

Dub  
2/10/22

**ACBA NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM**

To be completed by all individuals seeking nomination as an ACBA officer or member of the Board of Governors or the Judiciary Committee.

Return to the Nominating Committee, c/o David A. Blaner, Executive Director, ACBA, 400 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 or to [dblaner@acba.org](mailto:dblaner@acba.org).

Attach a copy of your current resume.

Deadline for submission is Wednesday, February 9, 2022 by 4:00 p.m.

Name: Alexandra L. Kovalchick

Employer/Place of Business: Gentile Horoho & Avalli, P.C.

Address: 310 Grant Street, Suite 1000, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Telephone Number: (412) 261-9900

Email Address: [akovalchick@gha-lawfirm.com](mailto:akovalchick@gha-lawfirm.com)

Year you became a member of the ACBA: 2010 Year of Bar Admission: 2008

Step 1: Identify any positions for which you would like to be considered by the Nominating Committee. If you would like to be considered for more than one position, please state your preference in numerical order (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4).

President-Elect \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

Judiciary Committee  X

Step 2: (For Judiciary Committee Applicants Only) Please state your preference in numerical order (i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4) for any seats for which you are interested in holding and/or for which you are qualified to hold.

**At-Large Seats**        2        Two (2) seats available

**Court Seats**                                      (Five (5) seats available)

Appellate Court                                      \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Court    \_\_\_\_\_

Criminal Court                                        \_\_\_\_\_

Family Court       1  

Elder Law and                                         \_\_\_\_\_

Probate & Trust                                        \_\_\_\_\_

**Diverse Seats**                                      \_\_\_\_\_      Three (3) seats available\*

**Young Lawyer**                                      \_\_\_\_\_      One (1) seat available  
(0 to 10 years of practice experience)

\* If applying for a Diverse Seat on the Judiciary Committee, your signature on page 3 of the application shall serve as verification that you have read and understand the term “diverse” as set forth in Section 1.3 of the ABCA By-Laws and confirm that you identify under one of the characteristics enumerated in the definition as outlined below.

ACBA By-laws - Section 1.3

“Diverse.” A person will be considered diverse for purposes of the diverse seats on the judiciary committee and for participation in the Allegheny County Bar Association Summer Clerkship Program, if they self-identify as one or more of the following:

American Indian or Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American. A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. Hispanic or Latinx. A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Middle Eastern or North African. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Middle East or North Africa including, for example, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel,

Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

LGBTQ+. A person who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), plus. The "plus" is inclusive of the gender identities and sexual orientations that are not specifically covered by the other five initials.

An individual with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This definition may be amended by resolution of the Board of Governors from time to time as needed.

## ACBA Nominating Committee Application

Practice Areas/Courts in which you practice:

**Family Law  
Trusts & Estates  
Court of Common Pleas  
Superior Court**

Please describe your involvement in ACBA Committees, Divisions/Sections or activities over the last 5 years: **Active member of the ACBA Family Law Section; Past active member of the Young Lawyers Division, including participating in the planning committee for the YLD Tennis Tournament; Allegheny Bar Foundation Young Fellow (term recently expired, and expect to be nominated for Fellow this spring).**

If you are applying for nomination to the Judiciary Committee, please describe experience, other than or in addition to litigation experience that makes you particularly able to evaluate candidates for judicial office:

**I have been practicing law for 13 years in the Court of Common Pleas and the Superior Court. I have been an active member of the ACBA Family Law Section since joining the ACBA as well as the Young Lawyers Division (past) and made significant connections both personally and professionally with the Judges over time.**

**I focused my practice nearly exclusively on family law for these 13 years. During that time, I had the privilege of practicing in Beaver, Butler, Allegheny, Westmoreland and Washington counties, before a variety of Judges. While I always hope to settle my cases, I have had the unique opportunity to be a litigator from the beginning of my career. I have always worked in smaller firms, where almost immediately, I was sent to Court alone, as a young lawyer, and I had to navigate the procedures and personalities, along with the legalities of my own case. I learned to pay attention to more than just what was happening on my cases, and to navigate the complexities that came with each case and each Judge.**

**In late 2018 when I joined GH&A, I expanded my practice to include estate planning and estates & trusts litigation. Again, off and running, I appeared in the Orphans' Court of Allegheny County, as well as Washington County. I have also had some limited, but important, experience in criminal matters, including those which have crossed paths with my family law practice.**

**I recently attended the PBA Family Law Section Winter Meeting in Philadelphia. I was impressed with the programming, including hearing from the Judges from the eastern counties of Pennsylvania who described best practices and case specific issues in their**

**courtrooms. The experience there invigorated my desire to become more involved in the Bar and apply for the Judiciary Committee.**

**On a personal note, a few years ago, I witnessed another member of the Bar treat a Court staff member with an extraordinary amount of disrespect. When I stepped in, I then became the recipient of this person's actions. I was immediately met with not only support from my firm, but from the Administrative Judge to whom I reported the incident. Swift action was taken, and I heard that many of the Judges made statements during other court proceedings (such as motions court), regarding how they expect members of the bar to treat each other and the Court staff. Although I wish it had never happened, I was invigorated by the comradery and support between the Bench and the Bar. I was shown that high standards of professionalism are not just a thing the Judges say, but a thing they expect and that they do.**

**At this point in my career, I have a plethora of experiences that makes me uniquely capable of evaluating judicial candidates, and also a desire to become more involved in the Bar.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2/8/2022

NOTE: Please submit this form with a copy of your current resume

## BIOGRAPHY OF Alexandra L. Kovalchick

Alexandra L. Kovalchick is an associate attorney with Gentile, Horoho & Avalli, P.C. Alex joined the firm in 2018. Prior to that, Alex practiced for over 10 years almost exclusively in Family Law at other Pittsburgh area firms.

Alex specializes in Family Law matters, including divorce, support, custody, and protection from abuse. Alex has also expanded her practice to include estate planning, estate litigation as well as various Orphans' Court litigation matters, such as trustee removal actions and will contests. Her experience in Family Law assisting clients through difficult emotions and complex financial matters has made estate planning and litigation a natural next step in her legal career.

Alex takes an aggressive yet practical and creative approach to the practice of law. Alex is straight forward with her clients, empowering them with the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding their case, whether through litigation or settlement. Alex aims to determine the client's ultimate goals early on in their case in order that she can plan her strategies for the case with that in mind. Alex understands that in matters that affect a client's family and finances, it is vitally important that the client understands the process, the consequences, and the benefits of each decision made.

### EDUCATION

Southern Illinois University School of Law - 2008  
*Juris Doctorate*

University of Maryland – 2005  
*B.A. Government & Politics; Women's Studies Certificate*

### COURTS ADMITTED

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

### ASSOCIATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

Pennsylvania Bar Association

- Family Law Section

Allegheny County Bar Association

- Family Law Section
- Young Lawyers Division (past member)

Allegheny County Bar Foundation – Young Fellow 2016-2021

### AWARDS, HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS

Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, Rising Star – Family Law (2013 to present)

2020-2021 Pittsburgh's 50 Finest Honoree

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Associate Attorney  
Gentile Horoho & Avalli, PC  
Pittsburgh, PA  
*December 2018 – present*

Associate Attorney  
Steiner & Blechman, LLC  
Pittsburgh, PA  
*November 2012 – December 2018*

Associate Attorney  
Notaro & Associates  
Pittsburgh, PA  
*May 2010 – November 2012*