

**ELAINE M.
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*Sahn Ward
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Elaine M. Colavito is an associate with the law firm of Sahn Ward Coschignano, PLLC in Uniondale. Colavito concentrates her practice in matrimonial and family law, civil litigation and immigration matters.

Over the years, various trends in matrimonial and family law have developed, Colavito said.

"The trend in recent years has been Millennials not getting married," she said. "Given this, I have more family court cases dealing with custody, visitation and child support and fewer matrimonial law and divorce cases."

"Resolving the dissolution of a family for unmarried parties is handled generally on an issue-by-issue basis," she noted. "For example, generally, an unmarried Millennial with a child will have to file for support, custody and visitation in family court and will have to file a proceeding to separate joint property or to dissolve a joint business in another court. At times, there are even more issues to resolve, depending on the circumstances of the case. However, the bottom line is that the issues are typically adjudicated separately, whereas, with married couples, all issues are resolved by the same adjudicator."

"Although the trends change year to year, my advice is basically the same in that, after I explain the law to my clients, I give them practical advice and urge them to make their decisions based on business sense, not emotion."

Prior to joining Sahn Ward Coschignano, Colavito was previously associated with a civil litigation law firm on Long Island.

Colavito is a member of the Suffolk County Bar Association, the Nassau County Bar Association and the Nassau County Women's Bar Association; for the latter group, she presently serves as its president-elect. She currently writes a monthly column for *The Suffolk Lawyer*, entitled "Bench Briefs."

In 2013, Colavito received the Nassau County Women's Bar Association's Bessie Ray Geffner, Esq. Memorial Award for her demonstrated interest in improving the justice system, professionalism of the bar and service to the community at large.

In 2014, she presented "I Want A Divorce! How to Advise Your Clients in Matrimonial Proceedings" before the New York State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section at the NYSBA's "Bridging The Gap" program. Colavito discussed child support under the New York State Domestic Relations Law.

Colavito is recognized as a 2014, 2015 and 2016 Super Lawyers "Rising Star," in the area of Family Law, and is among the 2015 Super Lawyers "Top Women Lawyers in New York."

In 2017, she was named a Trailblazer in Divorce and Trusts and Estates by the *New York Law Journal*. This award honors the "movers and shakers" in the legal industry who have made an impact in the divorce, trusts and estates sector through new types of strategies or innovative court cases.

Colavito earned a juris doctor, magna cum laude, from Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center and a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Sahn Ward Coschignano, PLLC is one of the region's highly regarded and recognized law firms. Its practice areas include zoning and land use planning; real estate law and transactions; litigation and appeals; municipal law and legislative practice; cellular and telecommunications law; environmental, corporate, labor and employment law; tax certiorari and condemnation; matrimonial practice; and estate planning. The firm strives to assist its clients in a wide array of issues, serving them with skill and experience, resourcefulness and responsibility.