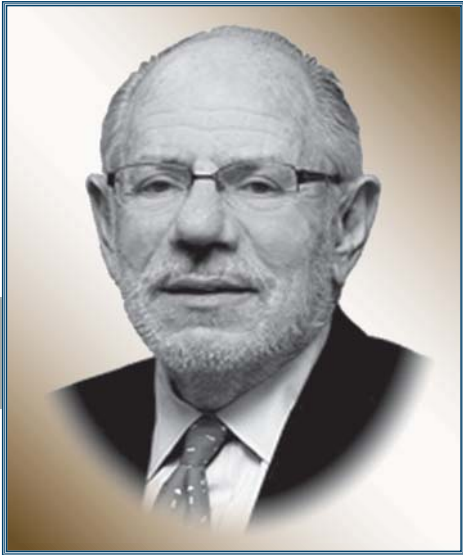




Matrimonial & Divorce Law

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

2013



EDWARD S. SNYDER

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EDUCATION

Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, B.A.
Boston University School of Law, J.D.

AFFILIATIONS

- Family Law Section, American Bar Association
- Family Law Section, New Jersey State Bar Association
- Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Charter Fellow, International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Diplomate, American College of Family Trial Lawyers
- Recipient, Tischler Award, New Jersey Bar Association, Family Law section, 1999
- AV Preeminent rating, Martindale-Hubbell

Well known nationally and a shrewd handler of complex cases, Ed Snyder has been a leading matrimonial attorney in New Jersey for more than four decades. Fairly easy-going for a successful lawyer (“Your record speaks for you, and that’s it”), Snyder built his career and reputation largely as an independent practitioner; today, Snyder and partner Angelo Sarno have teamed up to create one of the state’s leading divorce-law boutiques. What’s more, Snyder has always maintained a leadership profile at the national level of the divorce bar, having lectured widely over many years. Growing up in Brockton, Mass., the son of a podiatrist, Snyder says his father urged him to “be my own boss – and I listened to him.” He graduated from Drake University in Iowa, and returned to Boston for law school. Looking for a change in scenery, he moved to Essex County, New Jersey. He clerked with a matrimonial judge in Passaic County, his first intensive exposure to divorce law, and then worked for two prominent divorce attorneys. By the time he was 30 he had launched his own practice, based in Union. Remarkably, it was part-time work as a public defender that forged the young Snyder into a confident courtroom attorney – “I was doing it to make ends meet, and it turned out to be a very valuable experience.” He practiced with a large firm for several years, its only divorce attorney, but even then, he says, he felt like a sole practitioner. Over the years Snyder’s career evolved with the fast-changing

landscape of divorce law. New Jersey was in many respects a pace-setter in key legal decisions in the field, thrusting Snyder into the role of both a national spokesman and advocate for his fellow divorce lawyers. “I’ve always liked and respected the people I work with – and against. It’s certainly made me a more effective advocate for my clients.” Snyder and Sarno are known for taking on some of the most challenging cases in the region. At his previous firm Snyder worked on the ground-breaking Konzelman case, in which the Supreme Court of New Jersey established cohabitation as grounds for termination of alimony. Today, Snyder and his wife, Gail Margolis, live in Millburn, N.J. They are inveterate outdoor travelers; recently they hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back. He’s also an enthusiastic oenophile. Snyder has no plans of slowing down: “I love what I do, so why stop? I feel like I’m just hitting my stride.”



Observations & Perspectives

from Edward S. Snyder

Back when I started, the divorce process in New Jersey was much less complicated. It was the era prior to the passage of equitable-distribution laws, so there was little real investigation as to who was entitled to property in a divorce. If your name wasn't on a title, you didn't get it. There was a lot of injustice.

Today the process is certainly fairer, but there is still great discretion on the part of judges who rule on the outcome of cases. And the stakes, quite frankly, are much higher. That's one of the reasons the vast majority of cases settle well before any trial takes place. And that's the way it should be. Any good matrimonial attorney has a good idea of how a case can and should be settled.

Our initial interview is an opportunity for both the attorney and the prospective client to get to know each other. At this point in my career I am

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most effective as a strategist and guide for all the cases we commit our firm to, and especially the most complex cases, which demand the expertise of myself and my partner. For us it is all about the vigorous prosecution of every case.

Often I will be familiar with a case even before I meet with the client. I am referred many cases, often by the personal attorneys of the client. And

I've worked with Angelo Sarno for many years – we are an excellent team.

It's very difficult for a sole practitioner to take on a complex, high-asset case. The resources of our firm make all the difference. A client must be confident that their attorney is going to fight for their interests – our firm provides tremendous support for every case. That's our focus.

We have handled cases that involved hundreds of millions of dollars worth of assets, and we've handled cases that appear to be routine but in fact involve unique points of law. Yet we are selective with cases, and we ensure that our caseload is manageable. That's what makes it all so satisfying for me.

The fact is, you can't be a success in our line of work without satisfied clients. I love what we're doing -- and the way we're doing it. I can see we are making a difference.



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