

## Spotlight on Gravel & Shea's Female Attorneys

Gravel & Shea is committed to diversity and equality — both in our workplace and in the community as a whole. Since opening our doors in 1967 with two shareholders, we've grown our firm to 26 attorneys. Almost half are women.

Our commitment doesn't end at the doors of our office. We've been proud supporters of The Vermont Women's Fund for over 15 years, and in 2018, we provided financial or pro bono support to organizations like Mercy Connections and Steps to End Domestic Violence.

### Shareholders



Jeanne C. Blackmore

[Jeanne Blackmore](#) joined the firm in 2009 after practicing for over ten years in Ernst & Young's National Office tax practice. At Gravel & Shea, Jeanne focuses her practice on tax and estate planning, probate and trust administration, and general business taxation. Jeanne has also authored a children's book (How Does Sleep Come?), published by Sourcebooks, Inc. in 2012, and is a founding member of the all-women group that started the Persist5K race, an annual event inspired by the energy of the Women's March. Planning for the third annual [Persist5K](#) is now underway.



Michelle N. Farkas

[Michelle Farkas](#) joined Gravel & Shea in 1999 after practicing at Goodwin Procter in Boston. At Gravel & Shea, Michelle focuses on complex commercial real estate transactions, representing developers and non-institutional investors in real estate acquisition, development, financing, zoning and land use matters. As hiring partner over the past five years, Michelle has encouraged diversity at the firm. Most recently, Michelle helped draft proposed legislation to create an Equal Rights Amendment, currently before the Vermont Legislature, for the State of Vermont.



Heather Rider Hammond

[Heather Hammond](#) joined Gravel & Shea as an associate in 2001 after graduating from Vermont Law School. While she has substantial experience litigating across a broad spectrum of practice areas, she frequently represents the firm's corporate clients in all aspects of the employment relationship. Her services range from the defense of employment-related claims in legal and administrative proceedings to counseling management on compliance issues and best practices.



Navah C. Spero

[Navah Spero](#) joined Gravel & Shea as a litigation associate in 2011, after completing a clerkship with the Honorable John M. Campbell of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Her practice focuses on all aspects of litigation in state and federal court.

### **Special Counsel**



Cassandra LaRae-Perez

[Cassandra LaRae-Perez](#) joined the Gravel & Shea corporate team in 2018 after practicing with another prominent Vermont law firm for nearly 14 years. She applies her wealth of experience in litigation, compliance and regulatory work to her Food & Beverage Law practice dedicated to New England's food and beverage producers. She also maintains and prosecutes trademarks for the firm's clients, and she is active in the developing blockchain industry as it is applied to the food and beverage supply chains. Cassandra is the Secretary of the Vermont Advisory Commission of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and she has provided pro bono legal services to persecuted individuals seeking asylum in the United States, many of whom have since become American citizens.



Erin M. Moore

After practicing with two prominent Atlanta law firms for nearly 13 years, [Erin Moore](#) joined Gravel & Shea in 2018. Erin focuses her practice in the areas of banking, finance, securities, real estate, significant tort and class action defense. Erin has represented clients in all phases of state and federal litigation, including preliminary injunction proceedings, dispositive motion practice, electronic discovery, trial, arbitration, mediation and appeal.



Amanda Hemley Paulino

[Amanda Hemley Paulino](#) practices in all areas of litigation, with an emphasis on family law and criminal defense. Amanda is a former prosecutor who served as an Assistant State Attorney in Miami, representing the State of Florida in more than twenty-five jury trials and dozens of bench trials. Amanda joined Gravel & Shea in 2013, where she handles family law, criminal defense, and plaintiff's matters.

## Associates



Hillary A. Borcharding

[Hillary Borcharding](#) is an associate in the firm's litigation department. Her practice focuses on all aspects of litigation in federal and state court. Prior to joining Gravel & Shea in 2018, Hillary practiced in the litigation section of a large law firm in Boston. She volunteers her time with Steps to End Domestic Violence, providing pro bono legal services to women and men seeking relief from domestic abuse.



Catherine A. Burke

[Catherine Burke](#) is an associate in the firm's corporate department. Before joining Gravel & Shea in 2018, Catherine provided tax consulting services through a large accounting firm, including assisting clients during IRS audits. She also litigated on behalf of indigent civil clients and prosecuted misdemeanors.



Livia K. DeMarchis

[Livia DeMarchis](#) joined Gravel & Shea as an associate in 2015. Her practice focuses on tax and estate planning, probate and trust administration. Before joining the firm, Livia completed a clerkship with the Honorable John Dooley at the Vermont Supreme Court and practiced for several years with a large law firm in Boston. Prior to law school, Livia completed a Masters in Environmental Management and was a member of the Burlington, Vermont Planning Commission. Livia is fluent in Italian and is the proud mother of two energetic little boys.



Celeste E. Laramie

[Celeste Laramie](#) is an associate in the firm's litigation department. Prior to joining Gravel & Shea in 2017, Celeste was a staff attorney for the Committee for Public Counsel Services' Public Defender Division in Worcester, Massachusetts. During her time there, she represented hundreds of indigent individuals charged with crimes ranging from simple misdemeanors to serious felonies. Celeste does pro bono work with the legal clinic at Steps Against Domestic Violence.