

## **Ria P. Rochvarg**

Ria P. Rochvarg, P.A.

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### *Experience*

#### **Private Practice**

*Howard County, Maryland October 1994-present*

- Contract with University of Maryland Medical System, since July 2009 to provide legal representation to the System for guardianship proceedings in circuit courts for Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, and Baltimore Counties.
- Contract with the Department of Human Resources (DHR) since November 1997 to provide legal representation to alleged disabled adults in guardianship hearings in circuit court and at guardianship review board hearings in Carroll, Howard, and Montgomery Counties. Represent clients at Springfield Hospital Center, Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, and at different nursing homes.
- Contract with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) since July 2003 to provide legal representation to individuals with mental retardation in matters involving admission hearings, annual reviews of individual treatment plans, transfer hearings, and release hearings. Successfully represented mentally retarded clients in circuit court litigation. Won Doe v. Sabatini, et al. case filed in Circuit Court for Howard County against DHMH - DHMH was enjoined from transferring Rosewood Center residents to Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center without individual hearings before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Filed Seelenbinder v. Sabatini, et al. case against DHMH – settled and entered into Memorandum of Understanding.
- Contract with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) since July 2005 to provide legal representation to individuals at the Regional Institute for Children & Adolescents. As the LAP, staff members of RPRPA provide intake services daily; file grievances for rights violations; represent individuals before the Office of Disability, Adjudication and Review in Social Security Disability cases; conduct legal case reviews; and conduct informational meetings quarterly.
- Contract with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) since June 2010, to provide legal representation to individuals at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center. As the Legal Assistance Provider (LAP), staff member of RPRPA provide intake services daily; file grievances for rights violations; represent individuals before the Office of Administrative Hearings for forced medication hearings; represent individuals before the Office of Disability, Adjudication and Review in Social Security Disability cases; conduct legal case reviews; and conduct informational meetings quarterly.

- Contracted with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) from July 2004 through June 2010, to provide legal representation to individuals at Springfield Hospital Center. As the Legal Assistance Provider (LAP), staff member of RPRPA provided intake services daily; filed grievances for rights violations; represented individuals before the Office of Administrative Hearings for forced medication hearings; represented individuals before the Office of Disability, Adjudication and Review in Social Security Disability cases; conducted legal case reviews; and conducted informational meetings quarterly.
- Contracted with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) from July 2005 through June 2010, to provide legal representation to individuals at Spring Grove Hospital Center. As the Legal Assistance Provider (LAP), staff members of RPRPA provided intake services daily; filed grievances for rights violations; represented individuals before the Office of Administrative Hearings for forced medication hearings; represented individuals before the Office of Disability, Adjudication and Review in Social Security Disability cases; conducted legal case reviews; and conducted informational meetings quarterly.
- Represent individuals in divorce, custody and child support cases as a collaborative family lawyer.
- Represent individuals in divorce, custody and child support cases before the circuit courts.
- Represent medical professionals in disciplinary cases before professional licensure boards.
- Court-appointed Best Interest Attorney in custody cases.
- Subcontracted with the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) from 1999 through 2005 to provide free family law advice to pro se litigants through the Family Law Assistance Program located at the Circuit Court for Howard County.

**Staff Attorney - Legal Aid Bureau, Mental Disabilities Unit**

Baltimore, Maryland April 1993 - October 1994

Represented individuals with mental retardation in matters involving judicial release, admission hearings, and other areas of mental disability law in federal and state courts, in administrative hearings, and in state residential centers.

**Law Clerk - Whiteford, Taylor & Preston**

Baltimore, Maryland October 1992 - April 1993

Legal research and discovery analysis for securities and commercial litigation department.

**Education**     **J.D., University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland 1992**  
• Civil Law Clinic: Represented indigent clients in housing matters.

**B.A., Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, 1989**

**Awards**     **Martindale-Hubbell:**

- AV Bar Register of Preeminent Women’s Lawyers (2012)
- Awarded a Rating of AV Preeminent: **“Highest Possible Rating in Both Legal Ability and Ethical Standards”** (2011-Present)

**Thompson-Reuters**

- Maryland **“Super Lawyer”** (2011-2012)

**The Arc of Maryland**

- **“Outstanding Advocate of the Year”** (May, 2006)

**Presenter**     Maryland State Bar Association “Practical Approaches to Guardianship,” (May 18, 2012)

St. Mary’s County Department of Aging and Human Services, “Long Term Care Awareness” (Certificate Received)(March 3, 2012)

Montgomery County Division on Aging, “Elder Abuse Panel” (June 15, 2011)

Bar Association of Montgomery County “Representing the Mentally Challenged Client” (January 27, 2011)

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene-Resident Grievance System, “Representing patients for Clinical Review Panel Proceedings” (April 28, 2010)

Howard County Bar Association, “Program on Family Law” (May 19, 2009)

Howard County Family Law Committee, “Family Law Panel Meeting,” spoke on role of a Best Interest Attorney, (May, 2008 and May, 2009)

University of Baltimore Lecturer on Guardianship law at the University of Baltimore in a class entitled, “Estate and Family Planning” (2008-Present)

**Associations**     International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (Member)  
National Guardianship Association (Member)  
Maryland State Bar Association (Member)  
Women’s Bar Association (Past-President of Howard County Chapter)  
Women’s Law Center (Member)  
James MacGill Inns of Court (Member)  
Howard County Bar Association (Member)  
Howard County Collaborative Practice Group (Member)

**Committees** Guardianship Workgroup of the Child Custody Subcommittee (Co-Chair, May 2012-Present)

Howard County “Bench Bar Committee” (February 29, 2012- Present)

Maryland State Bar Association, “Mentoring Program” (November 1, 2011-Present)

Legislative Workgroup, 2011 Joint Chairman’s Report, Page 90, “Report of the Workgroup on Hospitalized Adult Disabled Persons-Appointment of a Temporary Limited Guardian (Summer and Fall 2011)

Administrative Office of the Courts “Child Custody Subcommittee” (2003-Present)

**Certifications** State of Maryland Small Business Reserve Program (October 24, 2009-Present);  
State of Maryland Certified Minority Business Owner (May 2002 – Present);  
Member of Good Standing of the Bar of Maryland (December 17, 1992-Present);

**Pro Bono** Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (January 1995 - 2005)

- Represented individuals in divorce, separation, custody, child support and paternity cases

Women’s Law Center

- Volunteer, Family Law Hotline (May 1994 – May 2003)
- Volunteer, Legal Forms Helpline (November 1995 - November 1997)

Athelas Institute

- Member, Human Rights Committee (April 1995 - August 1999)

**Press Releases** Series of articles in the Baltimore Sun covering the Doe v. Sabatini, et al Case, Seelenbinder v. Sabatini, et al. case, and proposed transfer of Rosewood residents (October 2003 – May 2005)

Article and picture of Ria Rochvarg featured in the Baltimore Sun, Howard County Section, Wednesday, March 8, 2000, titled “Helping people find lawyers for less.” Article written about the free family law advice Ms. Rochvarg gives in the Circuit Court for Howard County through the MVLS Family Law Assistance Program.

Article and picture of Ria Rochvarg in Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, 1999 Annual Report. Article written about the pro bono and reduced fee work Ms. Rochvarg has been doing for MVLS since January 1995.

Article featured in the Baltimore Sun, Howard County Section, Sunday, May 2, 1999, titled, “Local middle school pupils get a female point of view on law, legal

profession.” Article written about the Women’s Bar Association Annual Law Day Program of which Ms. Rochvarg has been the Chairperson since 1995.

***Publications*** *Vallario, Fundamentals of Estate Planning, Chapter 13 entitled “Guardianship”* authored by Ria Rochvarg

Legal Rights in Marriage and Divorce in Maryland (Women’s Law Center publication -- 2001) (co-author)

Special Education: Protecting the Rights of Disabled Children, The Columbia Business Monthly, November 1996 (co-author)

The Wide Scope of Disability Law, The Columbia Business Monthly, November 1996 (co-author)

The Americans with Disabilities Act: An Overview, The Advocate, The Young Lawyers Section of the Maryland State Bar Association, Winter 1994 (co-author)

***CLE*** Administrative Office of the Courts, “Collaborative Law Training” (Certificate Received March 7-9, 2012)

National Consumer Law Center, “Guardian Accountability and Monitoring” (December 7, 2011)

Department of Health Mental Hygiene, “Roundtable on Medically Ineffective Treatment” (September 28, 2011)

Baltimore Mediation, “Mediation Training (8 Hours)” (Certificate Received September 22, 2011)

Department of Human Resources, “Stakeholder’s Meetings” (June 23, 2011 and June 22, 2012)

Howard County Bar Association, “Representing Children in Contested Custody Matters” (May 27, 2011)

Howard County Family Law Committee, “Family Law Issues” (05/30/2010)

Howard County Bar Association, “Representing Children in Contested Custody Cases” (May 27, 2010)

Maryland State Bar Association , “Health Law Section” (May 5, 2010)

Administrative Office of the Courts, “Family Mediator Assessment and Advanced Practice” (July 2, 2009)

Carroll County Collaborative Practice Group, “Collaborative Law 16 hour training” (February 8-9, 2007)

Association for Conflict Resolution Sixth Annual Conference, “Celebrating Our Past, Shaping the Future” (October 25-28, 2006)

Circuit Court for Howard County, “Guardian ad Litem Training” (September 2005)

Circuit Court for Howard County, “Facilitation Training (8 hours)” (April 2005)

Circuit Court for Howard County, “CINA/TPR Mediation Training (30 hours)” (September 2004)

AFCC 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, “Best Interests Revisited: Challenging Our Assumptions” (May 2004)

MICPEL, “Guardianships” (December 2003)

University of Maryland School of Law, “Custody Decision-Making in Maryland: Practice, Principles and Process” (December 2003)

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, “Eighth Annual Symposium on Family Law” (November 2003)

MICPEL, “Family Practice Update” (August 2003)

MICPEL, “Family Practice Update” (August 2002)

Maryland State Bar Association, “Annual Conference” (June 2001)

Community Services Administration, Maryland Legal Services Program, “*2000 Adult Guardianship Training Session*” (September 2000)

MICPEL, “*40 Hour Skills Based Workshop in Mediation Training*” (Certificate received September 2000)

MICPEL, “*20 Hour Skills Based Workshop in Domestic Mediation: Custody and Visitation*” (Certificate received October 2000)

MICPEL, “*20 Hour Skills Based Workshop in Domestic Mediation: Property and Financial Issues*” (Certificate received November 2000)

MICPEL, Hot Tips in Family Law (February 2000)