

Debra E. Guston is a partner in the law firm of Guston & Guston, L.L.P., Glen Rock, New Jersey. She graduated cum laude from Mount Holyoke College, holds a M.A. from Emerson College and received her J.D. from Cardozo School of Law. In her practice, Ms. Guston represents a broad spectrum of clients in family matters; adoptions; estate planning, litigation and administration; non-profit formation and management and other practice areas designed to meet the needs of the LGBT and general communities. Ms. Guston has represented over 650 lesbian and gay individuals and couples in primary and second parent and interstate adoptions and represented the first couples in Morris, Ocean and Passaic Counties to be granted second parent adoptions, all before the New Jersey Appellate Division's approval of such adoptions. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and of the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys. Ms. Guston is currently Vice President of the Board of Trustees of ACLU-NJ. Ms. Guston has been selected as a NJ Super Lawyer for 2012 and 2013 and will be honored in March 2013 by her alma mater Cardozo School of Law with its LGBT organization's E. Nathaniel Gates Award for achievement and contribution to the LGBT legal community.

Ms. Guston has received recognition from the NJSBA for her participation in the drafting and filing of an amicus brief in post-judgment practice in *Lewis vs. Harris* and represented a group of pro-marriage equality clergy in their amicus brief in *Lewis v.s Harris*. She is a past Chair of the GLBT Rights Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association and a member of the NJSBA's Family Law Section Executive Committee. Ms. Guston is a member of the Executive Committee of the LGBT Family Law Institute, a joint project of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National LGBT Bar Association that brings together attorneys experienced in LGBT family law and related fields. Ms. Guston was the first woman President of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Greater New York, a former Regional Board member and Board Secretary of the National Gay and Lesbian Bar Association and a contributing editor to West Group's Sexual Orientation and the Law and author of a portion of LexisNexis' 2008-2009 New Jersey Family Court Rules Annotated. She has served as New Jersey local counsel for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and is regularly invited to speak before community and professional organization on gay/lesbian/transgender estate

planning and same-sex family law issues. Ms. Guston has lectured for the NJ Institute for Continuing Legal Education; the NJSBA Foundation; the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and for Lorman Education Services, PLI and CLE Legal Programs. Ms. Guston has served as pro-bono counsel to the Board of Directors of Transition Assistance Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization providing financial assistance to indigent transgendered people seeking reassignment surgery or other medical care and has provided services for Chai Project, a NJ needle exchange program. She was the first pro bono counsel to Garden State Equality, New Jersey's leading LGBT political action organization. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association, the Bergen County and Passaic County Bar Associations, the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Greater New York and the National LGBT Bar Association. She lives in Edgewater, New Jersey with her partner of 26 years, Patricia F. Nixon, a geriatric nurse practitioner and program director at Visiting Nurse Service of New York and their adopted dog, Duffy, whom most of her clients have met at her office.