

Avery Camerlingo Kill, LLC

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Age: 39

Law School: DePaul University College of Law

Practice Area: Family Law



Pepi Camerlingo

Pepi Camerlingo is not afraid of challenges. It is why this lawyer, before reaching even her 32nd birthday, left a successful practice to form her own firm with two other partners.

Today, Camerlingo and the firm she helped found, Chicago's AVERY CAMERLINGO KILL, LLC, are both thriving. Both Camerlingo's fellow attorneys and her many clients have come to trust AVERY CAMERLINGO KILL as one of the city's top law firms dealing with family law, child-support cases and adoption law.

This success, and her ability to quickly build a successful independent practice, comes as little surprise to those who have worked with Camerlingo.

"Ms. Camerlingo does an outstanding job representing her clients in the family law arena," said Margaret Gisch, with the Chicago law firm of Golan & Christie, LLP. "She handles strategic issues well and is responsive and dedicated to her client's needs and goals. It is obvious that Ms. Camerlingo maintains the highest level of integrity and professionalism. She truly cares about her clients and the well-being of their families."

Camerlingo's peers say that few attorneys come to the courtroom more prepared to represent their clients. They cite the long hours Camerlingo spends researching her cases, the dedication she has to her

clients, her calming demeanor and her knowledge of the law all as reasons for her success.

They also point to the fact that Camerlingo is a licensed Certified Public Accountant. This gives her a firm grasp of complex financial matters, a key trait shared by the city's top matrimonial lawyers. It also gives her clients an edge in the courtroom.

Camerlingo has also mastered the art of leading her clients toward the best

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solutions. Often this means settling a case before it reaches a verdict.

"She has both the ability to be a tough litigator and the intelligence and skills to reach a settlement in most cases," said Helaine Leslie Berger, an associate judge with the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Camerlingo's reputation has spread. Chicago Magazine in 2008 selected

her as an Illinois Rising Star in family law. She was one of 23 Illinois family law practitioners to earn this honor out of a field of more than 47,000 attorneys across the state.

Those who have seen Camerlingo in the courtroom say that she has mastered the ability to fight hard for her clients' best interests without alienating her opponents.

"Family law often brings out the worst in lawyers, and Ms. Camerlingo has always managed to maintain civility," said James Pritikin, with the Chicago law office of Nadler, Pritikin & Mirabelli, LLC. "Ms. Camerlingo is well-versed in the current state of the law. She argues her cases persuasively, relying on her knowledge of the facts and the law. She has a distinct advantage over most lawyers in family law as she is also a Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Camerlingo has shared that expertise with opposing attorneys often, resulting in fair settlements for both sides."

In addition to her work in the courtroom, Camerlingo finds time to volunteer. She serves at Metro Achievement Center for Girls as a tutor, and is also active in several bar associations. *