

Curriculum Vitae

D. Melissa Averett, Esquire

Averett Family Law

NC Board Certified Famil Law Specialist

50101 Governor's Drive, Suite 150
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515
(919) 903-9442 FAX (919) 903-9515

1994 – 1998

Education

North Carolina Central University School of Law Evening Program Durham, North Carolina

- J.D., Magna cum laude, 3.3 GPA

1982 – 1986

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, North Carolina

- B.A. in Dramatic Arts, concentration in English, 3.3 GPA

Professional experience

1998-present

Averett Family Law Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Founder, Managing Attorney

- Represent clients primarily in matters of Family Law and Domestic Violence, including divorce, child custody, child support, equitable distribution and property division, alimony and spousal support, separation agreements, pre-nuptial agreements, simple wills, adoptions, protective orders, and claims for money damages, torts and personal injury, amicus brief on domestic violence issues, including Comstock v. Comstock, November 2015
<https://appellate.nccourts.org/opinions/?c=2&pdf=33077>
- NC Board Certified Family Law Specialist, 2009
- Presenter at N.C. State Bar Continuing Legal education classes as well as for local groups on family law issues, including but not limited to:
 - Chapter 50B and 50C, Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services of Chatham County advocate training, April 2015
 - Obtaining Civil Domestic Violence Protection Orders in North Carolina, Law to the People CLE, January 2015, with Professor Deria Hayes
 - Representing Clients Seeking DVPO's and No Contact orders, NC Central University School of Law CLE, June 2014
 - Child Custody and Domestic Violence, Law to the People CLE, October 2014
 - Child Support- When can you deviate from the Guidelines, NC Justice Academy CLE, September 2011
- Domestic Violence Primer- NC State Bar Paralegal CLE, March 2011

2000 - 2008

Domestic Violence Civil Legal Services, Inc., Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Non-governmental, 501-c-3 non-profit law firm serving sexual assault, stalking and domestic violence victims in civil cases

- Founder, Executive Director and Managing attorney
- Qualified as expert witness in domestic violence cases heard in Orange, Chatham and Durham counties

1987 – 1993

- Conducted monthly seminars on NC family law

**City of Durham Emergency Services
Durham, North Carolina**

911 Telecommunicator

- Dispatched Police, Fire and Rescue

**Community Activities and Professional Associations
(abbreviated list)**

- Chairperson of Domestic Violence Committee for NC State Bar Family Law Council, 2016-present
- Executive Committee member for NC State Bar Family Law Council as of July 1, 2017
- Chatham County, Domestic Violence Services committee, May 2017 to present
- Continuing Education committee member, NC State Bar Family Law Council, June 2017 to present
- Delegate, World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights, Dublin, Ireland, June 2017
- Committee chair, NC Judicial District 15B on spousal support guidelines, 2014- present
- National Crime Victim Bar Association member, 2015 to present
- Chatham County Family Visitation Center advisory committee, 2007 - present
- NC State Bar Committee on Equitable Distribution, 2014 - present
- NC State Bar Committee on Domestic Violence, Family Law Council, 2009-present
- NC State Bar Committee on Legislation Affecting Children, 2004-2012
- Member of N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2000-present
- Orange County D.V. Task Force, and Legal Services committee, 1997- 2004
- Orange County Women's Center Legal Info. Service, 1999-2000, 2004, 2006-2007
- Chatham Co. Fam. Viol. & Rape Crisis Legal Representation committee, 1999-2003
- National Assoc. of Social Workers Oversight committee, 2001-2003
- Victims with Disabilities Task Force, 2000-2003
- Family Violence Prevention Center of Orange County, funding committee, 2000
- Orange County Sheriff's Dept. D.V. Coordinator court advocate, 1994-1998
- Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women, Crisis Line D.V. advocate 1992-1994

In my spare time, I crochet, weave on my floor loom, and try to keep my cats from covering all my yarn and crafts in cat fur, usually unsuccessfully.