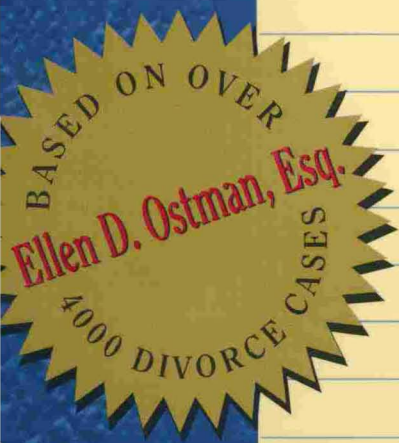


# Dear Client

A Complete Handbook for Understanding  
and Surviving Your Legal Divorce Process



Your lawyer is but a warrior —  
you are the chief. You decide the  
nature and direction of the battle.

# Dear Client

"The issues facing families involved in divorce litigation are becoming increasingly complex. *Dear Client* appears to offer a thorough and sensitive examination of the issue and would be a useful tool to educate those going through a divorce."

BETTY CASTOR, PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

"As a comprehensive treatise on the subject of divorce, *Dear Client* provides easy reading. Ms. Ostman writes in language understandable to the layman and the work is leavened with several poignant case histories illustrating the plight and confusion of those involved in this sad dilemma. In a lighter vein, Ms. Ostman has traced the history of love and marriage down through the ages, as well as the changes in moral attitudes from the Greco-Roman era, through the outrageous sexuality of the eighteenth century, to the present day."

DONALD S. GIBBS, M.D., RET'D  
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, 1983-1993

"Ms. Ostman's skillful guidance will help you see that all divorces have common elements. Through her telling of the personal stories of some of her clients who have been where you are now, along with her clear and explicit instructions on how to proceed, you will come to understand that divorce is an experience that people have to deal with step by step. The more you understand what is happening to you, the more empowered you will be to deal with this critical life event."

HELEN GORDON DAVIS, FLORIDA SENATE  
FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1974-1992



DRYMON PHOTOGRAPHY

## About the Author

ELLEN D. OSTMAN is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Marital and Family Law, and has handled more than 4,000 cases in her nearly 20 years of practice. She has professional admissions in Federal Court, State of Florida Court, Special Admissions in the Circuit Court of Hawaii, and is a Certified Family Law Mediator. She received her law degree from the University of Florida. In 1982 Ostman co-authored legislation with Senator Betty Castor for injunctions for protection, Chapter 741 of the Florida Statutes, that provided for streamlining of the procedures needed for a person to obtain protection from the courts from an abusive spouse or partner. Florida was the second state in the U.S. to pass this kind of legislation.

## About the Illustrator

CHARLES BRAGG is a California-based artist who has received worldwide recognition for his satirical artistic studies of mankind and the environment. He has held solo exhibitions from San Francisco to Vienna, New York to Munich, Philadelphia to Honolulu. He has created commissions for *Playboy*, *Mother Jones*, and *The New York Times* magazine. The recipient of several awards for his work, Bragg was also the subject of a PBS documentary, "Charles Bragg—One of a Kind."

ISBN 0-936417-44-7



Axelrod Publishing of Tampa Bay

COVER DESIGN BY DUNN+ASSOCIATES, HAYWARD, WI

9 780936 417448