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PARTNER Profile

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## by BILL DONAHUE | photo by JODY ROBINSON

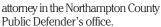
"Incredibly determined." "Professional, reliable, and empathetic." "Without a doubt the best attorney anyone could ask for." Scroll through the online reviews of attorney Alexandria Crouthamel and a theme

emerges: a fierce yet compassionate fighter who is deeply committed to protecting clients' rights and interests in high-stakes, high-emotion cases.

"Our practice is rooted in customer service," says Alexandria Crouthamel, the founder and owner of Crouthamel Law Offices, an all-female firm based in Bethlehem, with a second office in Lehigh County. "I'm a single attorney, but I have four people under me, and we're all devoted to answering clients' questions in a

timely manner and moving their cases forward. If it matters to you, it matters to us."

Crouthamel roots her legal practice in criminal law and family law. While she enjoys both aspects of her practice, she has a particular passion for helping individuals who face criminal charges. Her interest in criminal defense dates back to her days studying at Alvernia University, where she majored in forensic science and minored in criminal justice. The opportunity to intern for Judge F.P. Kimberly McFadden changed her life, in part because she got the chance to see how a courtroom operated before being a lawyer. She later and still works as an assistant



"I enjoy digging into the facts of the case, and I like to find legal loopholes," she says. "Some cases are more rewarding than others, but if I can keep someone out of jail or get charges dismissed, that's going to have a dramatic effect on their life."

Young, ambitious, and aggressive, Crouthamel practices primarily in Lehigh and Northampton counties, though she also handles cases in neighboring Carbon and Bucks counties, and as far away as York County. Since founding her firm, she has earned a reputation as someone who goes above and beyond for her clients and never backs down from a challenge. Crouthamel strives to build a trustbased relationship with each client, and then advocates for them "with passion and perseverance," all while being direct.

"I don't sugarcoat anything,"

she says. "If we're going to lose, I'm going to tell you that to your face. Whether it's a divorce or a criminal matter, my clients are dealing with serious issues. I'm not doing anyone any favors by telling them something they want to hear rather than what they need to hear.

"Nobody calls my office happy," she continues. "Either they need or want to get divorced, are involved in a custody proceeding, need a PFA (protection from abuse order), or require a strong defense for an alleged crime. I have compassion for people, mixed with legal knowledge, which creates a plan for a case."

It's not just clients who have taken notice. In the past year, Crouthamel's dedication, achievements, and leadership in the field of legal service earned her a place in Marquis Who's Who Top Lawyers, and she also received the honor of being named one of *Lehigh Valley Style's* "Most Influential Women." In addition, she was interviewed by a documentarian and a prominent podcast about high-profile cases throughout the Lehigh Valley, specifically regarding her work in private cases involving children and youth.

Crouthamel maintains a busy life apart from her legal practice. She enjoys time at home with her husband and a menagerie of animals— 10 goats, eight dogs, four turtles, and two lizards—and cherishes every moment she spends with her grandmother in Bethlehem. She also volunteers her time and talents to venerable organizations such as Stephen's

Place, which is a halfway house in Bethlehem.

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, Crouthamel has ambitious plans. Personally, she and her husband intend to start a family and purchase a farm. Professionally, she expects to grow her practice by adding associate attorneys who specialize in criminal law and family law; she also wants to expand into other areas of specialty, such as personal injury and contract litigation. "There's no way I could have known that this is

where my life would lead me," she says. "I've always been a workhorse, but I never imagined I would be running a successful all-female law firm of my own. It's an exciting time, and I'm leaning into it."

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