

A Pragmatic Approach

Dena A. Kleeman combines a client-focused approach with sophisticated financial expertise and litigation experience to help Southern California families navigate complex divorces.

“Our firm does classic family law work, mostly in the universe of divorce,” says Dena A. Kleeman, founding partner at Kleeman Kremen Family Lawyers. “This includes litigation, mediation, negotiation, and collaborative law. We help clients navigate the divorce process without turning their lives upside down. We also handle the preparation and negotiation of premarital and postmarital agreements. After all, these agreements are a form of pre-divorce financial planning.”

Based in Beverly Hills, Kleeman Kremen Family Lawyers helps clients across Southern California with complex matters ranging from high net worth divorces to challenging child custody conflicts. The firm has more than 70 years of combined family law experience, partnering with clients to provide strategies tailored to their individual circumstances. This pragmatic approach prioritizes clients’ well-being while protecting their interests.

Founded by Dena Kleeman with partner Ruth Kremen joining soon after, the firm has a proven track record in the courtroom and at the negotiating table. It has also earned recognition within the legal community, including an AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell®, among other honors.

For many clients, the firm’s work begins before the legal process does.

“Many of the people who come to see me have already decided to end their marriage,” Kleeman says. “They’re ready to move on to the next phase, but it can be overwhelming. I help them put all the pieces together, like

gathering and safeguarding their financial documents. When it’s finally time to file, they’re fully prepared.”

That preparation becomes even more important when a divorce involves businesses, unique investments, and other hard-to-value assets and compensation packages. Many of Kleeman’s clients come from the professional and business communities in the Los Angeles area, seeking the firm’s expertise in business valuations, tax implications, real property division, and other financial matters that accompany high net worth divorces.

The complexity of these cases makes the human side of the attorney-client relationship especially important.

“Going through a divorce is a traumatic experience, and clients need to feel supported,” says Kleeman. “Part of my job is being there for them during an incredibly emotional time. I strive for every client to experience my core message: I’m competent, I’m caring, I won’t let you down.”

Focused on Resolution

“My disposition is to do what’s best for the client, and that usually means trying out-of-court settlement options first,” says Kleeman. “It’s better if you can craft your own solution

and keep it private. That allows everyone to get the process over with more quickly. Most of my clients are people who just want to move on with their lives.”

When cooperation breaks down, the firm’s approach shifts from finding common ground to preparing for court.

“High-conflict divorces usually happen because one party wants a fight instead of finding common ground. That party is not ready for resolution,” says Kleeman. “You can only compromise with them up to a certain point. After that, you end up having to litigate or start down the path of trial preparation and trial.”

Other matters simply cannot be resolved through negotiation, Kleeman notes, particularly disputes involving valuation complexity, highly discretionary legal standards, or circumstances that hinge on future events. In those cases, litigation may be the only path forward.

“Litigation is intense,” says Kleeman. “We do all the research we can. We spend a lot of time preparing the client for the experience. We bring in the entire team, including our forensic accountant and other experts. By the time we head into court, we’re rigorously prepared and ready for the trial ahead.”

