# Kellie L. Sanders

SHAREHOLDER

508-880-6677

## Services

### Conservatorship & Guardianship

- Appointment of Guardians and Conservators For Adults
- Appointment of Guardians and Conservators For Minors
- Guardianship and Conservatorship Litigation
- Removal of Guardians and Conservators

### Criminal Defense

- Drug Charges
- Juvenile Crimes
- Operating Under the Influence (OUI)
- Probation Violations
- Domestic Violence Defense

### Family Law

- Domestic Violence & Restraining Orders
- Alimony
- Alimony Modification
- Child Custody & Visitation
- Child Support
- Child Support Modification
- Divorce
- Prenuptial Agreements

## Overview

Kellie L. Sanders is a Partner and Shareholder at Cohen Cleary, PC and a senior trial attorney whose practice is centered on healthcare law and the representation of healthcare providers and facilities throughout Massachusetts with the firm representing healthcare clients throughout Massachusetts. Attorney Sanders also focuses her practice on serving as a fiduciary, including Guardian, Conservator, Trustee, and Personal Representatives. Her practice focuses on assisting incapacitated individuals and their families to manage their personal care, medical decisions, overseeing finances and assets, and protecting their well-being and long-term interests.

Her healthcare and fiduciary practice is grounded in a practical understanding of the operational, regulatory, and financial pressures facing providers and families. Clients rely on her attention to detail, and her ability to navigate the complex and often changing landscape of the Probate and Family Court.

In addition to her healthcare and fiduciary focused work, Kellie maintains a broad probate and civil litigation, and criminal law practice. Over the course of her career, she has handled, overseen, and resolved hundreds of matters for individuals, families, and institutional clients through negotiations as well as litigation and trial. Kellie has extensive trial experience in both criminal defense and probate matters including having tried contested Guardianship and Conservatorship disputes, divorce, custody, and child support matters. She is skilled in jury selection, evidentiary and procedural motions, witness preparation, and cross examination and presenting persuasive opening and closing arguments, consistently advocating for client's interests and achieving favorable outcomes through thorough case preparation and strategic courtroom advocacy.

As a partner at Cohen Cleary, Kellie plays a central role in the firm's leadership and strategic direction while remaining actively engaged in client representation. She is invested in overseeing practice development and management operational initiatives to drive client service and

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Civil Litigation
- Restraining Orders (Harassment Prevention)
- Injunctive Relief and Emergency Motions
- Tort Claims and Personal Liability Defense

Estate Planning
- Advance Directives
- Asset Protection
- Estate Litigation
- Fiduciary Services
- Health Care Proxy
- Last Will & Testament
- Power of Attorney
- Special Needs Trust
- Trusts

Healthcare & Nursing Home Law
- Guardianship (For Healthcare Facilities)
- Conservatorship (For Healthcare Facilities)

Medicaid and Medicare
- Medicaid/Medicare Applications

Probate, Trust & Estate Administration
- Probate With a Will
- Probate Without a Will
- Probate and Estate Law Mediation
- Estate Administration
- Estate and Trust Litigation
- Trust Administration

## Bar Admissions

Massachusetts

United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

## Education

**Suffolk University Law School**
*Juris Doctor, Cum Laude*
- John E. Fenton Jr. Award for Public Service
- Best in Oral Advocacy
- Marshall Brennan Constitutional Law Fellow

**University of Wisconsin,**

growth. Kellie is committed to developing younger lawyers through mentorship, hands-on training, and creating opportunities for early responsibility and client contact, fostering the next generation of ethical, confident and effective advocates.

## Experience

Kellie's experience includes representation of clients in:

- Serving as Guardian, Conservator, Trustee, and Personal Representative for incapacitated individuals and families navigating complex personal and financial matters
- Representing hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in long term care matters including fiduciary proceedings and medication compliance
- Representing Fiduciaries, including Conservators, Guardians, and Personal Representatives in fulfilling their accounting obligations to the Probate Court, obtaining licenses to sell real estates, and expanding their authority as needed
- Probate and estate litigation including fiduciary conflicts and accounting disputes
- Criminal Defense including jury trial experience
- Civil litigation for individuals, in particular civil sexual assault recovery

### Publications

- Co-author of Nature and Utilization of Civil Commitment for Substance Abuse in the United States: J. Am. Acad. Psychiatric Law, Vol. 43, Iss. 3 (2015).

### Talks

- Selected by the American Bar Association to serve as a Moderator and Panelist for a webinar entitled: *Civil Commitment: A Way To Address America's Opioid Crisis?*
- Selected as a Speaker by the *Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators* for their Spring Conference 2025 at Gillette Stadium.
- Invited to speak by senior centers, assisted living facilities, and skilled nursing facilities to educate staff and families on the importance of planning for medical care and incapacity and estate planning.

## Awards & Honors

- Based on peer recognition and professional achievement, Kellie has been selected as a Rising Star Super Lawyer, which is an honor presented to less than 2.5% of attorneys.
- In 2024 Kellie was awarded the Pat Foley Advocacy Award by Old Colony Elder Services for her recognition of selfless dedication to helping elders in the community.
- Kellie was a Marshall Brennan Constitutional Law Fellow while at Suffolk University where she taught constitutional law and moot court to local high school students.
- In 2012 Kellie was the prestigious and competitive John E. Fenton Award for Public Service at Suffolk University Law School for her dedication to serving her community.

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**Madison**
*Bachelor of Arts, Political Science*
- Commencement Speaker

## Associations

- Member of the Massachusetts Bar Association, Plymouth County Bar Association, Bristol County Bar Association
- Member of the Massachusetts Senior Care Association
- Served her country and community as a member of the Teach for America AmeriCorps program where she taught high school in an underserved high school in North Carolina.

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