

PHILLIPS, LERNER, LAUZON & JAMRA LLP

It's hard to come up with words or phrases to accurately describe family-law attorney Stacy Phillips' energy level. "Explosive" and "tremendous" don't quite do it justice. But it's all an issue of semantics anyway. Ms. Phillips is nothing if not a veritable Energizer bunny, tirelessly helping clients resolve tough family law issues such as divorce, custody disputes, paternity issues, and so on. "What we do isn't make-work by any means," says Ms. Phillips, a principal in Phillips, Lerner, Lauzon & Jamra and named one of the "Best Lawyers®" in the Los Angeles area. "A typical client comes in with their self esteem in the toilet and we help them walk out with their head held high. What I do is very much a joy in that respect."

SHE IS ALSO just as quick to point out, however, that she is not an island — and places a lot of the reason for the firm's success over the past decade square on the shoulders of the people who surround her at work. "I wouldn't be where I am but for the talent of my partners, associates, and my ace paralegal and support staff," Ms. Phillips says. "We work closely together to come up with the best solutions for each and every client."

IT'S THIS PHILOSOPHY that has helped Phillips Lerner solidify its position as one of the premier family-law firms in Los Angeles. The focus, of course, is on guiding clients through what are typically highly emotionally charged situations — and on crafting practical solutions to serious problems at the negotiating table. But it's also not to say that the firm won't head to the courtroom when necessary, and is just as well known for its litigation skills.

REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEIR WORK TAKES PLACE, Ms. Phillips says the key lies in the ability to strike the very fine balance between support and objectivity. "The best family lawyer you can be is one who is compassionate but never crosses the line," she says. It's a mix that has helped countless clients ranging from housewives, professionals, executives and television and film celebrities.

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THE FIRM'S WORK DOESN'T END WITH CLIENTS. Phillips Lerner is firmly entrenched in the community in which it operates, pursuing a wide range of philanthropic activities. At the end of the day, giving back is its own reward, says Ms. Phillips. "We're firm believers that if you do, well, you must do good," she says. "We'll never be any different."

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