

Kelly Castor, Esq.

173 Washington Place, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
972 Broad St., 4th Fl, Newark, NJ (by appt only)
Kelly@callCastor.com (201)257-8797

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES & AFFILIATIONS:

- Admitted to practice in the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania since 2008
- Superior Court of New Jersey - Bergen Vicinage Early Settlement Panel (Chair)
- Bergen County Bar Association, Trustee (First black woman in history), By-Laws Committee Co-Chair & JPAC
- Women Lawyers in Bergen, Breast Cancer Event & Diversity Committee
- NJ Haitian American Lawyers Association, Board of Directors
- Space2Create Social Impact Community Development, Board Member
- I Love My Artist Foundation, Board Member
- Princeton University, Title IX Advisor Panelist
- New Jersey State Bar Association, Member
- New Jersey Association of Justice, Member
- Garden State Bar Association, Member
- Association of Black Women Lawyers, Member
- New Jersey Association of Justice, Member

EXPERIENCE:

Castor Law, Hasbrouck Heights & Newark, NJ

Solo Practitioner, August 2022 - present

Small firm handling personal injury, worker's compensation, family law, real estate and estate planning

- Focused on service, professionalism and results.

New York Based Foundation, Brooklyn, NY

Legal Director, June 2020 - Jan 2023

Birthered out of the COVID19 pandemic, this 501(c)(3) organization seeks to provide services (financial, wellness, and legal) for the community of working musical artists.

- Volunteered as a strategic leader, created legal programming for musicians, hosted panel discussions, engaged in relationship building with attorneys, reviewed contracts, and served as one of the legal advisors.

Bergen County Law Firm, Paramus, NJ

Associate Attorney, September 2008 – August 2022

Small firm that handles family, personal injury, worker's compensation, real estate, wills & estates, LL-T, and municipal cases across the State of New Jersey.

- Family Law:
 - o Resolved divorces, from intake to final judgment and/or QDRO.
 - o Handled post-judgment motions, domestic violence trials, child support and custody actions, extraordinary income child support, contested adoption, and contested psychological parent complaints.
- Civil:
 - o Obtained a \$3.5mil jury verdict in Middlesex County before Hon. Gary Wolinetz, JSC - Settled for NJM's policy limits. Plaintiff had prior injuries and was deemed disabled before MVA, no surgery.
 - o Successfully handled hundreds of civil cases from initiation to completion using trial advocacy.
 - o Motor vehicle accidents, slip/trip and falls on ice residential & commercial,

and dram shop/negligence actions against bar owners & security companies.

- Civil Worker's compensation:
 - Filed claim petitions, motions for medical and temporary benefits and reopener applications for petitioners injured at work.
 - Successfully used trial advocacy, including arguing motions and taking testimony, to obtain benefits and permanency awards.
- Wills & Estates:
 - Determined the best options for client, drafted and finalized estate planning documents complete with Will signing ceremony.
 - Probated wills, administered intestate estates, obtained tax waivers and guided executors through the distribution of assets.
- Real Estate/LL-T:
 - Represented clients for purchases and sales of residential property from contract through closing.
 - Represented owners/tenants in eviction and small claims proceedings.
 - Drafted lease agreements and filed registration statements protecting owners
- Researched and prepared pleadings and correspondence.
- Developed discovery strategy and effectively used tools to gather material for potential trial.
- Conducted and defended depositions.
- Billed clients using Timeslips program.
- Jokingly nicknamed "the office negotiator."
- Engaged in brand marketing and networking to develop clientele.
- Closely managed a team of paralegals.

ABA-Approved Paralegal Program, Newark, NJ

Adjunct Professor, Fall 2017 - Spring 2021

Actively engaged college students in a more clinical approach, while teaching the fundamentals of family law, litigation and torts in an ABA approved paralegal program.

- Provided placement for students to intern, which led to full-time positions where I continued to mentor students.

Legal Immigration Services, Newark, NJ

Immigration Legal Intern,

A low-cost immigration assistance program affiliated with --- Charities --- of Newark.

- Prepared immigration files under a supervising attorney.
- Participated in client consultations and meetings and observed immigration hearings.

Clinical Legal Studies Program, Houston, TX

Civil Clinic,

In-house clinic that provided legal services to the indigent in general civil and family matters

- Interviewed and determined if potential clients met indigency requirement.
- Conducted fact investigations and prepared the appropriate pleadings on behalf of clients.

Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex – Donald J. Volkert, PJSC (now ret.), Newark,

NJ Criminal Division Judicial Intern,

- Drafted an opinion for post-conviction relief application.
- Researched cases and statutes manually.
- Observed various trials in criminal, civil and family courts.

Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Houston, TX

Legal Researcher,

Research-based policy advocacy program that provided written materials to the public.

- Worked on the TSU Project, comparing The State of Texas's commitment to Texas Southern University before Sweatt v. Painter to after the Supreme Court ruling.

Essex County Law Firm (now ret. judge) & Assoc., Bloomfield, NJ Law Clerk,
Small general litigation firm

- Reviewed case files and performed legal research.
- Prepared legal memoranda and Pre-Trial Information Exchanges.
- Drafted demands and other correspondence to attorneys and insurance adjusters.

LEGAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

Know Your Rights: Temporary Protected Status w/Third Ward Councilmembers, HALANJ & ABWLNJ, Virtual Moderator, March 24, 2023

Beyond the Buy with Lourdi, Virtual, February 25, 2023

Essex County Surrogate's Office: Community Outreach w/Surrogate Alturrick Kenney, Masjid Imam Ali K. Muslim, Newark, NJ, December 10, 2022

Wealthcare w/Yrlande Simon: Home Ownership, Virtual, August 20, 2022

Fear of Estate Planning: A Mental Health & Legal Perspective w/ Dr. Brianna Gaynor, Jan Thiel, Curacao, August 14, 2022

Soul Jazz Live Festival: Generational Wealth class, Albany, NY, April 2022

AME Zion Church, Asbury Park, NJ, November 2021

I Love My Artist Foundation Masterclass: Preparing for the Future - Financial Literacy & Estate Planning, Virtual, November 25, 2020

I Love My Artist Foundation Masterclass: Entertainment Law Basics, Virtual host October 12, 2020

PLAY THE TAPE: What are the Results of Lust & Sex? Child Support Payments & Custody Battles for Years to Come - Community Discussion, Newark, NJ July 12, 2013

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - 2022:

- Complimentary Soup Joumou for the Community, East Orange, NJ, November 26, 2022
- Thanksgiving Community Giveback, Free holiday meals for the elderly with Councilman Bergson Leneus and others, East Orange, NJ, November 24, 2022
- "I Am Somebody" Youth Mentoring, Shirt donations, East Orange, NJ, May 2022
- Expungement Clinic with The Library of NJ & Councilman Jeffrey Brooks, Rahway, NJ, March 2022
- Teaneck High School Career Day, Teaneck, March 2022

EDUCATION:

The Justice Morris Pashman American Inn of Court, Hackensack, NJ Certificate,

Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX Juris Doctor

- Institute for International and Immigration Law Certificate,
- Board of Advocates (Moot Court Board); Assoc. Chief Justice
- Miss Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International, *Member*

City University of London

International Law Program – London, England

Essex County College, Newark, NJ

Paralegal Certificate 18 of 21 hours completed,

Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts Degrees in History and International Relations, Minor in Latin

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

NJ State Bar Association

- Up to date consistent with PA & NJ bar requirements

Other:

Fluent in conversational French & Haitian Kreyol.