

About the Authors

Stephanie M. Brinkley, Brinkley Law Firm, LLC

With offices in Charleston, South Carolina, Stephanie focuses her practice on the complex area of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and related legal issues affecting future families. In addition to her South Carolina Bar membership, Stephanie is 2nd Vice Chair for the ART Division under the American Bar Association's (ABA) Family Law Section and manages its successful mentorship program. Her professional memberships also include the American Academy of Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAARTA), American Society for Reproductive Medicine, RESOLVE, and the Society for Ethics in Egg Donation and Surrogacy (SEEDS).

As part of her practice, Stephanie represents clients seeking to build their families through surrogacy and/or gamete donation. Consequently, she is also called upon to represent gestational carriers who have offered their services. With greater frequency, Stephanie helps clients navigate issues related to parentage when their needs involve traditional family law matters of parentage, divorce, custody, and visitation.

In addition to her busy practice, Stephanie is also an ART educator, having lectured at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City and Charleston School of Law in Charleston, South Carolina. In her own state, she is a frequent contributor to the South Carolina Family Court Bar CLE program. Stephanie presents on the complex legal and ethical issues that arise when clients participate in assisted reproduction. Additionally, Stephanie helps raise awareness on the legalities of ART and its intersection with other areas of law, such as divorce and establishment of parental rights. Stephanie is often consulted by area family law attorneys who find their clients wrangling with third-party reproduction issues that impact their divorce litigation. Stephanie's advice and legal expertise are often sought from litigants and attorneys alike. As a result, she was chosen as a 2016 Leadership in Law Honoree by *South Carolina Lawyers Weekly* publication for her contributions to ART law in her state. To learn more about Stephanie and her practice, visit www.brinkleylawfirmllc.com.

**Richard B. Vaughn, Founding Partner,
International Fertility Law Group**

Fertility law attorney Rich Vaughn founded International Fertility Law Group (IFLG), which has become one of the most successful and best-known law firms in the world focusing on assisted reproductive technology law.

Rich first studied reproductive and fertility law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law in the early 1990s. After a successful career providing litigation, contract, technology, marketing, and corporate legal services to individual clients, companies, and municipalities in Chicago and Los Angeles, Rich and his spouse decided to become parents via egg donation and surrogacy. During that process, Rich discovered a renewed passion for fertility law and launched IFLG to focus exclusively on assisted reproductive technology legal services.

In addition to his busy legal practice, Rich devotes numerous volunteer hours to advancing the field of ART law and is a dedicated advocate for LGBT intended parents and families. His community service includes chairmanship of the American Bar Association (ABA) Family Law Section Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology. He served on the National Board of Path2Parenthood (formerly American Fertility Association) and is an active member of the California Bar Association (CBA) and its Family Law Section, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) Legal Professionals Group, and the National LGBT Bar Association. He has been published in numerous professional journals, including the American Bar Association's *SciTech Lawyer* (for which he also served as issue editor), *American Journal of Family Law*, and the *Australian Family Law Journal*; he has presented at numerous legal and family-building conferences around the U.S., including Yale University School of Law and California Western School of Law; and he has been cited as a fertility law expert in numerous reports, including CNN, National Public Radio (The Diane Rehm Show), *Parenting Magazine Live*, and other radio shows.

Away from the office, Rich is a proud advocate for LGBT equality and gay and lesbian parenting as a member of the Family Equality Council and provides community service in the medical, health and wellness

industries. He is also an experienced fitness instructor, triathlete, a former paramedic, and board member of a medical device company. Rich and his spouse, Tommy Woelfel, were married in California in 2008 and are the proud parents, through egg donation and surrogacy, of twin sons Aiden and Austin.