

PASSION FOR HELPING PEOPLE

A family law practice brings compassion and critical thinking to its cases—especially those involving business assets.

When Heather Forshey wants to bring a new attorney into her family law practice, she looks for one quality in particular.

“Anyone I hire has to be likeable and able to relate to clients,” says Forshey, attorney and owner of Raleigh Divorce Law Firm. “As family law attorneys, we bring our personality and human experience to the table in order to help clients make good, logical decisions when they’re not at their best and when emotions are running high.”

A renowned family law attorney lauded by Super Lawyers and holding an AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell, Forshey serves clients with solutions-oriented counsel while mentoring the bright young lawyers on her team. Her approach is one of compassion, and she advises her team to consider each case as an emotional process rather than as a transactional one. “I encourage them to look at the whole picture and find specific and creative solutions to each client’s issues,” she says.

Getting Down to Business

Divorces that involve family business assets come with added layers of complexity.



A business is a dynamic entity, and splitting the pie down the middle rarely ends up yielding two equal pieces.

Few attorneys understand this like Forshey. As a businesswoman, she knows what it takes to build a company and watch it thrive, and she’s

well-versed in issues concerning commercial property, taxes, and employees. When working with a family for whom a business is at stake, Forshey delivers empathy and insight.

“Some families invest a lot of money and marital assets in their businesses,” Forshey

says. “If you cut that in half, you’re not only destroying what the family has worked hard to build, but you’re also hurting the income stream.”

Forshey’s goal is to find creative solutions that are fair for both spouses and that leave business assets intact—for example, by designing an arrangement where one spouse runs the company while the other exits with fair compensation. Often, such calculations supersede spreadsheets: They’re based on clients’ personal and professional goals, as well as their ages and the business’s prospects. Whatever the solution, Forshey tailors it to each client’s needs. “Cases with complex assets require thinking outside of the box, not cookie-cutter solutions,” she says.

Business assets aren’t the only complicating factors of a divorce. Family dynamics, too, can get tangled. In these situations, Forshey’s sensitive, empathetic approach comes from personal experience. “As the stepmom of two children, I live in a blended family, so I understand what clients are going through,” she says. “I know the different challenges and issues that arise after the paperwork is done—but I am also there to tell clients that yes, there is life after divorce.”

Forshey’s passion for helping people resonates beyond the office. For the past 20 years, she’s actively supported the Guardian ad Litem Program, which helps abused and neglected children, and is the current president and board member of the Friends of Wake County Guardian ad Litem Program.