Speaker 1: Our goal is for the family to feel satisfied with the outcome and supported throughout the process. My practice really focused on areas of law where we can help families. We handle adoptions, we handle guardianships, probate, estate planning; areas that help families care for children, or care for the elderly, or care for disabled.

 I've represented thousands and thousands of children as a defense attorney, as a guardian ad litem attorney, and then also I do a lot of pro bono work as an ad litem.

 People who are looking to adopt are looking to grow their family when they come to an attorney for help through that process. Some of the common concerns are how do we know that this is a good match, how do we know that this birth mom is gonna follow through, and then of course the expenses; how do we know how much this is ultimately going to cost us? So I think it's so important for families to really educate themselves as much as possible before they get into the process.

 The dream outcome is that at the end of the story, birth parents feel that they've made the best decision for their child and for themselves, and then of course the adoptive family also feels that everything has gone as smoothly as it could have and that they have their family.

 The adoption is complex and it does require I think a skillset that is unique. It requires an attorney who not only knows the law, but also has the people skills and that emotional IQ to work with the families, to work with not just the adoptive family of course but also to work with the birth parents, to work with potentially family members of the birth parents, to really help everyone in the process feel supported.

 My favorite part of the process is really when the birth parents and the adoptive family develop their own special relationship. That's really an amazing thing to see and amazing thing to be a part of. The birth moms that I've talked to after have said that that was very special to them because they were able to see the love that this family has for the baby, and that gave them great comfort to think about how happy the adoptive family was and how loved the baby obviously was.