

Monica Mazzei

San Francisco, California
Shareholder

P (415) 227-3629
F (415) 227-0770
mmazzei@buchalter.com



Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Monica Mazzei is a Shareholder in Buchalter's San Francisco office and the chair of the Firm's Family Law group. Monica is a Certified Family Law Specialist representing high net worth clients. She represents clients throughout California, with a concentration in San Francisco and Silicon Valley, as well as Los Angeles.

Monica specializes in dissolution actions involving complicated valuation and financial matters, and complex community property and support issues, including international issues, dissolutions of marriage matters involving hedge funds, private equity, venture capital and privately held businesses. She drafts and negotiates cohabitation agreements, pre-marital and post-marital agreements.

As a mediator for pre-marital agreements, Monica helps to identify the thoughts and concerns of both parties in a non-confrontational setting. Mediation helps clients discuss difficult topics, which allows Monica to create a financial structure that works for both parties.

Monica takes a modern approach to the practice of family law – addressing various needs for her clients related and unrelated to their family law case. Monica has relationships with top professionals such as forensic accountants, mental health professionals, real estate agents, financial advisors and business valuation experts. She also works closely with estate planning attorneys to offer creative solutions for her clients and ensure their agreements reflect their current objectives.

Monica is a frequent lecturer and speaker on family law matters to financial advisors and other professional groups. She is a staunch advocate against domestic abuse in her pro bono work.

Monica is regularly recognized by top industry publications for her work. She has been recognized in the *Best Lawyers of America*, Family Law, in 2024. She has been named a *California Super Lawyer* from 2015-2023 and *Super Lawyers Rising Star* from 2011-2014. She was recognized in the *International Chambers High Net Worth 2017-2020* guide for Family/Matrimonial Law. In 2008, 2011, and 2015 she received the "Outstanding Volunteer Award for Public Service" from the Justice and Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar Association. She has been named one of the "10 Best Attorneys in California" by the *American Institute of Family Law Attorneys*, in 2016 and 2017. In 2014, she was selected as one of the "Top 40 National Trial Lawyers Under 40" by *The National Trial Lawyers*. From 2013-2017 she was selected as one of the Top 40 Family Lawyers Under 40 in California by the American Society of Legal Advocates.

Professional Involvement

- Member, Lawyers of Distinction
- Member, Family Law and the International Law sections of the American Bar Association.
- Member, San Francisco Bar Association.
- Member, Beverly Hills Bar Association Family Law section.

- Member, Marin County Bar Association.
- Member, San Mateo County Bar Association.
- Member, International Society of Family Law.
- Member, National Italian American Bar Association.
- Past Co-Chair, San Francisco Bar Association, Barristers Family Law Section.

Publications

- Interview: Social Impact Heroes: How Attorney Monica Mazzei Is Helping To Stop Domestic Abuse, *Authority Magazine*, June 13, 2020
- Commentary: A Prenup Is the Latest Must-Have for Tech Startup Founders in Love, *Bloomberg News*, October 11, 2019
- Commentary: Trump's Tax Law Pushing People To Divorce Faster To Save Money, *Newsweek*, December 16, 2018
- Commentary: Millennial Millionaires and Their Prenups -- What They Need to Be Thinking About, *Entrepreneur*, November 2, 2018
- Commentary: A Prenup Primer: What Silicon Valley Couples Should Consider, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, January 25, 2018
- Commentary: Here's How to Start That Prenup Conversation, *Bride Magazine*, June 1, 2017
- Commentary: Secrets of the Divorce Lawyers, *Nob Hill Gazette*, May 31, 2017
- Love & Money: What You Need To Know To Protect Your Wealth Before, During and After Marriage, August 1, 2015
- Cohabitation Agreements – “Prenups” for the Non-Married, April 1, 2015
- Commentary: 3 Essential Money Conversations You Should Have Before Getting Married, *Business Insider*, February 14, 2014
- Commentary: Tax Planning for the Divorcing and Newly Divorced, *Reuters*, May 4, 2012

Presentations

- Speaker, "The Art of the Pre-Marital Mediation at the Academy of Professional Mediators Conference," October 13, 2022
- Speaker, "Love and Money-What You Should Know About Divorce and Pre-nups at Morgan Stanley's Women in the Know Series," March 2, 2022
- Host, "A Marriage Roundtable for Women," May 1, 2017
- Speaker, "Pre-Marital Agreements – Why Do Them?," San Francisco International Tax Committee, August 1, 2015
- Speaker, "Issues in High Net Worth Dissolution Cases at CalCPA Conference," November 1, 2013
- Speaker, "Emerging Hot Topics and Trends Affecting Pre and Post Marital Agreements at the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists' Meeting," June 1, 2013
- Speaker, "Advising Your Clients Before, During and After Their Divorce at the Financial Planning Association of San Francisco," February 1, 2013
- Speaker, "Cross Over Issues in Estate Planning and Divorce at the San Francisco Estate Planning Council," May 16, 2012
- Speaker, "Premarital Agreements: Why Do Them?," Breakfast Briefing Series, October 6, 2011
- Speaker, "What You Need to Know About Pre-Nups at Women In Tech," January 1, 2011

Education

Monica earned her J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law and her LL.M. in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University School of Law. She earned her B.A. from Holy Names University, *magna cum laude*. In 2013, Monica completed Harvard University's *Advanced Negotiation Workshop*.

Bar Admissions

- California

Community

- Co-founder and Board Member of Pierce's Pledge.