

Massachusetts  
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LAWYERS**

*Family Law 2025*

## NICOLE B. CORDEIRO

### PARTNER

Smith Duggan Cornell & Gollub LLP (Lincoln/Boston)

**Years in practice:** 18

**Best known for:** I am committed to fostering civil and practical resolutions in family disputes. My diverse legal expertise and knowledge leads to the development of comprehensive problem-solving strategies, enabling me to effectively resolve even the most complex disputes. If resolution is untenable, clients can comfortably rely on my many years of trial experience to effectively represent their interests in court.

**Why I chose your practice area:** After having been a criminal prosecutor for almost nine years, I had reduced my litigation practice to focus on estate planning and estate administration. I had difficulty, however, saying no to clients when they insisted that I represent them in probate and family litigation matters. I guess one could say that my clients chose this practice area for me.

**Most memorable case:** Divorce matters are some of the most emotionally draining cases. The clients are often suffering so much that they have difficulty thinking reasonably. Sometimes we legal counselors end up acting as a therapist, a parent, or that very blunt friend who tells you what you do not want to hear. Guiding the client through the divorce process is rarely an easy task. So, the most memorable matters have been where the difficult client sends me a note acknowledging that he or she made it through the torture that is divorce. It means that I did my job.

**What makes me a leader in my field:** Client service, civility and trial experience. My diverse legal experience and knowledge allow me to efficiently address a variety of legal issues that arise for my clients, whether they arise within the divorce matter or separately.

**Outlook for 2025:** There is an influx of divorce and custody matters involving serious emotional abuse and mental health concerns. Coercive control and the resist/refuse dynamic are issues that more commonly appear and require meticulous attention.

**Bar involvement/leadership roles:** Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Boston Estate Planning Council, Massachusetts Bar Association, Justinian Law Society

