

Taking ‘The Human Approach’ to Divorce

Benson Family Law

You could be forgiven for thinking divorce is a numbers game. Alimony. Child support. Property division. Retirement accounts. Business valuation.

Any or all of those could factor in. But in speaking with Annette J. Benson, it becomes clear that the two key numbers in a divorce case are one and one – the spouses dissolving their marriage. Benson and her firm, Benson Family Law, come to the process differently from most others: They take a human approach.

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- Annette J. Benson

It’s a given that the attorneys know the law, how to calculate values and split assets. “The difference in our human approach is understanding the personalities of the families, understanding how the parties got to this place of divorce,” says Benson. “Being able to understand both spouses’ emotional and financial needs enables us to make that needed connection that ultimately saves a tremendous amount of money in litigation, it makes communication easier, especially where kids are involved, and it gets people off the defensive so we can address the real issues and begin to problem solve.”

Other attorneys focus on **demanding** their client’s position – causing a financial and emotional battle. We focus on the packaging of the appropriate outcome by understanding the mindset and needs of the parties.

Educating Clients

Men and women process divorce differently, and they also speak completely different languages. Understanding both worlds enables Benson to educate her clients on how to prepare, behave and react, thus creating an empowered client. “Our job is to anticipate the emotions of the parties, direct our client’s behavior to avoid participating in the emotional warfare, and use our unique strategy to make smart business decisions.”

Benson’s approach is direct and it works. “My practice is based primarily on word of mouth. I get many referrals from my clients’ ex-spouses, which is quite



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the compliment. My focus isn’t to degrade the other side, it’s to get the job done in the most efficient, respectful manner,” she says.

Benson Family Law works to keep cases out of court but sometimes it’s unavoidable. Benson recalls her first trial, almost 20 years ago, against a veteran lawyer. She was prepared. He was not. Her client got everything, and then some.

In court, Benson is always prepared, with impeccable pleadings, aggressive but ethical. “Being aggressive doesn’t mean being disrespectful. It means you prove your point, make it clear, back it up, support it and get the job done,” she says. “We help people get to the bottom line in the most efficient way, emotionally and financially.”