

Erika Balazs was born and raised in Spokane.

Erika attended the University of Washington and received a BA in 1979 in economics (magna cum laude) and her JD with honors in 1982. She is a member of The Order of The Coif.

After law school, she clerked for Judges Willard Roe and Philip Thompson at the Washington State Court of Appeals for 2 years and then joined the law firm of Lukins & Annis, P.S. in 1984 where she became a principal in 1988. In 1990, she took a two year sabbatical to teach legal research and writing at Gonzaga School of Law. Erika left Lukins & Annis in December 2006 to open a solo practice, focusing on appellate work.

Erika has been in private practice for 26 years, primarily as a litigation attorney and has handled over 50 appeals, most at Division III of the Court of Appeals. She has been a member of the Washington Appellate Lawyers Association since March 2003. She is currently a contributing editor for the next revision of the Appellate Practice deskbook.

She was a member of the Board of Trustees for the SCBA for two years. She served on the CLE committee and on the Appellate Liaison committee.

One of Erika's professional interests is legal ethics. She has served as Adjunct Investigative Counsel for the WSBA since 1998, assisting with investigations of ethics complaints against lawyers. In 2006, she was appointed to the Board of Governor's Disciplinary Committee Task Force regarding the WSBA disciplinary rules. In 2008, she became a member of the ELC Drafting Task Force.

She has served as a speaker or panel member at various CLE presentations, including 6 years as a panel member for the annual WSBA seminar "Ethical Dilemmas for the Practicing Lawyer" and numerous seminars on appellate practice. Erika has also been an adjunct professor of business law at Eastern Washington University.

Erika has been married to attorney Jim Perkins for over 27 years and they have one daughter, Emma, a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania. She enjoys gardening and home improvement projects.