

# WASHINGTON LAW

## In D.C. Superior Court

**Lori E. Parker** takes her oath Friday as the newest magistrate judge. She'll be assigned to Family Court.



**Parker**

Parker, a native of D.C., has worked in District government for most of her career. Most recently, she was chief of staff for the deputy mayor for Children, Youth, Families and Elders.

She's a 1986 graduate of Barnard College at Columbia Univer-

sity and a 1989 graduate of The George Washington University Law School.

## In the law firms

**Allison W. Rind** has been elected principal of the firm of **Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chtd.** She concentrates her practice in commercial lending.

**Vicki R. Canales** has also joined the firm as an associate. She, too, focuses on commercial lending.

## When lawyers collide

A lawyer once accused of gouging a family in an inheritance dispute has gone on the offensive



**BY BILL MYERS**

against his adversaries.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based lawyer **Bruce D. Burtoff** has filed suit against fellow barristers **Stephen G. Cochran** and **Jane Moretz Edmisten**, alleging

the two conspired to smear his reputation with frivolous litigation.

The lawsuit, filed in D.C. Superior Court last week, alleges abuse of process, false accusation, libel and slander, and malicious prosecution. It doesn't make a demand for damages.

In filing the suit, Burtoff has moved from the defense's chair to the plaintiff's chair. His complaint stems from three lawsuits filed by Cochran and Edmisten on behalf of another man who claimed Burtoff had chiseled him and his family out of some of their inheritance.

Burtoff's complaint alleges the misappropriation suits were frivolous and damaged his reputation.

Edmisten practices in the District and Cochran is based in Tysons Corner.

Burtoff, who also has a D.C. law license, didn't respond to calls seeking comment.

In a conference call with *The Examiner*, Edmisten and Cochran said they hadn't seen the suit and declined comment.

But Cochran said that the suit "comes as an unpleasant surprise."

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