assets, spousal support, and child custody arrangements....

January 5, 2024

What Happens to My Business During Divorce?

Divorce is a challenging and emotionally charged process, and when business ownership is thrown into the mix, it can become even more complex. For business owners, the stakes may be high, as the outcome of a divorce can significantly...

December 6, 2023

How to Divide Time with Children Over the Holidays Recap

The holiday season is a time of tremendous joy, but it can also be a time of tremendous stress—especially for divorced parents who share custody of their children. Between splitting time, coordinating gifts, arranging travel, and communicating with relatives,...

November 16, 2023

Traveling with Babies Recap

Originally posted 12/18/18, no content changes. Does anyone enjoy flying with a baby? Infants themselves certainly don't like the experience, but neither do their parents and aisle-mates. Young children's cries and frequent needs (for food, attention, and diaper changes)...

November 14, 2023

Protecting Your Business During Divorce: Strategies for Business Owners

Divorce is a challenging and emotional process, and it becomes even more complex when you own a business. Your business is not just a source of income but a significant asset that may be subject to division during divorce...

October 19, 2023

Immunizing Against Anti-Vaxxers

How Courts are Protecting Children from Parents Who Go Against Science and What it Could Mean in the Age of COVID-19 Originally posted 9/10/20, content updated on

10/19/23. Over the past nearly forty years, [1] and with increased fervor...

October 5, 2023

How Much Will My Divorce Cost?

One of the first questions a client asks is, “how much will this cost me?” While there is no way to really know how much the process will cost, there are some significant factors that can impact your fees....

September 18, 2023

When an Ordinary Family Lawyer Isn't Enough

There's no such thing as an “ordinary” divorce. That being said, it's fair to call some divorces extraordinary—for the extraordinary legal guidance they require. Imagine that you and your spouse have been together for 25 years. Together during that...

September 16, 2023

Have You Created Your Post-Divorce Budget?

Money is one of the most common reasons for divorce. It's also frequently one of the greatest concerns after the divorce has been finalized. Depending on your situation, you may end your marriage with more or less in the...

September 6, 2023

Maryland Joins the ‘Irreconcilable Differences’ States

Maryland will become a no-fault grounds state for filing for divorce on October 1, 2023. Maryland will be adding irreconcilable differences and six (6) month separation to its rule books while also retaining the ground of mutual consent. This...

August 23, 2023

Avoid Future Arguments with Your Ex By Using A Parenting Plan

Divorce can mark the end of a conflict or the beginning of many more. The difference frequently comes down to the parenting plan—whether one exists and, if so, what it does and doesn't cover. A parenting plan is an...

August 9, 2023

“I Want My Day in Court! – But Are You Sure About That?”

It's become part of our vocabulary...a phrase said by those demanding justice, vindication and validation: “I want my day in court!” However, when it comes to divorce, should that really be the case? Is having your day in court...

August 4, 2023

Is My Inheritance Marital Property?

It depends. Isn't that a lawyer's answer to just about everything? In Maryland, property acquired by inheritance or gift from a third party or that was owned prior to the marriage is non-marital property. It will not be divided between...

August 2, 2023

My Spouse has an Income, so Why Would I have to Pay Alimony?

Known Indefinite Alimony Awards in Reported Maryland Cases. The purpose of alimony is not to provide a lifetime pension. Rather, alimony is designed to provide the recipient spouse an opportunity to become self-supporting. Nonetheless, in cases where it is...

July 14, 2023

Family Law Recap: Taking a Break from Your Divorce

Happy summer! Right now, millions of Americans are on vacation, packing for an

upcoming trip, or just returning to work. If you're not currently away yourself, you've no doubt encountered a couple (or a couple dozen) out-of-office autoresponder messages...

July 10, 2023

Who Will Pay for Private School After We are Divorced?

The answer is... it depends. Isn't that a lawyer's answer to everything? In an ideal world, the parties agree on where their child will go to school, and they have endless funds to cover the child's educational expenses, so...

July 6, 2023

You Want to Get A Divorce? Here's What You Need to Know

Originally posted 7/6/2020, no content changes. Does anyone go into a marriage thinking about getting a divorce? Doubtful. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Marriage and Divorce Rate Trends , the rate of divorce in...

May 12, 2023

Smart Home Devices and Domestic Abuse

Originally Posted 5/13/2019, no content changes. Modern homes are increasingly powered by internet-connected devices, from speakers to televisions, from thermostats to door locks, from security cameras to baby monitors. For some, this so-called "smart" technology can make life a...

May 11, 2023

How to Protect Your Privacy

While you will be sharing a great deal of information during the divorce process, it is important for you to take steps to protect your privacy. You will be required to produce financial documents, and you may also be...

May 11, 2023

How to Prepare for Divorce

Whatever brought you to the decision to consider divorce, as with most situations, knowledge is power. If you have determined that your spouse is considering separation or divorce, or if you have decided that you have tried to resolve...

February 13, 2023

DIY Divorces Recap

There's a lot to be said for embracing a do-it-yourself (DIY) ethos. DIYers develop useful skills, sometimes discover new hobbies, and often save a great deal of money. But while plenty of DIY projects can reduce upfront costs and...

January 11, 2023

My Spouse is an Alcoholic. How Will This Impact My Custody Case?

The goal is to keep the children safe while still maintaining a relationship with their alcoholic parent. Ideally, both parents and their attorneys are on the same page with implementing safety precautions for the sake of the children. These...

October 31, 2022

Dividing Stocks in Divorce

If your spouse has stocks, they will need to be identified as marital or non-marital, valued and divided or offset with another marital asset. Public stock is simple to value. Once a valuation date is determined, the answer lies...

August 22, 2022

Should I File a Joint Tax Return with My Separated Spouse?

When it comes time to file tax returns, those of our clients who are separated but not yet divorced often ask our opinion. As with many issues, there are some benefits to filing a joint return. However, there may...

July 18, 2022

Mediation Tips from A Mediator and Retired Judge Sandy Brooks' interview with Retired Judge Michael Mason

Sandy : How long have you been a mediator, and approximately how many matters do you mediate a year? Judge Mason : I've been mediating since approximately January 2019. Last year, I did just short of 80 mediations. Sandy...

November 17, 2021

How Long Will I Have to Pay Alimony?

When a couple gets divorced, one party may need to financially support the other party in some shape or form; this divorce-specific monetary support is referred to as alimony. When a client learns that they may be required to...

September 20, 2021

I Received an Inheritance – Will I have to Share the Money with My Ex-Spouse?

The answer to this question can go in two different directions, depending on what the recipient did with the money. When evaluating a divorce, most states view inherited funds as separate property, whether those funds were received before or...

August 16, 2021

The Rundown on Custody Evaluations: A Q&A

When a divorce involves children and a court-issued custody evaluation, the parents can understandably be uneasy about the process, what it will entail and how it will affect the outcome of the custody arrangement. The key to successfully navigating...

July 13, 2021

Why Would I Pay Alimony If My Soon To Be Ex-Spouse Has a Job?

Most people understand that when there is a divorce, one party sometimes has to pay alimony to support the other party. But the details of who pays alimony, and why, can be a bit fuzzy. I deal with divorce...

June 17, 2021

Who Gets the Dog?

"But who gets the dog?" This is a question I get often. In a situation like divorce, deciding where the dog will go can be tricky, as animals often feel like part of the family. And while just a...

Featured Works

Speaking Engagements

- Instructor, Cross Examination Workshop, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, December 9, 2022
- Speaker, Maryland Bar Association Montgomery County, "Goodwill & Valuation-Family Law Pointers", April 2022

- Speaker, Midyear Meeting, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, March 2022
- Questions to Ask a Divorce Lawyer During a Consultation, Inside BS with Dave Lorenzo, April 4, 2021