



**Todd & Weld** LLP

## Richard M. Novitch

Partner

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**Mr. Novitch combines his years of legal scholarship with extensive courtroom and appellate experience to successfully and cost effectively navigate clients through matrimonial and intrafamily disputes.**

For over 20 years, Richard M. Novitch has represented business owners, professionals, and other individuals in various types of matrimonial and child-centered litigation, arbitration, and mediation. He also is frequently called upon to draft prenuptial agreements to protect business interests and premarital, inherited, and gifted assets.

A veteran courtroom attorney, Mr. Novitch has tried numerous cases in the Massachusetts Probate and Family Courts involving a wide range of matters, including divorce, child custody and relocation cases, support modification actions, and complaints for contempt. He recently persuaded a court to permit his client to relocate to California with the parties' daughter. And in another, he secured the retroactive termination of an alimony obligation on behalf of his client, which included an award of tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

Having worked at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Mr. Novitch is equally adept as an appellate attorney with extensive experience briefing and arguing cases of first impression before the Supreme Judicial Court and Massachusetts Appeals Court. His recent appellate experience includes:

- *Jones v. Jones*, 101 Mass. App. Ct. 673 (2022)
- *Shak v. Shak*, 484 Mass. 658 (2020)
- *Miller v. Miller*, 478 Mass. 642 (2018)
- *Sbrogna v. Sbrogna*, 92 Mass. App. Ct. 639 (2018)
- *Popp v. Popp*, 477 Mass. 1022 (2017)

- *DeMarco v. Demarco*, 89 Mass. App. Ct. 618 (2016)
- *Alexander v. Alexander*, 72 Mass. App. Ct. 1118 (2008)

A tireless advocate, Mr. Novitch additionally has advanced arguments and helped shaped the trajectory of matrimonial law as *amici curiae* (friend of the court), in such cases as:

- *Bassichis v. Flores*, 490 Mass. 143 (2022)
- *Malachi M. v. Quintana Q.*, 483 Mass. 725 (2019)
- *Chin v. Merriot*, 470 Mass. 527 (2015)

Mr. Novitch also has extensive experience in litigation involving fiduciaries – including post-death disputes over business and partnership interests, the enforceability and interpretation of wills and trusts, the removal of trustees, and challenges to various estate planning vehicles based on a lack of capacity or undue external influences. In one recent case, he secured summary judgment and the dismissal of a challenge to a will. In another, he persuaded a trial court to void and annul a marriage after the death of the husband and, as a matter of first impression, to invalidate a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity more than 10 years after its execution.

Mr. Novitch is a frequent lecturer on matrimonial and fiduciary litigation matters for the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association, and Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE), and has been quoted in the media, including *The New York Times* and *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. He is deeply knowledgeable of cutting-edge legal issues and innovative courtroom tactics. Mr. Novitch combines his scholarship with practical experience to provide well-rounded, sound, and creative representation for clients.

Mr. Novitch previously served as a staff attorney for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and was a law clerk for the Massachusetts Superior Court and Massachusetts Probate & Family Court. He is a former hearing officer for the Board of Bar Overseers.

## Practice Areas

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- Family Law
- Probate and Fiduciary Litigation
- Appellate Litigation

## Experience

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- Partner, Todd & Weld LLP, 2016-present
- Partner, Lander & Lander, P.C., 2005-2016
- Associate, Todd & Weld LLP, 2002-2005
- Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, 2000-2001
- Law Clerk, Massachusetts Superior Court, 1999-2000
- Law Clerk, Massachusetts Probate & Family Court, 1998-1999

## Bar Admissions

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- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

## Education

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- Suffolk University Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1997)
- Clark University (B.A., 1994)

## Professional Activities

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- Member, Board of Directors, American Probate & Family Inns of Court, Massachusetts Chapter
- Member, Board of Directors, Massachusetts Chapter of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
- Massachusetts Bar Association, Family Law Section Council Member (2016-present)
- Middlesex Bar Association
- Former Hearing Officer, Board of Bar Overseers

## Publications/Presentations

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- Panelist, 27th Annual Family Law Conference, MCLE, May 2024
- Presenter, Real Estate Valuations and Sales, 2023 Domestic Relations Financial Summit, MCLE, February 2023
- Panelist, "Post-Death Litigation Involving Non-Probate Assets," Massachusetts Bar Association's 10th Annual Probate Law Conference, November 2022
- Co-Moderator, "Game-Changing Impact of Cavanagh on Determining Child Support & Alimony," MCLE, October 2022
- Panelist, "The Confidentiality and Privilege Conundrum: What Can Be Asked and What Can't Be Answered," Massachusetts Chapter, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, October 2022
- Panelist, Boston Bar Association, Practice Tips for Family Law Appeals, March 2022
- Panelist, Asset Valuation: What is it Really Worth?, MCLE Domestic Relations Financial Summit 2022
- Presenter, "Social Media Evidence: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," Greater Newburyport Bar Association, October 2021
- Panelist, Massachusetts Association of Guardians ad Litem Fall Conference, September 2021
- Panelist, "Sexts, Texts, and Tweets: The Use and Misuse of Social Media and Electronic Information in Family Law Disputes," American Family and Conciliation Courts, April 2021
- MCLE Panelist, "Securing & Collecting Your Fees in Family Law Practice," February 2021

- MCLE Panelist, "Complex Issues in Asset Division," October 2020
- MCLE Panelist, "Evidence Admissibility in Family Cases, July 2020
- Panelist, "The Shak Decision and Beyond," Boston Bar Association webinar, June 2020
- MCLE Panelist, "Complex Issues in Asset Division in Family Law Cases," October 2019
- Speaker, Massachusetts Bar Association's Annual Family Law Education program, "Massachusetts Appeals Court Update," June 2019
- Speaker, Massachusetts Chapter of Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Dinner, March 2019
- Co-Chair, Massachusetts Bar Association 28th Annual Family Law Conference, November 2018
- MCLE Panelist, "Complex Issues in Spousal Support," October 2018
- MCLE Panelist, "Domestic Abuse in Divorce and Custody Litigation," June 2018
- MCLE Panelist, "'1st Look' at the Impact on Family Law of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," February 2018
- MCLE Panelist, "Proving and Defending Allegations of Domestic Abuse in Family Law Cases," May 2017
- MCLE Panelist, "Top 25 Cases Every Divorce Lawyer Should Know" January 2017
- Panelist, Important Family Law Cases of 2015, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (2016)
- Panelist, Advocating Under the Alimony Reform Act, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (2014 and 2015))
- Speaker, Dividing Employee Benefits in Divorce, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (2007)
- Lecturer, Use of Attorney Liens in Divorce Matters, Boston Bar Association (2011)
- Presenter, Child Custody, Support and Domestic Abuse, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (2006)
- "Dividing Employee Benefits in Divorce and the Occasional Interplay of Federal Legislation," Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (2007)
- "Smoking and its Impact on Child Custody Determinations," Massachusetts Family Law Journal (1997)

## Honors and Awards

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- Named to *Best Lawyers in America* in Family Law (2021-2025)
- Named to *Massachusetts Super Lawyers* for Family Law (2017-2024)
- Named to *Boston* magazine's Top Lawyers 2023
- Member of American Academy for Certified Financial Litigators, 2015-Present

## News & Insights

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- Richard Novitch presents at family law program on division of assets in divorces
- Richard Novitch to present at 27th Annual Family Law Conference
- Richard Novitch comments on SJC's alimony ruling
- Nine Todd & Weld attorneys selected to Boston magazine's Top Lawyers 2023

- Richard Novitch appointed to Mass. Law Review Editorial Board
- Rich Novitch to present at Domestic Relations Financial Summit 2023
- 17 Todd & Weld Attorneys Selected to Boston Magazine's 2022 Top Lawyers
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Rich Novitch to co-chair program assessing best practices in wake of SJC's landmark child support, alimony decision
- Nineteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2023 Best Lawyers in America
- Firm's Probate Court win featured in MLW
- Rich Novitch to present at BBA program on family law appeals
- Gary Todd, Rich Novitch to present at family law financial summit
- Richard Novitch elected to partnership at Todd & Weld LLP
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Sixteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2022 Best Lawyers in America
- Gary Todd, Rich Novitch to present on use of social media evidence in litigation
- Richard Novitch a panelist at Fall Conference of MAGAL
- Richard Novitch to present at webinar on how social media impacts family law disputes
- Rich Novitch a panelist on program addressing complex financial issues in divorce cases
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2020 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Rich Novitch to present on evidentiary issues in family law cases
- Rich Novitch, Julianna Zane to present on landmark SJC family law ruling
- Richard Novitch quoted in NYT article on landmark MA ruling concerning nondisparagement orders in divorce cases
- 31 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Richard Novitch to present at probate law conference
- Rich Novitch quoted in news article on SJC case concerning how courts should handle allegations of domestic abuse in custody disputes
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2018 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Richard Novitch co-chair of 28th Annual MBA Annual Family Law Conference
- Richard Novitch to present on complex issues in spousal support
- 24 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2017 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Rich Novitch to present seminar on domestic abuse issues in divorce cases
- Richard Novitch argues before SJC on constitutional challenge to Alimony Reform Act

## Results

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- Firm obtains substantial award for retroactive child support, plus \$180K in attorneys' fees, in long running divorce modification litigation

- In case of first impression, MA Probate Court judge invalidates voluntary acknowledgment of paternity
- MA Appeals Court rules in favor of client in trust dispute
- MA Probate Court judge invalidates voluntary acknowledgment of paternity
- Firm obtains judgment ending alimony payments as a result of dentist's disability