

TRAILBLAZERS

FAMILY | ELDER LAW

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What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

Matrimonial matters can be contentious and acrimonious, particularly when spouses misuse the divorce process to try to right the wrongs of their marriage. Early in my career, I learned to move cases of this nature forward constructively while not compromising my clients' goals. My goal is to strike a balance between effective lawyering and managing my clients' emotions. Remaining unflappable, a skill I honed when I was a New York state prosecutor, has been crucial to my success, particularly in emotionally charged cases. This approach has not only instilled confidence in my clients and the bench, but it also sends a message to the opposing party that I am a formidable adversary, often leading to a settlement that is in my clients' best interests.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

Focusing on professionalism and staying level headed shifts the focus from emotionally driven litigation to strategic and analytical negotiations about the relevant legal issues, which, in divorce cases, frequently include complex financial matters such as division of assets, asset valuations, tax implications and questions surrounding income. And, of course, for my cases involving custody, it is very important to ensure my clients do not lose focus of their children's best interests.

What bearing will this have on the future?

This approach will help resolve matrimonial matters more effectively and efficiently, reducing costs and fees and enabling the divorced parties to move on to the next stage of their lives.

