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MARK E. MINYARD

MINYARD MORRIS

NEWPORT BEACH

many, that clients are never happy about the results of the divorce, and that clients never like their divorce lawyer by the end of the case. I have found those opinions not to be accurate. Many of my former clients are among my best friends today.”

Minyard emphasizes that family law differs drastically from the public perception. Rather than merely dividing household items and arranging custody schedules, his practice is more like business litigation. His case-load includes matters involving high-rise hotels, hedge funds, private equity firms, venture-backed startups, law firms, manufacturing companies, real estate development and defense contractors.

“The complexity and nuances of family law make every day and every case unique and challenging,” Minyard said.

The practice requires characterizing, valuing and dividing diverse holdings across multiple business sectors and investment types. According to Minyard, there’s “no such thing as a boring day” in his firm.

His primary concerns center on court resource allocation. Despite recom-

mendations from the Elkins Task Force that 19% of judicial officers should handle family law cases, most California courts fall short of this benchmark. San Diego County stands as the exception.

“Family law judges work more hours than do most judges in other departments. As a result, they often request other assignments as soon as they are able,” Minyard said. This revolving door results in less experienced judges presiding over family law matters.

“The net result of the revolving door is that family law litigants do not receive equal treatment when compared to other civil litigation parties and access to justice is essentially denied,” Minyard said.

Minyard also points to concerning tactical developments in family courts. “While domestic violence is a real and serious concern in our society, it has become a tactical weapon that is abused by parties and lawyers for strategic advantages,” he stated, calling for legislative intervention to address this growing problem.

Family law attorney Mark Minyard had no plans to be a family law attorney.

“In fact, if I had thought that I would be practicing family law when I was in law school, I would have dropped out immediately,” he said.

Now, at the helm of Minyard Morris, he contradicts common assumptions about divorce attorneys and the practice of family law. “It is said by