

Influential Women Spotlights Rachel Blankenship: Redefining Legal Advocacy Through Mediation And Genuine Compassion

KANSAS CITY, MO, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Litigation Paralegal, Mediator, Entrepreneur and Community Advocate Brings Decades of Experience and a Collaborative Approach to Helping Families Navigate Complex Legal Transitions

Kansas City, Missouri – Rachel Blankenship has built a distinctive career at the intersection of legal advocacy, mediation, entrepreneurship and community service. As a Litigation Paralegal at the Missouri Kansas Queer Law Firm and Company Owner of RR Mediation Services of K.C., Rachel brings extensive experience in family law and litigation support, with a particular focus on domestic relations, divorce, parenting time modifications and complex family transitions.



Her professional journey was anything but conventional. Rather than following a straight path into the legal field, Rachel's career evolved organically through education, entrepreneurship, event coordination and a series of opportunities that ultimately introduced her to litigation and mediation. Today, she uses that diverse experience to help individuals and families approach high-conflict situations with greater clarity, compassion and practical solutions.

Rachel holds dual bachelor's degrees in History and Legal Studies and is a Certified Paralegal and Certified Mediator. Her professional qualifications also include Bioethic Mediator Certification, Special Education Mediator Certification and Certified Kansas Mediator credentials, as well as Missouri Approved Rule 17 Mediator status. She is also pursuing certifications as a Certified Senior Advisor and Social Security Disability Advocate.

Her professional memberships include the Association of Missouri Mediators, Kansas City Paralegal Association and the Dispute Resolution in Special Education Network, reflecting her ongoing commitment to professional development and dispute resolution.

An Unexpected Path Into the Legal Profession

Rachel initially earned a degree in history with plans to become a teacher. Her career, however, took an unexpected turn when she purchased a flower shop and entered the world of entrepreneurship. Running the business gave her firsthand experience in operations, customer service, problem-solving and the many responsibilities involved in owning a small business.

After 9/11 and the economic challenges that followed, Rachel transitioned from retail into large-scale event coordination. It was during one of these events that a professional involved in a national campaign launch recognized her abilities and recruited her to assist with trial coordination and jury vetting.

That opportunity introduced Rachel to the legal system and opened the door to an entirely new career.

She subsequently earned a degree in Legal Sciences and pursued certifications in paralegal studies and mediation. Her early legal experience included discovery work before progressing into litigation and family law support. Over time, she developed a deep understanding of the legal processes surrounding family disputes and the human dynamics that often accompany them.

Rather than resisting the unexpected turns in her career, Rachel learned to embrace them. Each new chapter brought experiences, relationships and mentors that helped shape the professional she is today.

Finding Her Calling in Mediation

In 2017, one of Rachel's mentors identified authenticity as one of her greatest strengths and encouraged her to pursue mediation. The recommendation proved transformative.

Rachel completed her mediation certification during the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning her work as a virtual mediator during a period when traditional legal and dispute-resolution processes were being dramatically reshaped.

Her mediation practice has since expanded to include domestic disputes, bioethical matters and special education disputes. She has developed dual expertise serving clients across Missouri and Kansas, giving her a distinctive perspective on disputes involving families, healthcare decisions and educational needs.

For Rachel, mediation represents more than simply resolving a disagreement. It provides an opportunity for people to move forward without allowing conflict to define the next chapter of

their lives.

That philosophy is particularly important in her family law work. Rachel believes that divorce itself is not necessarily what creates lasting trauma for children; rather, it is the conflict surrounding divorce that can have the most damaging effects.

Her work therefore focuses on reducing unnecessary conflict and creating more stable, supportive transitions for families.

Guided by Mentorship and Organic Growth

Rachel attributes much of her success to taking opportunities as they arise and allowing her career to develop organically. Mentorship has been a particularly important part of that journey.

She spent her first years working with the attorney who originally recruited her from event planning. She then spent 15 years with a highly respected attorney in Johnson County, Kansas, whose guidance played a significant role in her professional development.

Today, Rachel works with a firm founded by individuals who identify within the queer community. The firm specifically sought her out for its family law department because of the importance of building strong support for queer marriages and families.

Each stage of Rachel's career has brought different lessons and relationships, reinforcing her belief that professional growth does not always follow a predetermined path.

For Rachel, mentors are not necessarily selected through a formal process. Instead, she believes the strongest mentoring relationships develop naturally when people with shared values and complementary experiences find one another.

Owning Mistakes and Learning From Them

One of the most influential pieces of career advice Rachel has received is simple: own your mistakes.

She believes that excuses rarely solve problems. When something goes wrong, the most productive response is to acknowledge it, determine how to correct it and make sure the same mistake does not happen again.

That philosophy has become a cornerstone of her professional approach.

Rachel recognizes that legal work requires continuous learning and believes mistakes can become opportunities for improvement when they are addressed honestly. Rather than shifting blame or making excuses, she focuses on accountability and solutions.

Her approach reflects the same values she brings to mediation: honesty, clarity and a commitment to moving forward.

Creating Opportunities for Women Through Mentorship

Rachel encourages young women entering the legal and mediation industries to seek out mentors who share their values.

However, she cautions against trying to force a mentoring relationship. In her experience, the most meaningful mentors have appeared naturally throughout different stages of her life.

Some have helped her professionally, while others have supported her work in the nonprofit and mediation communities. Today, Rachel also serves as a mentor herself within the paralegal profession.

Her experience has taught her that mentorship can take many forms and that different people may enter someone's life for different reasons and seasons.

For young women beginning their careers, Rachel's advice is to remain open to meaningful professional relationships and recognize opportunities to learn from people who genuinely align with their values.

Breaking Down Stereotypes in the Legal Profession

Rachel has witnessed significant changes in the legal profession throughout her career. When she first entered the field, she encountered very few women in positions such as judges, prosecutors or attorneys.

Over the decades, she has watched women become increasingly represented throughout the profession, including in private practice, judicial positions and other leadership roles.

Despite that progress, Rachel believes societal stereotypes surrounding women in law still persist.

Females can sometimes be characterized as overly aggressive or as people whose professional ambitions somehow conflict with being good parents. Rachel challenges those assumptions directly.

To her, professional strength and family commitment are not mutually exclusive. Being a legal professional does not determine someone's ability to parent, and being a parent should not diminish the credibility or ambition of a professional woman.

Her career serves as an example of how women can build demanding professional lives while remaining grounded in the values and relationships that matter most to them.

Collaboration Over Competition

At the center of Rachel's professional philosophy are honesty, clarity and collaboration over competition.

She does not believe in fighting other professionals for clients or treating colleagues as adversaries. Instead, she believes there are enough people experiencing difficult circumstances that professionals should focus on working together to make those individuals' lives better.

That collaborative philosophy is particularly relevant to her work in family law and mediation, where the ultimate goal should not simply be winning an argument but helping people navigate difficult circumstances as constructively as possible.

Rachel brings that mindset to her relationships with clients, coworkers, mentors and professional partners.

Expanding Her Impact Beyond the Courtroom

Rachel's commitment to helping others also extends beyond her legal and mediation work. She is the co-founder of, Rings of Care, a nonprofit organization that provides support for informal & family caregivers, offers free powers of attorney, health crisis planning and end-of-life planning.

Through this initiative, approximately 7,500 individuals across the Kansas City metropolitan area have been served.

The nonprofit work reflects Rachel's broader belief that people deserve access to practical information and planning tools that can help them navigate difficult moments before they become crises.

Whether working with a family facing divorce, parties attempting to resolve a dispute, individuals planning for future healthcare decisions or professionals seeking guidance, Rachel remains focused on the same objective: helping people move through challenging circumstances with greater clarity and less conflict.

A Career Built on Authenticity and Service

Rachel Blankenship's career demonstrates the value of remaining open to unexpected opportunities. From history and entrepreneurship to event coordination, litigation, family law and mediation, each chapter has contributed to the perspective she brings to her work today.

Her diverse credentials, professional experience and commitment to mentorship have positioned her as a multifaceted legal and mediation professional serving communities across Missouri and Kansas.

Most importantly, Rachel's approach is grounded in authenticity. She believes in owning mistakes, embracing change, building meaningful relationships and choosing collaboration over

competition.

As she continues expanding her work in litigation support, mediation, family law and community service, Rachel remains committed to helping people navigate some of life's most difficult transitions. Her career is a testament to the idea that success does not always come from following a predetermined path—it can come from recognizing opportunities, learning from the people encountered along the way and using one's skills to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

2026 has been a year of recognition for Rachel. In April she was awarded The Women in Leadership Award by the Missouri Association of Legal Professionals. Then in August she was chosen by the Olivia Bloomfield Foundation and honored for her work in the Kansas City nonprofit community.

Learn More about Rachel Blankenship:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/rachel-blankenship>

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