

My divorce case has been ongoing since, May 2006. It is now February 17, 2009 and I do not see any indication that my case will be ending any time soon. I have worked with several attorneys during that period of time.

My first attorney had advised me that my case should be completely resolved within six to nine months, but certainly in less than a year. One and a half years later, the only thing that attorney had accomplished was to get me divorced in status only. In other words, little, if anything, had had been accomplished with regard to child custody, visitation, child support, spousal support, division of property or the like. In fact, while represented by that attorney, I had very little visitation with my children because I had left the family residence without the children and was considered to have abandoned them. I could not ask my husband to leave the new leased apartment he obtained after he left his mother's home and had been living with her for 36 years. Unfortunately, the living arrangements were not suitable for me having to relocate only a few houses away from his mother. In addition, I could not take our children away from their father because he'd just returned home after being absent from their lives for over six month's; they had already been emotionally distraught from that experience. It turns out that the biggest mistake of my life was my having left the family residence without taking the children with me. Had I consulted with a knowledgeable family law attorney before leaving, my current situation would be much better.

After expressing my dissatisfaction with my attorney, I was referred to Russakow, Ryan & Johnson. The attorney at Russakow, Ryan & Johnson who was initially assigned to my case was able to improve my situation to a degree, but it was a slow and painful process. By approximately June of 2008, I was advised that the attorney who had been handling my case was leaving Russakow, Ryan & Johnson. At that time, I was advised that a young associate under the supervision of Mark Baer would handle my matter. About a month later, he personally took over my file.

Shortly after Mr. Baer took over my file, I complained to the firm about my mounting legal fees and the fact that little progress had taken place since I retained Russakow, Ryan & Johnson. Mr. Baer took it upon himself to thoroughly review my file and every single charge on every single bill since I had retained Russakow, Ryan & Johnson. He then wrote me a very detailed letter, justifying all charges, except for approximately \$140.00, which he said should be credited to me. He did this at no expense to me and obviously spent a great deal of time for no purpose other than to improve the firm's relationship with me. Mr. Baer dissected the case for me and helped me to understand the complexities of my particular case and the fact that it would require a great deal of patience and money to accomplish my desired result. He informed me of the various options available to me, made recommendations and gave me a great deal of guidance. My frustration actually increased at that point because I realized that I had not been properly informed in the past. He caused me to understand that I was blaming him for things that occurred long before he began representing me and that he really did understand my frustration. I was actually ready to give up and not see my children, who did not want to see me because my ex-husband and his mother had alienated them from

me. Mr. Baer helped me better understand my situation and explained what could be done to move it in a positive direction at an accelerated pace.

Mr. Baer has put a great deal of effort in his handling of my case. He has helped me to notice what key factors to look for when working with a particular situation. I recall sitting with Mr. Baer in a conference room for an entire day. He answered all of my questions and explained to me the differences between “normal” custody proceedings and a difficult one, such as mine. Any time that questions or concerns come up, Mark is available by phone, e-mail or other means. Mark is very prompt at returning my calls and responding to my email with answers to my questions and is always prepared for my additional questions.

Amazingly, in less than a year, Mr. Baer has drastically moved this along and improved my position immensely. Before Mr. Baer took on this case, it seemed to be a never-ending saga, causing me headaches and heartaches, not to mention, money.

Obviously, Mark Baer’s professional demeanor highlights his persona and character. He is not only very skillful in the way in which he practices family law, but he clearly cares about his clients.

My case is still ongoing and emotions run high as they do in almost any divorce case. However, I now see an end in site. I am extremely satisfied with the direction of this case since it was assigned to Mark Baer. Within six months, Mark was able to significantly increase my visitation time with my children and obtain overnight visitation for me. This was not an easy task because of the alienation issues involved and the children’s feelings toward me as a result. It now looks as though I will be given custody of my minor children, even though my ex-husband, the therapists and Minor’s Counsel are all claiming that such a change of custody will be detrimental to my children for no reason other than the ongoing alienation tactics by my ex-husband and his mother.

I can’t look at the back and punish myself for not knowing about this wonderful Family Law Attorney in the past. Had I known about Mr. Baer much sooner, I would now be enjoying time with my oldest son, along with his younger brothers. Unfortunately, my oldest son turned 18 before Mark took over my file and the Court no longer had the ability to make orders involving him. I am convinced that my case would be one of the “normal” divorce cases if I had seen Mark Baer at the very beginning.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for everything you have accomplished and continue to accomplish for me.

Sincerely,  
  
Veronica B. Garcia