MICHELE ZAVOS

Michele Zavos has over 36 years of experience as an attorney in the Washington metropolitan area. She is a Partner in the firm of Zavos Juncker Law Group, PLLC, and represents clients in all areas of family law. Michele concentrates her practice on adoption, parenting, assisted reproductive technology, estate planning, collaborative law, and probate matters. Her practice is particularly focused on developing legal protections for families, including families headed by same-sex couples. She pioneered second-parent adoption in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

She was counsel to Jessica Port in the landmark case, *Port v. Cowan*, which established that Maryland must recognize marriages between same-sex couples that were validly entered into in another jurisdiction. She was instrumental in the passage of a divorce law in the District of Columbia prior to nation-wide marriage equality which allows nonresidents who married in the District to divorce in the District if their home states would not allow them to divorce, and the passage of an amendment to the laws of the District of Columbia which provides jurisdiction for an adoption based on a child’s birth in the District. That law also passed and became effective in March 2013. She was also instrumental in the case of *Fisher-Davenport v. Bowser*, where the Virginia Supreme Court required the Commonwealth of Virginia to list two same-sex parents on birth certificates.

Michele has successfully represented clients in over 1000 adoptions in Maryland and the District of Columbia, and has worked with thousands of clients in her career. She is an active member of the Bars of Maryland and the District of Columbia, and received her J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 1979, and her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1974.