

HEATHER HURST excels at working with families during difficult times. Hurst, a 39-year-old family law attorney, is a partner at Davis Friedman. Her prior experience both in the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County and in the Domestic Violence Division as a Cook County State's Attorney demonstrates Hurst's ability to help and support families during emotionally challenging times.

Attorney Bernadette Rossmore worked with Hurst at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, when both were embarking on their legal careers. She said Hurst had worked for the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel's Office prior to the State's Attorney's Office. "I have witnessed Ms. Hurst conduct hearings and trials, meet with complaining witnesses and negotiate with opposing counsel," Rossmore said. "I admire the qualities and values she represents in her career and in her life experience." Rossmore said a majority of her time with Hurst at the State's Attorney's Office was spent within the Domestic Violence Unit.

"In order to be a successful attorney within the Domestic Violence Unit an attorney has to be both strong and resourceful, yet has to possess empathy and compassion," Rossmore said. "Ms. Hurst fulfilled this need in each and every case I saw her take on."

Fellow attorneys are impressed with Hurst's interpersonal skills.

Paul Cicero, of Cicero & France, worked with Hurst on a substantial, complicated and massive family law case.

Hurst was able to secure a favorable and appropriate joint custody agreement under the most difficult circumstances, Cicero said, adding Hurst has been able to achieve resolutions where no resolution appeared to be possible.

"She has been able to calmly and effectively slice through the extraneous and unproductive emotional outbursts of lawyers and clients to help guide all parties involved towards reasonable resolution of issues," Cicero said.

Scott Colky, of Scott C. Colky & Associates, met Hurst when she was representing a father and Colky was assigned to represent the children in the matter. Colky said it was a contentious and difficult case, which involved a number of emotionally charged issues involving the children. "Heather used her exceptional and interpersonal skills to control and manage a client who appeared to be out of control. Although her client did not conform to social norms and what most people would expect, Heather was able to convince her client of a perspective that allowed him to remain a viable option to be the residential parent," Colky said, adding that Hurst is extremely organized and prepared.

"She is skillful in handling relations with opposing counsel," Colky said. "She is remarkably persuasive with the judges. She appears before and demonstrates a civility and confidence seldom seen in younger attorneys."

Those who have faced off with Hurst have respect for her skills as well.

Jean Conde, of Jean Conde Law, was opposing counsel in a high profile case with significant financial claims the realistic possibility of news and press involvement. "I was impressed with the poise and maturity that Ms. Hurst litigated this case with, while achieving a fair result for her client without any sensationalism and in the best interests of the parties and their child," Conde said. "She is smart, always willing to learn, detail oriented, prepared, timely and diligent. Any client is fortunate to have her representation."

Russell S. Rosenberg, of Rosenberg Wypych LLC, said Hurst is an attorney others can learn from. He said she has a strong presence in the courtroom.

"Ms. Hurst and I recently resolved a very difficult and emotionally challenging case within the Domestic Relations Division. Were it not for her ability to be practical, as well as having a strong empathetic quality, the case would never have been resolved," Rosenberg said. "On our case, there were many instances where most lawyers would rather litigate issues but instead, Ms. Hurst looked for answers and solutions that both our clients could find acceptable. In doing so, they kept their child's best interests at heart and minimized their conflict."

Hurst is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and serves on its Family Law Section Counsel. She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association and the Professional Women's Club of Chicago. She has been named a member of the Leading Lawyers Network.



AGE

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