



MAX T. STEPHENSON

O'NEILCANNON

HOLLMAN DEJONG & LAING S.C.

Shareholder

CONTACT

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PRACTICE GROUP

- Family Law

Max Stephenson focuses his practice on family law, helping clients navigate the legal, complex, and emotional challenges that come with major life changes. He works with individuals and families in matters involving divorce and legal separation, child custody and placement, paternity, post-judgment modifications, guardianships, and injunctions.

Max is known for his approachable style, creative thinking, and balanced advocacy. He listens closely to each client's story, takes time to understand their goals, and develops practical, personalized strategies to help them move forward with confidence. He also has experience representing clients in LGBTQ+ family law matters and is passionate about creating inclusive, supportive representation for every family.

Max Assists Clients With

- Divorce and Legal Separation – Guiding clients through all stages of divorce or separation, including negotiation, mediation, and litigation.
- Child Custody and Placement – Advocating for parenting arrangements that serve the best interests of children while protecting parental rights.
- Paternity Actions – Assisting parents in establishing or challenging paternity and addressing related custody, placement, and support issues.
- Post-Judgment Modifications – Helping clients modify existing court orders related to custody, placement, support, or maintenance when circumstances change.
- Guardianships – Representing individuals and families in adult and minor guardianship matters.
- Injunctions and Restraining Orders – Providing representation in cases involving harassment, domestic abuse, or other protective order matters.
- Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements – Drafting and reviewing marital property agreements to protect clients' interests before or after marriage.
- Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution – Facilitating fair, efficient resolutions outside of court when possible.
- LGBTQ+ Family Law – Offering inclusive representation in all family law matters, including same-sex marriage, parentage, and adoption.

Professional Associations & Affiliations

- Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association, President, 2018
- State Bar of Wisconsin, Member, 2013 - Present
- Milwaukee Bar Association, Member, 2013 - Present
- Co-Chair, Family Law Section of the Milwaukee Bar Association
- The Leander J. Foley, Jr. Matrimonial American Inn of Court, Member, 2014 - 2020
- Leander J. Foley Society of Family Lawyers, Board member, 2020-2022
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)
- Waukesha County Bar Association, Member

Awards/Distinctions

- BizTimes Milwaukee Nonprofit Excellence Awards for Corporate Volunteer of the Year, 2024, Finalist
- Best Law Firm-Family Law by Shepherd Express, 2022
- Named in 2022 Best Lawyers "Ones to Watch" for Family Law and Family Law: Arbitration and Mediation
- Lead Counsel Verified
- Named one of the "Best Lawyers" (Ones to Watch) for Family Law
- Super Lawyers Rising Star, 2018 - Present
- Thomas More Law Scholar
- Wisconsin Law Journal Up and Coming Lawyer, 2017

Articles/Presentations

- State Bar of Wisconsin: Bottom Up - A Young Lawyers Podcast | Episode 26: Building a Family Law Practice - Insights from Max T. Stephenson, [YouTube](#)
- Mentor, U.S. Supreme Court, LGBTQ Discrimination, and Title VII Protections, [State Bar of Wisconsin, Appellate Practice Section Blog](#)
- Legal Q & A at LGBTQ+ Healthy Families/Healthy Communities Conference
- "General Updates in Family Law"
- "Pre-Nups, Post-Nups, Divorce - What Do You Need to Know for Yourself and Your Business" - The LGBT Business Equality Summit, May 2018
- Presenter, Marquette University Career Awareness Night

Community Involvement

- Mentor, Emerging Leaders LGBT Chamber of Wisconsin Program
- American Cancer Society 2022–2024 Milwaukee Champions of Hope Gala Board of Ambassadors
- American Cancer Society 2023 Milwaukee Champions of Hope Gala Board of Ambassadors, Chair
- Board Member, Blessings in a Backpack Blessings, providing food on the weekends for school-aged children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

Education

- Marquette University Law School (J.D.)
- Marquette University (B.S.)