



## MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILIES PRACTICING LAW

BY KATHERINE JAMES & CONTRIBUTORS NANCY ADEL, JASON A. POLLACK, BLAKE C. ERSKINE AND BLAKE C. ERSKINE, JUNIOR

It is awe inspiring to us to work both in law firms where parents practice the law with children, and with parents whose children practice the law and vice versa. We are proud of our son, Jordan, who is an attorney – and love how much we have in common with him – but since we are litigation consultants and he is an attorney it is quite clear to all three of us that it is “not the same thing” these families share.

~ **Katherine & Alan**



**Nancy Adel  
Adel & Pollack**

Although my father was a lawyer back in Buffalo, NY, I did not have the privilege of practicing with him, so I am especially thrilled that my son gets to practice with his father – and mother, as well.

It is a treat of the sweetest kind to just get to bump into him in the hall or walk into the next office to find out what the lunch plans are. No Jewish mother jokes here – I definitely don't have to sit in the dark and wait for his phone calls! A still sweeter treat is collaborating to navigate the increasingly treacherous waters of representing plaintiffs in injury and employment cases.

Although Jason has been a lawyer for 18 years, against Barry's and my 38, the sharing of ideas and learning is more than mutual – more a multidimensional superhighway than a 2 way street. Is it worth filing a motion to compel? Should we include a cause of action for punitive damages? His questions and answers are challenging and creative.

But by far the best treat of all is to sit back in my corner and watch father and son put their heads together. Not that those heads never bump, it's just that they always interact with deep attention, love, respect and sometimes genius. From generation to generation – it just keeps getting better!



**Jason A. Pollack**  
**Law Offices of Jason A. Pollack**

We have always had separate practices so I have been "on my own" from the get go, but we started sharing office space and staff in 2000. My parents keep threatening to retire but they are working pretty hard.

It's great practicing with my parents because there is no one I trust more to give me good advice so it's such a treasure to have them here.

Also, there is a separate dynamic at the office that's different than at home or on vacation or other places, so we all get to be in our professional element and it's fun to be able to share that.

Because we have our own practices I think we avoid a lot of the downside of being in a family business, but at the end, I think it makes us all better at what we do.



**Blake C. Erskine**  
**Erskine & McMahon, LLP**

Although we are in different firms in different cities I value those times when Blake Junior and I work together on cases. It seems to happen all too infrequently these days which makes me appreciate it all the more when it does. I still remember us attending ACT of Communication exercises together and his relating his experience of being unjustly accused of possession of weed as a high school student. Good, proud memories and you and Alan are in them!



**Blake C. Erskine, Junior**  
**Erskine & Blackburn, LLP**

I am so blessed that God answered my prayers and blessed me to be a lawyer like my father (who along with my mom) are my greatest fans who support me no matter what.

My dad let me handle an appeal for him in 1994 and it was so fulfilling to sit at the counsel table with him and argue the case. Afterwards, he told me that every time it was time to respond to the Judges' questions, I would respond with exactly what he

was thinking. It was memorable moment for me.

It is a blessing to know that I can always go to my Dad for help with my work and know he is ALWAYS looking out for my best, just like my Heavenly Father. It is also a blessing to receive his wisdom, counsel, and suggestions on how I approach cases and know that he has been there before which gives us a special bond since we serve in the same field.