

# A GUIDING LIGHT

**Divorce is never easy. It is often a painful and difficult decision to make. However, with the expert guidance and care of Weinberg, Kaplan & Smith, their clients are able to navigate the waters of matrimonial law with the confidence and support they need.** by KAREN NIMETZ



**G**etting a divorce and dealing with the various family law issues that may arise from it can be complex, costly and emotionally taxing. The elite team at Weinberg, Kaplan & Smith understand this and handle all of their cases with the empathy, professionalism, and diligence they deserve.

A boutique matrimonial law firm located in Marlton, Weinberg, Kaplan & Smith (WKS), was founded 10 years ago by partners Amy Smith and Dawn Kaplan. Smith and Kaplan had previously worked together at another firm and were inspired to open their own practice along with former partner Joseph Weinberg. Smith explains, "We viewed family law a little differently and felt it was important to have our own firm to be able to make decisions and handle matters in a way that would be more beneficial to clients." Not long after Weinberg retired, his son, Michael joined the firm. Smith describes the attorneys at WKS as "seven dedicated and incredibly knowledgeable litigators who work extremely well together, which is certainly to the benefit of our clients and one of the things that truly sets us apart from other firms."

Smith adds that all the lawyers at WKS specialize in matrimonial law. "We are a heavy litigation firm, able to handle every aspect of matrimonial law such as child custody and college contributions." With over 20 years of experience in law, Smith notes, "no one divorce case is ever the same as another; each case is uniquely different and should be treated as such." As a former prosecutor in Burlington County, she has dealt with all different types of cases, including those involving domestic violence. "Unfortunately, it's very prevalent in our society. It doesn't follow socioeconomic boundaries at all. People think it only happens in certain places but it



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happens everywhere. It just happens behind closed doors so it's easier for victims and abusers to hide it."

Smith handles divorce cases involving domestic violence with keen sensitivity saying, "My experience as a prosecutor has equipped me with a real understanding of the cycle of violence. Sometimes it's hard for people to understand that a victim is going to leave their abuser multiple times and still go back. It's

rare for them to leave the first time and not return because the abuser is often able to woo them back with an apology and promises of 'it's never going to happen again', and it continues, which makes it a cycle. It is very hard for the victim to finally leave for good."

Throughout the world, the number of couples seeking divorce has spiked dramatically over the last two years. WKS has certainly seen an increase in divorce cases during this time but has not missed a beat, ensuring clients' concerns are addressed and their needs are met. "Our firm has been really busy throughout the pandemic. Due to COVID concerns, we are still not back in court yet; a lot of our cases have been handled through Zoom. However, we have figured out ways to still be able to efficiently handle and move each of our cases along." That resourcefulness as well as the collaborative efforts of the litigators helps smooth the often-bumpy road of divorce.

The attorneys at Weinberg, Kaplan & Smith have the ability to assess and adapt to each of their client's needs. Smith says the key to interacting with clients is "being a good listener and having a really transparent relationship so that you are aware of everything and can properly guide them through the process." She adds, "Divorce, especially when children are involved, can be a low time in someone's life and our job is to be

caring and compassionate, provide guidance, and serve as a strong legal advocate for them. We really look at it as a team approach. All of us at the firm truly care about our clients and our goal is to get them the best possible settlement. We are conscious of fees and always aim to be cost-effective with a client's funds, making sure we are doing what is ultimately in their best interest and the best interest of their children." ♦