



## **2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA**

*The true measure of the Academy's greatness can be found in the achievements and wellbeing of its alumni. A vast number of whom have gained unique distinction through success in their professions, contribution to their communities and service to the Academy.*

*For this reason, Lacordaire Academy has established the Distinguished Alumna/us of the Year Award in recognition of outstanding graduates to celebrate their achievements and honor their legacy of excellence.*

### **MARY ELIZABETH HENNESSY-SHOTTER '91**

*"Do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you. Do not be afraid to dream of great things!"  
(Pope Francis)*

After graduating Rowan University with a B.A. in Law and Justice and a minor in Political Science in 1995, Ms. Hennessy-Shotter attended Seton Hall University School of Law. She concentrated her studies in labor law, graduating with a J.D. in 1998. While attending law school, Mary Beth clerked at the law firm of McDonough, Kiernan, and Campbell in Montclair and joined the firm upon graduation as an Associate Attorney representing employees and labor unions in labor and employment matters. In 1999, she began working for Murray, Murray & Corrigan in Little Silver, New Jersey as an Associate Attorney representing school boards, municipalities, and other local government entities in labor and employment matters before State and Federal Courts and State Agencies. In 2007, Mary Beth became Deputy General Counsel for the State of New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) where she drafted legal decisions for the Commission and defended the decisions in the Appellate Courts. In January 2015, she was appointed as one of three full-time staff mediators in the State of New Jersey. In this role, Mary Beth is a neutral who assists parties to resolve impasses in contract negotiations between public entities and public sector labor unions.

A member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and an active member of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the Bar Association, she is the former Monmouth County Trustee for the Institute of Local Government Attorneys. Mary Beth frequently speaks on labor issues in New Jersey and has taught classes for the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations and the Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Mary Beth grew up in Montclair with her four sisters and brother, Kathleen '92, Jillian '02, Meredith '03, Michaela '05 and Daniel. After attending St. Cassian's, she and her sisters came to Lacordaire and her brother went to St. Peter's Prep. Her parents Michael and Kathleen Hennessy who still reside in Montclair were wonderful role models and active participants in Lacordaire school and parent events. Mary Beth met her husband John in Law School and have been married for 13 years. They have two children, Elizabeth Seton (10) and John III (9).

A most memorable moment at Lacordaire was participating in the One Acts junior v. senior theater competition. To work together as a class appointing directors, selecting actors, staging, costuming and rehearsing scenes from a play, provided excellent preparation for working cooperatively in future relationships especially at work. Mary Beth is eternally grateful to the teachers who taught her so well and provided amazing support and who continue to reach out and provide advice, encouragement and prayers today. She is blessed to have such great mentors in the classroom as Dolores Keene and Julie Isidor and Sr. Luella Ramm for whom she served on the board.

Mary Beth served on the Board of Trustees from 2005-2012 sharing her time, talents, faith and dedication on behalf of the Academy's endeavors. We are proud to honor Mary Elizabeth Hennessy-Shotter with the Distinguished Alumna Award for her legacy of professional excellence and commitment to Lacordaire.