

## **COURT ATTORNEY-REFEREE EMILY M. MARTINEZ**

Court Attorney-Referee Emily M. Martinez has worked in NYC Family Court for 17 years. She was hired as a Court Attorney in 1998, working first for the Hon. Rhea Friedman in Queens Family Court for two years, but in 2000, was reassigned to the Hon. Carol A. Stokinger, who presided over child protective cases in Bronx Family Court. Judge Stokinger became the first “Best Practices” Part, following protocols initiated by the Hon. Sara Schechter in New York City Family Court, utilizing case conferencing as a method of expediting abuse and neglect cases. While in the Bronx, Judge Stokinger finalized 770 adoptions. In August of 2012, Emily was promoted to Court Attorney-Referee and was assigned to Kings County Family Court, where she currently presides over custody, visitation and family offense proceedings.

In 2009, Emily was appointed by the Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson to chair the Administrative Judge’s Advisory Committee on Adoptions and TPR’s. The committee membership is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders within family court, including groups that represent parents in child protective matters (The Bronx Defenders; members from the Assigned Counsel panel), lawyers who represent children (The Children’s Law Center; Lawyers for Children; the Legal Aid Society), agency lawyers, agency representatives (A.C.S.; O.C.F.S.), court personnel and members of the judiciary. The committee was subsequently made a subcommittee of the Child Protective Advisory Committee and continues to meet regularly and reports to the Hon. Marybeth Richroath, Chair of the CP Advisory Committee.