

Givens Law Group News

Welcome to our March 2011 Newsletter

Givens and Ostman Named to *Super Lawyers*

Attorneys Stann Givens and Ellen Ostman were recently selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2011 edition of the prestigious *Super Lawyers* in the specialty of Family Law.

Stann and Ellen have over 70 years combined experience and are Board Certified Marital and Family Lawyers by the Florida Bar Board of Certification. They are both authors in their field and are frequent lecturers in the field of marital law.

Kim Byrd Joins Givens Law Group

Givens Law Group announced the addition of Kim Byrd as a principal attorney with the firm. Byrd is a graduate of the University of Florida and New York Law School. He will represent clients in marital and Family Law, and Wills and Estate Planning.

Currently, Byrd is President of the National LGBT Bar Association and has been awarded the Silver Pin Award by Bay Area Legal Services.

Questions Someone May Ask You About Divorce

Don't Waste Money on a Divorce Lawyer

Divorce lawyers don't come cheap. They have spent lots of time, energy and money in schooling to get where they are. They also have varying degrees of experience and expertise that they have acquired while in the legal profession. And they charge for all of that. Many times people who are going through a divorce are stressed out beyond normal limits. They are angry at the position they are in and feel as if their world is crumbling. That sometimes leads to irrational decision making.

We spend a surprising amount of time talking clients out of spending

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[Read more about Stann Givens](#)



[Read more about Ellen Ostman](#)



money on us. All too frequently, a client will insist that we investigate in detail some aspect of the opposing spouse's background or finances that has little or no bearing on the outcome of the client's divorce case. The motivation behind the request is the desire to make the spouse suffer the same stress that the client is feeling and not to advance the client's case.

In those situations, we explain in detail what the goals of the case should be and that the request is not one that will get us closer to meeting those goals. One role of a good divorce lawyer is to tell the client even the things the client doesn't want to hear. If the client insists on still taking the action, and assuming it is legal and ethical to do so, we will do so only with a clear explanation that the client is wasting money on the investigation.

Having my own personality trait of being a bit of a tightwad, it bothers me to waste money and to see other people waste money, EVEN IF THE MONEY IS WASTED ON ME!

Bottom line: Listen to your experienced Florida divorce lawyer when you are told that you are about to waste your money in your divorce.

THANKS!

We are all extremely grateful for the referrals we have received from former clients, fellow lawyers, mental health professionals and others in our community. There is nothing more professionally humbling than knowing that people are counting on us in their life-changing family law problems.

If you ever decide that one more piece of e-mail is too much, feel free to "unsubscribe" to this newsletter at any time. We look forward to working with you to make things easier for those people you know who are having family issues and we look forward to helping you in any way we can to make your life easier.

[Read more about O. Kim Byrd](#)

