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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Decision Approved for Publication]

Becker Meisel Achieves Important Victory Defending Grandparents' Rights

Livingston, N.J., June 23, 2011 – On appeal from the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Family Part, Becker Meisel's Family Law attorneys, Richard C. Klein and Drew A. Molotsky, successfully argued in the Appellate Division that the plaintiff grandparents' request for visitation after adoption by other relatives should be granted. The decision relied upon the fact that the grandparents were the children's temporary foster parents for almost two years before they were later adopted by their mother's relatives; and the adoptive parents allowed the grandparents continued visitation for two years following the adoptions before unilaterally terminating that visitation.

The Appellate Court ruled that the adoption statute did not preclude continued contact between the children and their biological grandparents and that the grandparents were entitled to consideration under the grandparent visitation statute.

"The court's opinion in the case is an important step forward for grandparents' rights in New Jersey," said Family Law Practice Group chair, Richard C. Klein. "It reinforces the importance of the relationship between children and their grandparents and the need to protect that relationship."

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