

*Sarah E. C. Malia, MS, JD (BPR# 025535)*

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**Skills Profile**

Experienced higher education instructor in family dynamics and presenter for elder and family law trainings and public speaking engagements. Legal training and practice related to elder law, Medicaid and VA public benefits planning, conservatorships, probate, estates and wills, collaborative law, and guardian *ad litem* work in Chancery and Juvenile Courts. Skilled in life care planning and managing estates as a fiduciary, investigating and analyzing related issues and problem solving. Experienced in managing personal affairs and healthcare decisions for elderly or disabled persons. Solid background in research, writing, mediation, collaboration, negotiation, active listening, and rapport building.

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**Experience**

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN** 2011-Present

***Child and Family Studies (CFS) Instructor***

Introduction to family studies dynamics (CFS 220: general education sociology/psychology survey course – up to 50 students per term)

**Sarah E. C. Malia, Counselor at Law, Knoxville, TN**

***Sole Practitioner***

Primary areas of legal practice:

- Elder law; conservatorships; estate planning; probate
- Court appointments as fiduciary or guardian *ad litem*
- Alternative dispute resolution: Mediation and collaborative law

2007-Present

**Elder Law of East Tennessee, Knoxville, TN**

***Associate***

Life care planning (care coordination concerns drives legal and financial planning), public benefits planning, estate planning, estate administrations, and conservatorships

2013-2016

**Anne McKinney, PC, Knoxville, TN**

***Associate (part-time)***

Assisted with estate planning and administration cases, special projects

2007-2008

**Burroughs, Collins and Jabaley, PLC, Knoxville, TN**

***Associate***

Primary areas of legal practice: Estate planning and administration, business and corporate law

2006-2007

**University of Missouri, Columbia, MO**

***Principal Investigator – Master's Thesis***

Project title: *Negotiating the Legal Divorce Process: Mothers' Perceptions and Experiences* (conducted qualitative research study, utilized grounded theory methodology)

2004-2005

**University of Missouri (Mizzou), Columbia, MO**

***Legal Internships and Clinics***

Ann Barker, Esq., Dept. Children's Services (East Tenn; Summer 2004); Mizzou Law Criminal Clinic (Spr 2004); Mizzou Law Mediation Clinic (Fall 2003); Boston Law Collaborative (Boston, MA; Summer 2003); and UBS PaineWebber Legal Dept. (Weehawken, NJ; Summer 2002)

2002-2004

**Community Activities & Interests**

ETHRA's Public Guardianship Program; O'Connor Center Policy Board of Directors; East Tennessee Collaborative Alliance; United Way Education C Investment Committee; Tai Chi for Health Institute International Governing Board; legal education presentations (various venues, topics); Legal Aid of East Tennessee; Community Mediation Center; Medic Clinic (platelet donations); Head Start Policy Council substitute; Mizzou Rollins Society (public service honoree); Tai Chi and Qigong

**Education**

***J.D., School of Law, University of Missouri, Columbia***

2001-2005

***M.S., Family Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia***

2000-2005

***B.S., Family Studies and The University Honors Program, Minor in Cinema Studies, Top Graduate in the College of Human Ecology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville***

1994-1999