

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Diana P. Zitser

ATTORNEY - LAW OFFICES OF DIANA P. ZITSER

Family lawyer Diana Zitser inspires calm in her clients, despite the frequently emotional cases, by drawing from her strong background and knowledge in real estate and finance.

Zitser's ability to clearly see the financial side strikes a much needed balance, especially in dissolution cases.

"Frequently, channels of communication have been severed, and my clients cannot agree on who gets what and how much anything is worth. Everything needs to be taken step by step through this difficult process," she said. "This is a difficult time in people's lives. There are not just financial issues. Lives have to be re-thought and re-processed. There is a lot of confusion with people during this period, stemming from the complexity of the legal process as well as the emotional stress of dealing with custody and financial issues such as division of assets and support," she said.

It is Zitser's job to bring a degree of order back into these kinds of situations. "It is every attorney's job to resolve a case as simply and expediently as possible. It can become very emotional. Especially when you're dealing with long-term marriage. They've raised children and accumulated all kinds of assets and debts," said Zitser.

Zitser's practice handles everything from the most simple procedures to the complex, emotionally charged cases with complicated negotiations and litigations. She also helps clients throughout the different stages of their relationships, including drawing up pre-nuptial, post-nuptial, and co-habitation agreements for her clients.

When Zitser refers to financial experts, she is able to follow what is going on very closely

and communicate confidently about it to her clients. "What helps me is that I used to be that expert. I understand the process," she said.

After graduating with a finance degree from Cal State Northridge, Zitser started her career as a certified general real estate appraiser in an appraisal firm, where she found that she enjoyed assisting with family law cases.

"It was the combination of the real human element in each case as well as the financial, business aspect of it that appealed to me," said Zitser. She took her positive experience as a cue to apply to law school at Southwestern.

Since she graduated in 1997, Zitser has beaten a path to becoming a top lawyer in her specialty. Three years after becoming certified as a family law specialist in 2002, she struck out on her own. Throughout, she has built up a strong reputation for herself.

Lawyer Michael Overing frequently refers his clients to Zitser.

"She's very good. She does what she says and she does it well," said Overing. "As a relatively young practitioner of family law, she picks things up very quickly and is very bright. I don't know many special law attorneys who have picked up their certification quite as quickly," said Overing.

Overing characterizes Zitser as having a strong and thorough grasp of her cases, with the ability to see the possible applications of the law. "Not only is she able to tell you exactly what the law is, she is also able to tell you how it ought to be applied, how it has been interpreted, and how it ought to be interpreted. She figures out how the law applies in different fact situations very quickly," he said.

— Elizabeth Hsing-Huei Chou



Diana P. Zitser

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