



Matthew J. Brandes

Member

Contact

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PRACTICE AREAS

Family Law

Matthew Brandes has been an attorney with Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC for over three decades. He has led the firm's family law practice since 1994 and is a former member of the firm's management committee. Mr. Brandes counsels and represents people in child custody, divorce and guardianship matters. He is an experienced mediator, collaborative law attorney and litigator, and has successfully resolved hundreds of family law cases for clients from all walks of life with a diverse range of family and business issues. Mr. Brandes is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), a significant group of the nation's top family law attorneys, and co-chairs the Iowa Supreme Court Family Law Case Processing Reform Task Force.

Mr. Brandes' experience includes: Asset valuation and division, child custody, child support, dissolution of marriage, domestic abuse, premarital agreements, spousal support and related matters.

Mr. Brandes' clients include: Accountants, business executives, business owners, contractors, engineers, homemakers, laborers, lawyers, police officers, real estate developers, physicians, teachers and more.

Mr. Brandes is a member of the Family Law Mediation Panel for the Sixth Judicial District and provides service as a family law mediator. He is an active member of the Iowa State Bar and American Bar Associations. Mr. Brandes is also a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. He is a charter member of Collaborative Lawyers of Eastern Iowa, the area's first collaborative family law practice group.

Mr. Brandes serves his community by providing pro bono representation to the less fortunate through the Iowa Legal Aid Family Law Intake Project and through service in his church. He has had the good fortune to be married for almost 45 years, is the father of three successful daughters and the grandfather of eight amazing grandchildren.

Bar Admissions

- State of Iowa, 1985
- State of Minnesota, 1981

Education

- William Mitchell College of Law, cum laude, 1981
- University of Notre Dame, 1975

Clerkship

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward J. McManus, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, 1983-1985

Honors & Awards

- Included in the Best Lawyers in America® list, 2025
 - Family Law, Family Law Mediation
- Included in the Best Lawyers® "Lawyer of the Year" list for Cedar Rapids, 2019 & 2023
 - Family Law
- Included in Great Plains Super Lawyers list, 2013-2025
 - Family Law
- AV Rating by Martindale-Hubbell®

Professional Affiliations

- Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), 2013-Present
- Iowa Supreme Court
 - Family Law Case Processing Reform Task Force, Co-Chair, 2014-Present
- American Bar Association

- Family Law Section Member
- Division Member in Senior Lawyers
- Iowa State Bar Association
 - Family & Juvenile Law Section Member, 1994-Present
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, 2010-Present
 - Board of Governors, 2012-2016
 - Family & Juvenile Law Section Council, 2002-2005; 2012-2016
 - Reporter, Chapter 11 Study Group, 2008-2011
 - Specialization Committee, 2001-2003
- Fellow, Iowa State Bar Foundation
- Linn County Bar Association
- Mediation Services of Eastern Iowa, Inc., President, 2002-2004
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), 2003-Present
- Iowa District Court for the Sixth Judicial District
 - Member, Mediation Advisory Committee, 2007-Present
 - Family Visitation Center Steering Committee, 2007-2009
 - Member, Family Law Procedures Committee, 2002-2006

Representative Experience

In the Supreme Court of Iowa, No. 2-271 / 11-1398

- In Re the Marriage of Diana L. Kimbro and Steven C. Kimbro; Upon the Petition of Diana L. Kimbro, Petitioner-Appellee and Concerning Steven C. Kimbro, Respondent-Appellant County Case No. CDDM036929 In re: Marriage of Kimbro, 826 N.W.2d 696 (Iowa 2013) Decision w/Published Opinion

In the Supreme Court of Iowa, No. 39 / 03-1131

- In Re the Marriage of DeAnn Patricia Schriener and John Kenneth Schriener; Upon the Petition of DeAnn Patricia Schriener, Appellee and Concerning John Kenneth Schriener, Appellant Linn County Case No. CDDM029810 In re: Marriage of Schriener, 690 N.W.2d 698 (Iowa App. 2004) In re: Marriage of Schriener, 695 N.W.2d 493 (Iowa 2005) Decision w/Published Opinion

News & Events

2025

- Matt Brandes Listed in 2025 Great Plains Super Lawyers, 5/21/2025

2024

- Matt Brandes Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2025, 8/15/2024
- Matt Brandes Listed in 2024 Great Plains Super Lawyers, 05/29/2024

2023

- Matt Brandes Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2024, 08/17/2023
- Matt Brandes Listed in 2023 Great Plains Super Lawyers, 05/30/23

2022

- Matt Brandes Included in Best Lawyers in America® Lawyer of the Year 2023, 11/29/2022
- Matt Brandes Included in Best Lawyers in America® 2023, 08/19/2022
- Matt Brandes Listed in 2022 Great Plains Super Lawyers, 07/28/22

2021

- Best Lawyers® 2022, 08/19/21

2020

- Best Lawyers In America Recognizes 37 SPMB Attorneys, 08/20/2020
- 2020 Great Plains Super Lawyers Announced, 07/31/2020