



**SINGLE MOTHERS**  
headed more than  
**80%**  
of the single-parent  
homes with kids under  
18 in the U.S. 2017.  
*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

**NY State had**  
**192 adoptions in 2017,**  
**down from**  
**746 in 2009 and**  
**1,565 in 2000.**  
*Source: U.S. Dept. of State*

Such situations can be exceedingly complicated, so the top attribute to seek in a family lawyer is extensive experience with your type of case. Some might not handle the most specialized, such as child neglect or juvenile delinquency, while others may not take cut-and-dried child support cases.

It's crucial to choose a family lawyer who is well-versed in how the law is practiced in the county in which the petition is pending, says LaToya James, a consulting adjunct professor of family law at Touro Law School and owner of The James Firm, PLLC in Hauppauge. Seek an attorney whose practice is well-established.

Also, "If your case is contentious, make sure the attorney is a trial attorney. This is not the time to hire a general practitioner," says James.

Given the personal nature of these cases, a close second to tailored experience is rapport. If you're working with a large firm, make sure that the lawyer you feel comfortable with will be the one managing your case to the end.

While cost shouldn't be the primary consideration, it's smart to ask for a detailed breakdown of all potential fees so you can see where you might be able to save with one family lawyer vs. another. For example, Gilden doesn't charge for communications with clients. "I never want a client to have a disincentive to reach out to me for fear of being charged," he says.

The Nassau ([nassaubar.org](http://nassaubar.org)) and Suffolk ([scba.org](http://scba.org)) bar associations offer a lawyer referral service. 

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## – By the Numbers –

IN 2018, THERE WERE:

**1.3 million**  
lawyers in the U.S.

177,035 were in NY State, the highest number, followed by California (170,044), Texas (90,485) and Florida (78,244)



85% were white  
5% African-American  
5% Hispanic  
3% Asian  
1% multiracial  
1% Native American

**\$1,619** ✓  
average weekly salary  
of women lawyers in 2016

**\$2,086** ✓  
average weekly salary  
of men lawyers in 2016

Source: American Bar Association



LAW OFFICE OF  
JILL C. STONE, ESQ

### The law firm of Jill C. Stone, Esq. P.C.

is located in Garden City. The firm's team approach specializes in matrimonial and family law matters of all types. The firm is also known for its zealous advocacy of children in highly contested cases and all child-related issues in Family, Criminal and Supreme Courts. Most recently, Jill C. Stone has provided services to Artists in the entertainment industry.

The family-based affiliate firm Addabbo & Greenberg in Queens County adds to the multifaceted advocacy in criminal, personal injury, real estate, and estate law.

Our commitment is to maintain the highest standard of practice and be devoted to our clients' needs.



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