

Hon. Lisa F. Chrystal, P.J.F.P. (Ret.)

Counsel

Alternative Dispute Resolution

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> Thank you for your assistance. Counsel and I could not have reached a global settlement without your preparedness, attention and care.

~ Rachel E, Esq., Ehrlich|Gayner, LLP

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

The Honorable Lisa F. Chrystal (Ret.) joined Brach Eichler after serving 22 years as a Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court. Judge Chrystal concentrates her practice in the areas of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), mediation and arbitration, as well as discovery management. A compassionate and attentive listener known for her legal acumen and her responsible and equitable counsel, Judge Chrystal focuses on civil cases and family law matters, prejudgment and post judgement, as well as custody and parenting time and the resolution of disputes through mediation, typically a more amicable and cost effective approach than litigation. Judge Chrystal also conducts mock trials to assist lawyers in trial preparation.

Judge Chrystal's clients benefit from her range of experience drawn from her tenure on the bench, her prior civil experience, litigation and family law practice, and her comprehensive knowledge of the myriad issues that arise in civil, equity, and family dissolutions and custody disputes.

Judge Chrystal is a former Presiding Judge in the Family Division, New Jersey Superior Court, Union County from 2014 until her retirement in 2022. While serving in the Family Division, she presided over matrimonial, domestic violence, non-dissolution and children in court cases, including child abuse, neglect, and termination of parental rights. Judge Chrystal decided every

EDUCATION

- Syracuse University
- Seton Hall University School of Law, Cum Laude

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Essex County Bar Association
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey

aspect of family cases, including custody, parenting time, alimony, child support, equitable distribution, and counsel fees.

Judge Chrystal is a certified mediator and Parenting Coordinator. Her name is included in the New Jersey Judiciary Roster of Mediators for Economic aspects of Family Law cases.

Additionally, for over seven years Judge Chrystal presided over cases in the Civil Division, both jury and nonjury, as well as chancery matters, personal injury, tort claims, malpractice, Open Public Records cases, and class actions. As a civil trial judge, she decided thousands of civil motions and conducted settlement conferences on countless cases. Those cases ranged from general liability, tort, personal injury in the fields of medical malpractice, insurance, employment, automobile liability, product liability, standard fall down and assault cases. In non-jury cases, Judge Chrystal decided an affordable housing Mount Laural case, (affirmed on appeal), and estate chancery litigation.

Judge Chrystal served as a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, and served on the Supreme Court Family Practice Committee and the FM/FD Subcommittee, 2021-2023. She has served on the Family Subcommittee for Mentoring of New Judges, and frequently trained newly appointed Judges and those transferring to the Family Division in the Comprehensive Judicial Orientation Program "C.J.O.P." She coauthored the 2019 and 2021 Judge's "Dissolution Manual." Judge Chrystal also served as a member of the Supreme Court Civil Model Jury Charge committee, when voir dire changes were adopted in Directive 4-07, May 1, 2007.

Prior to her appointment to the Bench, Judge Chrystal was in private practice in Union County and Essex County, concentrating on civil litigation, chancery practice, tort claims, and guardianship matters. She served as an Assistant County Counsel representing the Union County Jail and various county agencies. Judge Chrystal was also an Adjunct Legal Writing Instructor at Seton Hall Law School, and served as Trustee of the Union County Bar Association.

Judge Chrystal is a member of the Family Law and Dispute Resolution Sections of the New Jersey State Bar Association, The Barry I. Croland Inn of Court, The Justice Virginia Long Hudson County Inn of Court and was a Master of the Richard J. Hughes American Inn of Court. She graduated from Syracuse University and is a cum laude graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law.

In April 2022, Judge Chrystal was the recipient of the prestigious William J McCloud Award from the Union County Bar Association. Since its inception in 1992, in memory of Judge McCloud, the award recognizes significant contributions to the administration of Justice in the Family Part.

*No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Click here for the Awards and Honors Methodology.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Each case decided by Judge Chrystal depends on its unique facts and particular legal circumstances.

CASES DECIDED BY JUDGE CHRYSTAL, AFFIRMED ON APPEAL:

- *Peter C. Geary VS. Lainie F. Geary*, decided May 27, 2022. (affirmed on appeal February 21, 2024);
- *Cranford Development Associates v. Township of Cranford* (Affordable housing nonjury verdict upheld by App. Div. 445 N.J. Super. 220, 2016);
- *Sensor v. Sensor* (Recusal motion denied, affirmed by App. Div., 2018);
- *Santos v. Linhares* (affirmed by App. Div., 2018);
- *Jean-Gilles v. Robert Wood Johnson Univ. Hosp.* (affirmed by App. Div., 2012);
- *June Droussiotis v Christakis S. Droussiotis* (affirmed on appeal October 1, 2009);
- *Boothby v. Melendez* (affirmed by App. Div., 2009).

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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Member Union County Bar Association
- Member Essex County Bar Association
- NJSBA, Family Law and Dispute Resolution Sections
- NJSBA Family Law Executive Committee
- Speaker/Panelist at NJSBA Midyear Meeting, and NJSBA Family Law Retreat
- Speaker/Moderator for NJICLE Seminars
- Speaker/Moderator for New Jersey Association of Family and Conciliatory Courts
- Former Master of Richard J Hughes American Inn of Court
- Master of the Barry L. Croland Inn of Court
- Master of the Justice Virginia Long Inn of Court
- Former chair of the Minority Concerns Committee in Union County
- Supreme Court Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), 2019 to Present
- Supreme Court Family Practice Committee (2021-2023)
- Served as Member of Supreme Court Model Civil Jury Charge Committee (2007)
- Trained NJ Judges at Annual Judicial College (2014 – 2021)
- Taught Comprehensive Judicial Education (“CJOP”) for New/Newly Assigned Judges
- Trained Incoming Judicial Law Clerks Annually (2014-2021)
- Approved panel member of NAM (National Arbitration and Mediation) as a neutral, for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) arbitration and mediation services

PUBLICATIONS

- Summary of New Jersey Court Cases Involving Dissolution, Bench Guide for Judges, 2019 and 2021

AWARDS



New Jersey Law Journal® Unsung Heroes list*

2025



The Best Lawyers® in America list*

2026



NJBIZ® Leaders in Law list*

2025



Champions for Family Justice: Leaders in Justice

2025

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Insights

B|E in the News - *February 4, 2026*
Why Your Custody Case Needs a Parenting Coordinator with Judge Chrystal, P.J.F.P. (Ret.)

B|E in the News - *February 4, 2026*
Why Your Custody Case Needs a Parenting Coordinator

Events - *October 24, 2025*
Hon. Lisa F. Chrystal, P.J.F.P. (Ret.) to Present at NJICLE's 2025 ADR Day Symposium 11/6/2025

Events - *October 21, 2025*
Judge Lisa Chrystal and Rebecca Falk to Speak at JBAR Women's Initiative CLE on Bias Against Women in Law on 11/20/2025

Newsletters - *October 10, 2025*
Litigation Quarterly Advisor – Fall 2025

B|E in the News - *September 10, 2025*
Judge Lisa F. Chrystal on Why Mediation with a Retired Judge Leads to Better Outcomes

B|E in the News - *September 9, 2025*
How to Help Your Matrimonial Clients Prepare for Mediation

Awards - *September 2, 2025*
Brach Eichler Honored in NJLJ 2025 Legal Awards: Winners and Finalists

Awards - *August 21, 2025*
57 Total Brach Eichler Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers in America© 2026

Events - *May 5, 2025*
Mastering Family Law Trials: Bench Trial Basics CLE with Hon. Lisa F. Chrystal and Leading Attorneys – May 21