

# Five Steps To Navigate Networking as a New Mom

By Christina Bezas

Your life changes forever when you bring a baby into this world. As a new mom and young lawyer, I can say from experience that returning to the office after maternity leave is an adjustment.

Being fully committed to both your legal career and your new family is a challenge that requires organization, discipline, and daily action. Committing to daily action ignites passion and allows working moms to find balance and strive toward achieving both a successful legal practice and a rewarding family life.

Every lawyer knows that long-term career success depends largely on networking and establishing meaningful relationships. My desire to both succeed as a young lawyer and provide for my family has driven me to evolve as a lawyer-mom and become the most efficient form of myself. The days of after-work cocktails and evening networking dinners have been exchanged for suppers with my family. Instead, I have found other ways to develop lasting professional relationships and, most importantly, I have committed myself to taking daily steps towards achieving that goal.

The following five networking steps will empower busy new moms.

## 1. Write out a plan of action.

Develop a written plan of action to expand your professional network, set realistic milestone goals, and hold yourself accountable.

## 2. Join your local chamber of commerce.

Connect with individuals in your community by joining your local chamber of commerce. Becoming involved in your local chamber increases your visibility in the community, expands your professional network, and increases your networking opportunities.

## 3. Become involved in a charitable organization.

Become involved in a charitable organization that you are passionate about. By volunteering some of your time with a nonprofit organization you will not only contribute to something meaningful, but you will also meet other passionate business people.

## 4. Join a professional networking group.

Joining a professional networking group can be a great source of collaboration and a way of developing lasting professional contacts.



## 5. Write an article

Use your writing skills to discuss an issue or topic of interest and get your name out there!

We must commit to taking one small step each day to expand our social networks to build momentum toward long-term success in our legal practices while simultaneously cherishing each moment of motherhood.



As an associate in Rivkin Radler LLP's compliance, investigations and white collar and insurance fraud practice groups, **Christina Bezas** prosecutes complex civil lawsuits under the federal racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations (RICO) Act, including affirmative actions to recover insurer claim payments to physicians, medical clinics, attorneys, public adjusters and others involved in complex,

large-scale insurance fraud schemes. Prior to joining Rivkin Radler, she served as an assistant district attorney for 4 ½ years in the Queens County District Attorney's Office. As an assistant district attorney in the trial division, Bezas prosecuted and investigated a wide array of felony cases, including attempted murder, kidnapping, burglary, gun possession, robbery, and theft-related offenses, developed strong litigation skills and gained invaluable courtroom experience serving as lead counsel in felony trials.