

# “Putting Clients First”

IN A PERIOD OF YOUR LIFE AS UPSETTING AND CHAOTIC AS DIVORCE, IT'S only natural that your emotional upheaval will distract you from what's most important: having your case resolved as quickly and fairly as possible so you can get on with your life in peace. "People in this area are very emotionally charged," says Manhattan lawyer Malcolm S. Taub. "They often don't understand how the law works – which isn't surprising, considering it's the first time many of them are involved with it." A good family-law attorney will help you keep focused on settling your divorce in a rational and timely fashion, he says. Taub advises that a client treat his or her divorce as a business matter. "Handle the case as dispassionately as you can," he says. "Life is too short, so the sooner you deal with the issues and get on with your life, the happier you'll be as a person."

Taub, who has practiced family law since 1974, focuses on high-profile matrimonial cases, custody issues, complex litigation, and proceedings to modify judgments. "These days, family law is very sophisticated in terms of valuing businesses," he notes. "My experience in transactional corporate matters got me into the field." Taub enjoys both the intellectual challenges and the interactions with people that come with the territory.

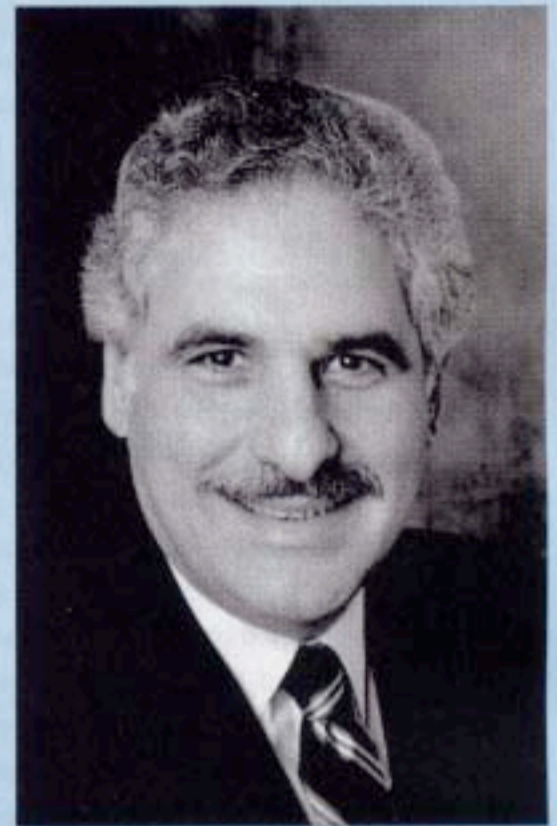
Although he's very experienced and able in the courtroom, Taub's top priority in divorce cases is to attempt to settle them in a non-adversarial setting before even considering litigation. "The time and the pain that the client experiences in litigation are not worth the money," he says. "Settlement can better take care of the needs of the client." He finds that negotiation is usually a more effective method of achieving his goal, which is "to reach a resolution as quickly and inexpensively as possible."

But Taub recognizes that, no matter how fair a deal he devises, you can't always bring the other side to the table to agree. In the event of a trial, hard work and diligent preparation are his keys to success. "We deal with issues by hiring experts who analyze the case properly and thoroughly," he explains. "I surround myself with a great team, including accountants and Of Counsel lawyers. We do a very thorough job in trials." Having earned the respect of the legal community, Taub works well and efficiently with opposing counsel.

Always attentive to his clients' needs and goals, Taub handles cases with the client's family in mind – particularly the well-being of the children. "I handle the matter in the way that's least destructive to the family; you need to do everything to preserve family life." In addition, his very strong background in commercial law and real-estate law is invaluable when it comes to the financial and corporate sides of cases. "It puts me in a unique category among most matrimonial lawyers."

Taub's wide-ranging expertise is evident through his past positions teaching real-estate law at New York University and business law at Long Island University. He is a member of the American, New York State, and New York City Bar Associations. But more than anything else, he is committed to his clients' welfare.

"When I work with a client who feels helpless, and I can empower that client, the person has an opportunity to grow and reach his or her own personal goals. That's very satisfying to me," he says.



Malcolm S. Taub

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