



Michael J. Marra, LLB

PRACTICE

Mike is an Associate Lawyer at WEL Partners. He brings thirty seven years of court room and negotiation experience to the firm. Mike provided ongoing advisory and mentoring services to WEL Partners in 2017 and is excited to rejoin the firm on a full-time basis and bring his experience to the estate litigation and elder law field. Mike practices in the following areas:

- Dependent Support Claims
- Spousal Rights and Obligations upon Death
- Property Division and Equalization of Net Family Property upon Death
- Marriage and Cohabitation Agreement Issues
- Collaborative Family Law
- Wills, Estates and Trust Disputes
- Power of Attorney Disputes
- Elder Financial Abuse

EXPERIENCE

Mike operated his own family law practice in the Western GTA for the past twenty years. His practice consisted of court based resolution of financial issues, including equalization and division of property and pensions, spousal support, child support, support enforcement, interjurisdictional support as well as occasional high conflict parenting disputes. From December 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018 he worked for the Department of Justice – Legal Aid Commission in the Northwest Territories primarily providing family law services to the indigenous communities. Mike has been a frequent speaker at Professional Development Seminars and Conferences for the family law bar in Southern Ontario.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Law Society of Ontario

Collaborative Practice Toronto

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

WEL Partners, Toronto

Estate Litigation and Elder Law commencing September 4, 2018

Department of Justice-Legal Aid Commission, Northwest Territories

Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, NT. Family law and child protection representation within a family law clinic from December 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

WEL Partners, Toronto

Counsel to Firm providing advisory and mentoring on family law related issues throughout 2017 to September 30, 2017

Michael J Marra – Family Law

Kitchener/Guelph/Toronto

Sole practitioner; 1996 – November 30, 2017

Representing clients throughout Southern Ontario

- Practice restricted to Family Law;
- Regional practice – Based in Hamilton until 2003;
- Included representation of Family Responsibility Office (FRO) in Halton, Guelph, Kitchener, Cambridge and Welland until 2006;
- Panel member of the Office of the Children's lawyer in Kitchener, Cambridge and Halton from 2002-04

Family Support Plan

Ministry of the Attorney General

Hamilton, ON; September 1994 – October 1996

- Staff counsel at the Hamilton Regional Office until the office was closed due to government restructuring

Turkstra, Mazza Associates/Millar Alexander

Hamilton, ON; March 1989 to September 1994

- Family law practice group with George Czutrin until his appointment to Superior Court in June 1993.

**Support and Custody Enforcement Branch
Ministry of Attorney General**

Hamilton, ON; 1987-1989

- Regional Counsel for Hamilton Centered Region of the newly created SCOE program
- actively involved in the implementation of this new and controversial program on a province wide basis and the Hamilton centered region in particular

Smelko and Marra

Simcoe, Ontario; April 1981 – April 1987

- Associate and Partner in small general practice; Responsible for all civil litigation and family law; Panel member of the Official Guardian's Office for Norfolk 1982-87

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Call to Bar, Law Society of Northwest Territories: November 2017

Call to Bar, Law Society of Upper Canada: April 1981

LLB Osgoode Hall Law School at York University: April 1979

PUBLICATIONS | PRESENTATIONS | MEDIA

- Waterloo Law Association - Annual Lunch & Learn to 2012 on FRO Issues and Support
- Halton Law Association - Annual Family Law Conference in 2006 & 2008 on FRO Issues and Retroactive Child Support
- Hamilton Law Association - Lunch Bucket Series in 2012 and 2013 on FRO Issues and the Support Information Exchange
- 311 Jarvis FRO Practice Panel with Justice Zisman, Alex Finlayson and Shane Foulds, March 7, 2016
- Law Society of Upper Canada:
 - Dealing With FRO - March 2010

- Family Law Summit 2012 - Chaired Panel on FRO Issues with Justice Zisman and FRO Counsel, Shane Foulds
- SIX Minute Family Law Lawyer 2012 - FRO Update
- Family Law Summit 2013 - Child Support Disclosure and Retroactive Child Support with Professor Shelley Kierstead of Osgoode Hall Law School
- Numerous Conferences and Workshops on the Support Information Exchange in 2012-2014, including, the Ontario Collaborative Law Association, Association of Family Mediators, London - Middlesex Law Association, Halton Law Association 2014, National Judges Institute Ottawa May 2014, Northern Ontario Colloquium October 2014, SCJ Judges Workshop, Brampton October 2014