

**Virginia Mendes da Costa**

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**A. PERSONAL**

Turkstra, Mazza, Shinehoft, Mihailovich Associates Barristers and Solicitors 15 Bold Street Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1T3	Business (905) 529-3476 (905) 529-3663 (fax)
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**B. WORK EXPERIENCE**

***Turkstra Mazza Associates***

***January 2004 - Present***

Sole practitioner, Associate with Turkstra Mazza Associates commencing January 1, 2004.

My practice focuses on custody, access, property division, support, separation agreements, child welfare, and enforcement of support orders (including Family Support Plan matters). Since January of 1999, I have been a practicing member of the Mediation Centre of Hamilton that has the exclusive mandate to provide mediation services for the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court. I am also a member of the major Government of Ontario family law panels – the Family Responsibility Office Panel (since February 1995), the Children’s Lawyers Panel (formerly the Official Guardian Panel) (since April 1991), the Children’s Lawyer Secure Treatment Panel (commencing 2007), the Legal Aid Mediation Panel (since December 1995), and the Public Guardian and Trustee Panel (since December 2000). I continue to participate extensively in the Hamilton Law Association Family Law Executive, including organizing and presenting various continuing education seminars and workshops in areas of family law practice and procedure. Commencing January 2004, I began doing contract work for the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton. In March 2007 I was appointed a Deputy Small Claims Court Judge for Hamilton.

***Shinehoft, Mihailovich, Czutrin & Campbell  
(merged with Turkstra, Mazza in August 1990)***

***August 1987 - 2003***

Extensive experience in the practice of family law, initially as a junior lawyer hired to assist George Czutrin (as he then was), until his appointment to the Bench in June of 1993. Since that time, I have essentially taken carriage of the family law department in his stead. I acted as a co-mediator in family mediation in the areas of

support and property division, and a member of the panel of lawyers/mediators available through the Superior Court of Justice Family Court (since 1991).

During 1989 - 1990, I set-up and taught the family law component of the first full-time law clerk program at Mohawk College.

***Genesee, Genesee and Camporese*** ***August 1986 - December 1986***

In the period between the dissolution of *Wallace and Cassidy* and the birth of my first child, I continued my family law practice in areas of custody, access, property division, support, separation agreements, child welfare, and enforcement of support orders.

***Wallace and Cassidy*** ***March 1985 - August 1986***

Wide and varied experience in all facets of family law, including custody, access, property division, support, separation agreements, child welfare, and enforcement of support orders. Also responsible for some real estate and wills files. Remained with this firm until it dissolved in August of 1986.

***Shibley, Righton & McCutcheon*** ***1983 - 1984***  
***(Articling Student)***

Worked as one of six articling students through a series of rotations in the Real Estate Department; Litigation Department; Corporate/Commercial Department; and the Tax Department of this major Toronto-based law firm.

***Office of the Chief Judge -*** ***1982***  
***Provincial Court (Family Division)***

Assisted His Honour E. Andrews, Chief Judge, in research and preparation of a desk book, for use by the Judges of the Provincial Court (Family Division).

***Ministry of the Attorney General*** ***1978 - 1981***  
***Court Clerk - Provincial Court (Criminal Division)***  
***Sheriff's Department***

While attending university, worked for three summers as Court Clerk in bail, traffic and alcohol-related offences courts in Toronto, Ontario (1979 - 1981), and one summer with the Sheriff's Department in Kingston, Ontario (1978).

**C. MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Ontario Association of Family Mediators - Accredited member, 2000 to present.

Family Mediation Canada - 2000 to present.

Mediation Centre of Hamilton - Founding member. This Centre had the exclusive mandate to provide mediation services to the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court, January 1999 to 2004.

AXIS Family Mediation Inc. – April 1, 2008 to present. This Centre has the exclusive mandate to provide mediation services to the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court commencing April 1, 2008.

Professional Issues Committee of the Hamilton Law Association – 2006 to present.

Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Hamilton Law Association - 1997 to 2006.

Subcommittee on Supervised Access - 1997 to present.

Community Liaison Committee - 1995 to present.

Family Law executive of the Hamilton Law Association - 1994 to 2001 and 2007 – 2008. Co-Chair of the Family Law Executive 2008 to present.

Community Resource Group Committee (formerly AMIC) - 1994 to present.

Co-Chair of the Community Resource Group Committee - 1998 to 2004 and 2006 to present.

Association of Family Mediation and Conciliation Courts - 1993 to present.

Hamilton Law Association - 1985 to present.

Canadian Bar Association - 1985 to present.

Assisted with two other senior female lawyers to set up a “mentoring program” for young female lawyers in the Hamilton legal community commencing 2005.

#### **D. PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND TEACHING**

Co-Chair of the Family Law seminar May 2008.

Assisted in the organization and presentation of a series of 4 Seminars through the Community Resource Committee of the Superior Court of Justice Family Court from December 2007 to June 2008.

Co-presenter at a Lunch Round Table Presentation entitled *Net Family Property Issues*, through the Family Law Section of the Hamilton Law Association – March 2006.

Co-Chair of the first in a series of Lunch Round Table Presentations entitled *What Every Practitioner Needs to Know About Federal and Provincial Disability Schemes*, through the Hamilton Law Association – January 2006.

Presenter at *Professional Responsibility Training Program* through the Law Society of Upper Canada – April 2004.

Prepared a *Standard Order for the Supervised Access Centre of Hamilton* through the Community Liaison Committee.

Assisted in the organization and presentation of training in *Child Protection Mediation* of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, May 2002.

Presenter at *Seminars for Separated Parents* at the Superior Court of Justice Family Court, from November 2000 to 2004.

Assisted in the organization and presentation of a series of 4 Seminars entitled "*Resource Fair*" through the Community Resource Committee of the Superior Court of Justice Family Court from January to May 2001.

Presentation to the Hamilton Law Association with respect to the Family Responsibility Office as part of a Seminar on a *Family Law up-date*, May 9th, 2001.

Presentation to Hamilton Law Association entitled "*The Ins and Outs of Refraining Orders*", May 10, 2000.

Presentation to St. Catharines Law Association entitled "*Roadmap to the Family Court*", October 6, 1999.

Assisted in presentation of a seminar on the *New Family Court Rules*, June 22, 1999.

Assisted in the organization and presentation of a seminar in conjunction with the Canadian Bar Association - Ontario, entitled "*Wrinkles in Elder and Boomer Law*", May 1999.

Presented a seminar for the South Central Region on the *Child Support Guidelines*, organized by the Hamilton Law Association, in May 1998.

Presented a Paper on the *Family Responsibility and Support Arrears Enforcement Act* to the Ontario Court (General Division) Family Court Justices in October 1997.

Presented a Seminar on *References in the Ontario Court (General Division) Family Court* to the Lawyers of the Hamilton Law Association, June 1997.

Presented a Seminar on the *Child Support Guidelines* in conjunction with the Canadian Bar Association, November 1996.

Presented a number of regular *information sessions* to interested members of the general public, as a member of the panel of lawyers/mediators available through the Ontario Court (General Division), Family Court (since 1991).

Assisted in the organization and presentation of a seminar for the South Central region entitled "*Roadmap to the new Family Court*", organized by the Hamilton Law Association, scheduled for May 1996.

Presented a seminar on *Practice and Procedure in the Family Court* to the Young Lawyers of the Hamilton Law Association, January 1996.

Organized a 4 lecture series entitled "*How to Settle a Case*", jointly sponsored by the Family Law Executive and Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Hamilton Law Association and the Assessment, Mediation and Interdisciplinary Committee (AMIC), Fall 1995.

Assisted in preparation and presentation of a one-day course on *Practice and Procedure in the Family Court* for the opening of the Ontario Court (General Division), Family Court, in London, Ontario, with Justices Steinberg and Czutrin, Fall 1995.

Presented a seminar on *Variation Procedure* for the Hamilton Law Association, Fall 1992.

Presented a seminar on *Domestic Contracts* for the Hamilton Law Association, Fall 1991.

Assisted George Czutrin with preparation of Bar Admission course material on *Family Law*, Law Society of Upper Canada, 1990 to 1991.

Set-up and taught the *family law* component of the first full-time law clerk program at Mohawk College, 1989 to 1990.

#### **E. EDUCATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Hamilton Law Association	April 2, 2009	<b><i>Parental Alienation</i></b>
Superior Court of Justice	March 30, 2009	<b><i>Seminar for Deputy Small Claims Court Judges</i></b>

Law Society of Upper Canada	March 6, 2009	<b><i>The Voice of the child</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	February 11, 2009	<b><i>Effective Management of Domestic Matters with the Police</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	February 3, 2009	<b><i>Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	January 13, 2009	<b><i>New Rules for client identification and verification</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	December 3, 2008	<b><i>Six Minute Family Law Lawyer</i></b>
Jewish Family and Children's Services	November 27, 2008	<b><i>Domestic Violence</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	October 24, 2008	<b><i>Emerging Issues in Child Welfare</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	October 21, 2008	<b><i>Let's Talk</i></b>
Carleton University	August 21-23, 2008	<b><i>Child Protection Mediation</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	May 22, 2008	<b><i>Why Can't They Just Get Along: Emerging Strategies for Clients who can't</i></b>
Superior Court of Justice	April 9, 2008	<b><i>Training for Deputy Small Claims Court Judges</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	December 5, 2007	<b><i>Six Minute Family Law Lawyer</i></b>
Lincoln County Law Association	September 28, 2007	<b><i>Spousal Support</i></b>
Office of the	May 28, 2007	<b><i>The CFSA: New Legislation,</i></b>

Children's Lawyer		<b><i>New Directions</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	April 13, 2007	<b><i>Secure Treatment for Children</i></b>
Ontario Bar Association	March 28, 2007	<b><i>The Application of Family Law to Non-Traditional Relationships</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	December 8, 2006	<b><i>Six Minute Family Law Lawyer</i></b>
Ontario Bar Association	November 14, 2006	<b><i>Agreements, Agreements, Agreements, How To Settle Family Disputes Effectively</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	November 8, 2006	<b><i>Training Seminar</i></b>
Lincoln County Law Association	October 6, 2006	<b><i>Advocacy in Child Protection – In and Out of the Courtroom</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	June 8, 2006	<b><i>Up-date on Family Law</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	October 21, 2005	<b><i>Drug Testing &amp; Hair Sample Analysis</i></b>
Family Responsibility Office	June 20, 2005	<b><i>Panel Lawyer Training</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	June 9, 2005	<b><i>Panel Lawyer Training</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	March 4, 2005	<b><i>Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	October 20, 2004	<b><i>New Developments In Child and Spousal Support</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	October 18, 2004	<b><i>Child Welfare Issues</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	September 13, 2004	<b><i>Marriage Contracts</i></b>

Community Resource Committee of the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court	June 16, 2004	<b><i>Drug Testing and Hair Sample Analysis</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	June 10, 2004	<b><i>Focus on Resolution: Settlement/Disclosure Meetings</i></b>
Community Resource Committee of the Superior Court of Justice, Family Court	June 9, 2004	<b><i>New Family Law Rules</i></b>
Ontario Bar Association	June 2, 2004	<b><i>The New Expanded Application of the Family Law Rules</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	February 17 & March 9, 2004	<b><i>Best Practices for the Conduct of a Child Protection File</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	December 2003	<b><i>6 Minute Family Law Lawyer</i></b>
Family Responsibility Office	June 2003	<b><i>ISO Legislation</i></b>
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts	May 2003	<b><i>Annual Mediation Conference</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	May 2003	<b><i>Training Seminar</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	May 2003	<b><i>Update on Family Law</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	December 2002	<b><i>Separation Agreements</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	October 2, 2002	<b><i>The Family Law Rules</i></b>
Family Mediation Canada	June 12-16, 2002	<b><i>Annual Mediation</i></b>



**Conference**

Office of the Children's Lawyer	April 18, 2002	<b><i>Training Seminar</i></b>
Superior Court of Justice Family Court	December 6, 2001	<b><i>Community Resource Committee and Community Liaison Committee, Panel Discussion</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	December 3, 2001	<b><i>The Six Minute Family Law Lawyer</i></b>
Canadian Bar Association	November 29, 2001	<b><i>Does Spousal Support Ever End?</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	November 19, 2001	<b><i>Proceeds of Crime Legislation Seminar</i></b>
Canadian Bar Association	November 7, 2001	<b><i>Financial Issues for Middle Class Family Law Clients</i></b>
Mediation Centre of Hamilton	November 1, 2001	<b><i>One Day Training Seminar led by June Muresca on Mediating Child Welfare Matters</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	September 6, 2001	<b><i>New Rules of Professional Conduct</i></b>
Public Guardian and Trustee	June 12, 2001	<b><i>Training Seminar for Public Guardian and Trustee Panel</i></b>
LPIC	May 17, 2001	<b><i>Practice Essentials</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	May 9, 2001	<b><i>Family Law Update</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	April 27, 2001	<b><i>Training Seminar</i></b>
Community Resource Committee	February – May 2001	<b><i>Series of Resource Presentations</i></b>

Canadian Bar Association	February 2, 2001	<b><i>Annual Family Law Seminar</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	December 15, 2000	<b><i>Marriage Contracts</i></b>
Mediation Centre of Hamilton	November 2000	<b><i>Training Seminar on Seminars for Separated Parents</i></b>
Canadian Bar Association	November 29, 2000	<b><i>Bulls, Bears and Family Law</i></b>
Family Responsibility Office	October 27, 2000	<b><i>Training Session</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	May 10, 2000	<b><i>Update on Family Law</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	May 2, 2000	<b><i>Attachment and Parent Infant Relationship</i></b>
Mediation Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth	April 2000	<b><i>Seminar for Separated Parents</i></b>
Hamilton Law Association	November 1999	<b><i>Update on Family Law South Central Conference</i></b>
Superior Court of Justice Family Court	October 1999	<b><i>Judge's Conference</i></b>
The Family Responsibility Office	June 25, 1999	<b><i>Family Responsibility And Support Arrears Enforcement Act</i></b>
Canadian Bar Association	June 22, 1999	<b><i>New Family Court Rules</i></b>
Office of the Children's Lawyer	June 7, 1999	<b><i>Training Seminar on representing children</i></b>
Canadian Bar Association	December 1998	<b><i>Child Support Guidelines, New and Important Case Law</i></b>
Family Responsibility Office	June 19, 1998	<b><i>Training Session</i></b>
Ontario Court (General	October 1997	<b><i>Judge's Conference</i></b>

Division), Family Court		
Canadian Bar Association	June 1997	<b><i>Child Support Guidelines</i></b>
Institute of Continuing Legal Education	January 1997	<b><i>Update on Family Law</i></b>
Ontario Court (General Division), Family Court	October 1996	<b><i>Judge's Conference</i></b>
Canadian Bar Association	October 1996	<b><i>Training Session on Child Support Guidelines</i></b>
Ontario Legal Aid Plan	May 1996	<b><i>7 hour certificate course in Settlement Conference training</i></b>
Ontario Legal Aid Plan	December 1995	<b><i>14 hour certificate course in Basic Settlement Conference Training</i></b>
Family Law Executive and Continuing Legal Education Committee	Sept. - Dec. 1995	<b><i>How to Settle A Case</i></b>
Ontario Court (General Division), Family Court	1992-1993	<b><i>Advanced mediation Training and continuing Education as a member Of the panel of lawyers/ Mediators available through The Ontario Court (General Division) Family Court Given by J. Ryan</i></b>
Family Mediation Service Of Ontario (LSUC)	April 1991	<b><i>5 day certificate training program in the theory and practice of Family Mediation</i></b>
Law Society of Upper Canada and Office of the Children's Lawyer	March 1991	<b><i>Interviewing and Representing Children</i></b>
Association of Family Mediation and Conciliation	May 1990	<b><i>2 day seminar on Alternative Dispute</i></b>

Courts (AFCC)		<b>Resolution</b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	May 1989	<b>Representing Parents in Child Protection Cases</b>
Law Society of Upper Canada	January 1989	<b>Their Pension: Your Deductible</b>
Osgoode Hall - Law Society of Upper Canada	1984-1985	<b>Bar Admission Course</b>
University of Windsor	1980-1983	<b>LL.B. Programme</b>
University of Toronto	1979-1980	<b>Language year toward a Masters degree in Classical Studies</b>
Queen's University	1975-1979	<b>B.A. Honours – Classical Studies, Drama</b>
Ontario Scholar	1975	<b>Grade 13</b>

## **F. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Secretary of the Board of the YWCA of Hamilton 2007 to present.

Member of the Women of Distinction Awards Dinner Committee and Chair of the Dinner Organization Committee to be held May 28, 2008.

Member of the Women of Distinction Awards Dinner Committee and Chair of the Dinner Organization Committee, held in May 2007, in conjunction with the YWCA of Hamilton, the City of Hamilton and the Status of Women Committee.

Participated in the production of *Inherit The Wind* through Theatre Aquarius presented April 2006 (as a fundraiser in conjunction with Theatre Aquarius and the Hamilton Law Association). Proceeds were donated to charity.

Assisted with the election campaign for Paddy Torsney, former M.P., December 2005.

Member of the Board of the YWCA of Hamilton, June 2005 - Present

Assisted with the election campaign for Paddy Torsney, M.P., June 2004.

Participated in the production of *Fiddler on the Roof* through Temple Anshe Sholom to be presented in May 2004 (as a fundraiser for Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School).

Participated in the production of *To Kill A Mocking Bird* through Theatre Aquarius presented May 2003 (as a fundraiser in conjunction with Theatre Aquarius and the Hamilton Law Association). Proceeds were donated to charity.

Past President of the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton, (2002 – present) and presently chairing a Committee for accessibility to the Centre.

Participated in the production of *Annie* through Temple Anshe Sholom presented May 2002 (as a fundraiser for Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School).

Assisted with the election campaign for Paddy Torsney, M.P., November 2000.

Member of the Board of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, 1999 to present.  
President of the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth, 1999 to 2001.

Participated in the production of *Grease* through Temple Anshe Sholom presented May 1998 (as a fundraiser for the Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School).

Vice President of the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth, 1997 to 1999.

Participated in the production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* through Temple Anshe Sholom, presented May 1995 (as a fundraiser for Temple Anshe Sholom Religious School).

Member of the Kirkendal Neighbourhood Association, 1995 to 2000.

Member of the Board of the Jewish Community Centre, 1994 to 1997.

Assisting with fundraising for the United Jewish Appeal, 1993 to present.

Treasurer of Temple Anshe Sholom, 1993 to 1995.

Member of the Home and School Association, Earl Kitchener School, 1992 to 2001.

Secretary of Temple Anshe Sholom, 1991 to 1993.

Member of the Executive, Hamilton-Wentworth Archaeological Association, 1990 to 1992.

Member of the Board of Temple Anshe Sholom, 1988 to 1991.

Have made a large number of presentations on various aspects of family law to local community associations including the National Council of Jewish Women, high schools in the Hamilton area, the Jewish Community Centre, the Temple Anshe Sholom, and several church organizations for separated people.

**G. INTERESTS**

Parenting (including spectating at many rowing practices and races, hockey and roller hockey practices and games, and “chauffeur” to music lessons), enjoying the company of my family and friends, speaking to my two cats, pilates, gourmet cooking, reading, skiing, squash, swimming, ice-skating, running, quilting, camping, gardening, travelling (especially to archaeological sites), guitar and piano.