



Summer Abel

Principal

summer.abel@offitkurman.com

Bethesda, MD – 240.507.1873

Summer Abel helps individuals and families navigate some of life's most personal transitions. She represents clients across the full range of family law matters, including divorce and separation, child custody and support, spousal support, property division, and pre- and post-marital agreements. Summer approaches each matter with care and precision, tailoring strategies to her clients' goals through mediation or litigation.

A significant part of Summer's practice focuses on parental rights and family formation. She regularly advises clients on second parent and stepparent adoptions, as well as egg, sperm, and embryo donor agreements. Her work supports families as they grow, change, and plan for the future, often during moments that require both legal clarity and thoughtful guidance.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, Summer is deeply committed to serving families of all kinds. She understands the legal and practical challenges LGBTQ+ families may face. She is experienced in presenting family dynamics effectively in court, negotiating with opposing counsel, and crafting solutions that reflect each family's unique circumstances. Summer has developed a referral network of LGBTQ+-affirming professionals, including financial planners, accountants, real estate professionals, and therapists, to help clients address issues that extend beyond the legal process. She also contributes to LGBTQ+ thought leadership through writing, speaking engagements, and professional training.

Clients appreciate Summer's approachable style and the personal attention she brings to every matter. She listens closely, communicates clearly, and helps clients move forward with confidence in difficult, emotionally charged situations.

Summer's perspective is shaped by a diverse legal background, including work at national law firms and experience handling complex litigation. Earlier in her career, she worked on matters before the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program and on pharmaceutical and toxic tort cases. She also served as a public defender, representing clients in criminal, mental health, and juvenile proceedings. This breadth of experience informs her ability to manage sensitive, high stakes matters with sound judgment, empathy, and practicality.

Services

- Family Law
- LGBTQIA+

Education

- Florida Coastal School of Law (J.D.)
- University of South Florida (B.S.)

State Bar Admissions

- Maryland
- District of Columbia

Professional Affiliations

- National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, Family Law Institute
- District of Columbia LGBTQ+ Bar Association
- President, LGBTQ+ Bar Association of Maryland

Recognitions

- Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40, National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, 2026
- Rising Star, Family Law, Maryland Super Lawyers® (2024-2027)
- Named to *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for Family Law (2025 - 2026)

Featured Works

Publications

- Quoted, "Transgender Clients and Children in Family Law Cases", The Daily Record Maryland Family Law Update, August 27, 2025
- Author, "Summer Abel on Creating Space for LGBTQ+ Voices in the Legal System," OK Voices, June 16, 2025

Blogs:

- "Marriage Equality and the Supreme Court: Preparing for the Unexpected," August 13, 2025
- "Essential Legal Protections for LGBTQ+ Families in a Shifting Political Climate," November 8, 2024
- "Navigating LGBTQ+ Divorce: Unique Legal Considerations," June 21, 2024
- "Why should I get a Second Parent Adoption?" March 13, 2023

Speaking Engagements

- "The LGBTQ+ Legal Landscape: Navigating the New Normal," Monumental City Bar Association, March 11, 2026
- "Emerging Issues in the LGBTQ+ Community," January 14, 2026
- "Rainbow Families Town Hall: Conversations about Our Families, Our Schools, & Our Mental Health," November 15, 2025

- "LGBTQ+ Family Law: Legal Shifts and Cultural Sensitivity in Practice," Shore Legal Family Law Training, November 6, 2025
- "Second Parent and Stepparent Adoption Processes in Maryland and the District of Columbia," Rainbow Families, Presenter, January 26, 2025
- "Protecting your LGBTQ+ Family in the 2nd Trump Era," Presenter, January 26, 2025
- "Emerging Issues in the LGBTQ+ Community 2026," DC Bar CLE Program, January 14, 2026
- "Discovery/ Marital Property Statements (Rule 9-207 Statements)," 2024 Rita Rosenkrantz Basic Family Law Training for the Bar Association of Montgomery County, Presenter, September 24, 2024