

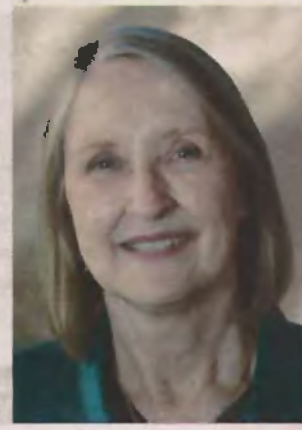
# TOP 20 WOMEN IN LAW



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## Yueh-Mei Kim Nutter

Brinkley Morgan

Yueh-Mei Kim Nutter, a partner at Brinkley Morgan, fell into family law early in her career when a partner at the firm where she was doing securities litigation had a friend who needed help in a divorce case.

"All of the sudden, all these family issues kept landing on my desk," she said. "In 1992, I went out on my own. To buy the books I needed to keep up with securities practice was just too expensive."

In 1993, she was asked to serve as a guardian ad litem on a case, a request that sparked another career shift. She trained to be a guardian ad litem in family court in Broward County. When Broward dropped family court from its guardian ad litem program, she moved to Palm Beach County and did the training there. Then Palm Beach County dropped family court from its program too.

"It was so contentious and it relied on lay people in a very difficult role," she explained. But there was still a need for guardians ad litem in family court, so Nutter chaired a Florida Bar group to create statewide training for lawyers to be family law guardians ad litem. In October 2013, she put on one session of the training under the auspices of the Family Law section of the Florida Bar. But the Bar didn't want to continue running it, so Nutter bought the program.

The first new training session is scheduled for late November and will be for lawyers and mental health professionals.

"The thing with family law is no attorneys are going to agree to a lay person serving as a guardian ad litem," she explained.

Nutter is passionate about the opportunity to help children as a guardian ad litem.

"One of the hardest things about it is building the rapport with the child. These are often heartbreaking cases," she said. "I try to knock sense into people along the way. In family law, everything is gray."

