

Town & Country

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LOVE & the RICH

I Wish I'd
Married Rich
What Is Marriage Now?

What He
Really Thinks
About Your
Plastic Surgery

The **DIVORCE**
of the **YEAR**
The Top Divorce Lawyers

JANUARY 2011 \$4.50



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February



LOVE & THE RICH

62 A T&C Roundtable: What Is Love?

Seven of our favorite women on today's most pertinent relationship issues.

68 The Story of Love

How love and marriage have evolved from Wallis Simpson to Kate Middleton.

72 I Wish I'd Married Rich

Daphne Merkin asks, "Why didn't I listen to my mother?"

77 What He Really Thinks of Your Plastic Surgery

You want to improve your looks. But what are the side effects?

By Jamie Rosen

80 Field Guide to Divorce Lawyers

The many styles of the country's elite family-law attorneys.

By Doree Shafrir

85 McCourt v. McCourt

Inside the most expensive divorce proceedings in California history. By Jesse Katz

91 The T&C Marriage Hall of Fame

Ten marriages that have lasted more than half a century.

92 There Will Always Be a Claridge's

The storied history of the grandest hotel of all.

By Pamela Fiori

102 9 Trends

The top nine trends you'll be wearing throughout the season.

ON OUR COVER AND THIS PAGE: Photograph by Stéphane Sednaoui. Harry Winston platinum and diamond necklace with 74-carat aquamarine drop set in platinum, and Harry Winston aquamarine and diamond ring, 63.5 carats, set in platinum (both, price upon request), 800-988-4110. Our model looks the part with Estée Lauder's Double Wear Mineral Rich Loose Powder Makeup SPF 12 in Intensity 1.0, Signature Silky Powder Blush in Radiant Peach, Signature Eyeshadow Quad in Black Smoke, Double Wear Stay-in-Place Gel Eyeliner in Stay Midnight, Sumptuous Extreme Lash Multiplying Volume Mascara in Extreme Black, Pure Color Lipstick in Vanilla Truffle, and Essie Nail Polish in Cloud Nine. Hair by Nicolas Jurnjack at Management Artists for Redken/Cutler Salon. Makeup by Fulvia Farolfi for Chanel (ArtList). Manicure by Tatyana Molot for ArtistsByTimothyPrano.com. Shot on location at Milk Studios. Retouching by BOX.

FIELD GUIDE TO DIVORCE LAWYERS

BY DOREE SHAFRIR

Divorce lawyers are a peculiar breed. "At the highest level of matrimonial practice, it's a pretty small field," says Manhattan divorce lawyer Allen Drexel, who worked for four years for one of the giants of New York divorce law, Robert S. Cohen, and now has his own boutique firm. "You're all repeat players against each other, sometimes in multiple cases in any given year. And the competitiveness inherent in the litigation process makes chummy casual interaction between divorce lawyers pretty infrequent." In other words, in the animal kingdom of law, divorce attorneys are the lone wolves. And yet, regionally, the species does have some common traits. Read on for our findings.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BEN VOLDMAN



ELEANOR ALTER, NEW YORK
Clients: Madonna, Ethan Hawke, Mia Farrow



NANCY CHEMTOB, NEW YORK
Clients: Tory Burch, Richard Jefferson ex Kesha Nichols, Diandra Douglas



ROBERT S. COHEN, NEW YORK
Clients: Michael Bloomberg, Tommy Mottola, Christie Brinkley



RAOUL FELDER, NEW YORK
Clients: Rudy Giuliani, Stephanie Seymour, Robin Givens



SANDY AIN, WASHINGTON, DC
Clients: S. Epatha Merkerson, Mike Tyson ex Monica Turner, Frances Glendening



GLENN C. LEWIS, WASHINGTON, DC
Clients: Steve Case, BET founder Robert Johnson



MARNA TUCKER, WASHINGTON, DC
Clients: Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson, Michael Huffington



MARTIN HAINES, MIAMI/PALM BEACH
Clients: Dennis Kozlowski, former Apple CEO John Sculley, Greg Norman



TOM SASSER, MIAMI/PALM BEACH
Clients: Tiger Woods, Jeff Gordon



JOEL WEISSMAN, MIAMI/PALM BEACH
Clients: New York Yankees partner Jack Satter, Red Sox owner John Henry



DON SCHILLER, CHICAGO
Clients: Michael Jordan ex Juanita Jordan, Robert Pritzker



IKE VANDEN EYKEL, DALLAS
Clients: millionaire rancher Rex Cauble ex Josephine Cauble



SORRELL TROPE, LOS ANGELES
Clients: Cary Grant, Nicole Kidman, Nicolas Cage



DENNIS WASSER, LOS ANGELES
Clients: Tom Cruise, Steven Spielberg, Alec Baldwin



LAURA WASSER, LOS ANGELES
Clients: Angelina Jolie, Christina Aguilera, Spike Jonze

NEW YORK

NATURAL HABITAT: Upper East Side
MIGRATORY PATTERN: The Hamptons in summer months
FEEDING GROUNDS: Maloney & Porcelli
MODE OF TRANSPORTATION: Anything with a chauffeur

their Tribeca apartment. Most recently Chemtob was in the news for taking Michael Douglas to court to try to get some of the proceeds from the *Wall Street* sequel for his ex-wife, Diandra.
FLOCKS WITH: The Upper East Side socialite crowd
DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Bossily maternal. Chemtob, who resides in Manhattan and East Hampton, becomes familiar with her clients' personal lives, helping them find financial planning, therapy, and life-coaching.
SIGNATURE PLUMAGE: Her perfect blond mane.

ROBERT S. COHEN

Cohen Lans
 A couple of years ago, Cohen and his wife bought a \$4.4 million apartment at 1 Beekman Place in Manhattan—the funds for which undoubtedly came in large part from the work he's done over the years for clients including New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, financier Henry Kravis, music mogul Tommy Mottola, James Gandolfini, and Christie Brinkley. He's managed to nab a lot of big-money referrals. "Cohen had a major success in the eighties with Henry Kravis," says a source. Since then, "a lot of peers and intimates of Kravis" have become Cohen clients.
BIG KILL: Cohen won Brinkley sole custody of her children with Peter Cook, as well as their shared property.
MORTAL ENEMY: Donald Trump, who had to face Cohen in his divorces from Ivana Trump and later from Marla Maples. Trump was clearly impressed; he later hired Cohen's firm to represent him in a suit against a golf course contractor who he says overcharged him—only to sue Cohen's firm for alleged overbilling once the golf course case was settled.
DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Calculating. He keeps a lower profile than Raoul Felder but isn't beyond issuing a zinger or

two in court, as when he described Cook as "a self-obsessed sex addict who spent thousands of dollars on Internet porn before he began wooing a 17-year-old girl."

RAOUL FELDER

Raoul Felder
 The dapper, blustery Felder has long been at the top of the New York divorce lawyer heap—especially when it comes to getting publicity (and sympathy) for his clients (and, it must be said, himself). "He's probably the most quote-happy divorce lawyer in town," says a source. Working alongside his wife Myrna (to whom he's been married for more than 40 years), Felder's roster of clients includes Rudy Giuliani, Stephanie Seymour, Robin Givens, and Larry Fortensky. He has collaborated on two books with comedian Jackie Mason and, at 71 years old, shows no sign of retiring.
BIG KILL: He won a reported \$10 million for Givens in her 1989 divorce from Mike Tyson and then went on to sue the boxer for \$125 million more for allegedly libeling Givens; that case was settled for an undisclosed sum.
MORTAL ENEMY: Longtime rival and fellow Manhattan-based divorce lawyer Norman Sheresky, now 82, whom Felder unsuccessfully sued for libel in the eighties for telling a reporter that Felder "pretends to be a trial lawyer when he is not."
DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Narcissistic. Craves attention so much he can often be found publicly opining—pro bono—about celeb splits that don't involve him. He didn't rep Tiger Woods or Elin Nordegren, but he dined out on their feud on morning television. His website lists some of his clients, including, in Felder's words, "Alec Wildenstein—Married to woman who turned herself into a cat."
SIGNATURE PLUMAGE: Opposing counsel might think twice about crossing him. He has a permit to carry a gun in New York City.

WASHINGTON, DC

NATURAL HABITAT: Bethesda, MD, or McLean, VA
MIGRATORY PATTERN: Maryland's Eastern Shore in summer, Virginia horse country in spring and fall
FEEDING GROUNDS: The Palm
MODE OF TRANSPORTATION: BMW 7 series

SANDY AIN

Ain & Bank
 Ain might be the only divorce attorney in the country who has gotten a shout-out from an actor on national television. In 2006, *Law & Order* star S. Epatha Merkerson thanked Ain on live TV while accepting a SAG Award. (The low-profile Ain was shocked.) His merger with Marna Tucker (see below) protégée Rita Bank created the preeminent divorce law firm in DC.
BIG KILL: In 2003 he managed to get \$6.5 million in future earnings from a then-broke Mike Tyson for ex-wife Monica Turner.
DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Discreet. He's known for quietly handling the affairs of blue-chip names, including former Maryland first lady Frances Glendening, Danaher Corp. head Steven Rales, and tycoon Herbert Haft, whose divorce from ex-wife Gloria went on for most of the 1990s. *Washingtonian* magazine called him "confident, trustworthy, and ethical."
SIGNATURE PLUMAGE: A well-groomed mustache.

GLENN C. LEWIS

The Lewis Law Firm
 The former host of his own cable TV show has attracted clients like AOL cofounder Steve Case, BET founder Robert Johnson, and Christine Rales, ex-wife of billionaire Steven Rales.
MORTAL ENEMY: Former client Steve Firestone. Lewis was recently embar-

MARNA TUCKER

Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell
 When Tucker entered the field in 1965, she was one of just a handful of female graduates of Georgetown Law School—and one of the even smaller number of female divorce lawyers in the country. The first female president of the DC Bar, Tucker has a client list that includes former Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson and Michael Huffington (former spouse of Arianna).
BIG KILL: Won \$50 million and significant real estate for Gloria Haft in her divorce from Herbert Haft.
MORTAL ENEMY: Sandy Ain. As the queen of DC divorce, she has sparred with Ain, the king, in the Haft case and many times since.
SIGNATURE PLUMAGE: Sensible strands of pearls.

MIAMI/PALM BEACH

NATURAL HABITAT: Lake Worth
MIGRATORY PATTERN: Bermuda during high season (April to October)
FEEDS AT: Flagler Steakhouse at the Breakers
MODE OF TRANSPORTATION: Bentley

MARTIN HAINES

Martin Haines III, Chartered
 Haines represented disgraced Tyco CEO Dennis Kozlowski in his divorce from his wife Karen, former Apple CEO John Sculley, and

rassed after he sued Firestone for more than \$500,000 in unpaid bills. Firestone countersued, and the court found in his favor. Lewis ended up having to pay Firestone \$102,000.
FLOCKS WITH: DC's business elite
DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Bravado. Lewis is reportedly not shy about the fact that his \$850-per-hour rate is the highest in the area.

Greg Norman, whose divorce dragged on for two years and ended up costing the golfer \$103 million—though given Norman's net worth, it could have been far worse.
BIG KILL: In 2003 he extracted half of 70-year-old Palm Beach real estate tycoon Fred Keller's \$60 million-dollar fortune on behalf of his 34-year-old wife, Rose. Tragically, Keller murdered Rose eleven days later.
DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Coldly pragmatic. During the Norman divorce, Haines filed a motion requesting that Greg get most of the assets, telling the court: "The wife did not teach the husband how to swing a golf club. The wife did not teach the husband how to win."
FLOCKS WITH: Other lawyers. He's the son of a superior court judge and serves on numerous councils and boards.

TOM SASSER

Sasser, Cester & Sasser
 The denizens of Palm Beach don't like to kiss and tell, and that's why they turn to the famously tight-lipped Sasser when it comes time to dissolve their marriages. When NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon sought a divorce after a seven-year marriage, Sasser argued that Gordon shouldn't have to split the accumulated assets equally because the racing star had risked his life to accumulate them. He also represented Tiger Woods in his battle with Elin Nordegren. The 40-year-old Sasser—who joined the firm started by his father, Don—is considered one of the fastest-rising stars in Palm Beach County.
BIG KILL: Sasser's made news more for protecting fortunes than for raiding them. Gordon's ex-wife agreed to wave alimony in exchange for a sum significantly less than half of Gordon's estimated worth, which is close to \$50 million.
FLOCKS WITH: State congressmen. Sasser was key in the passing of two recent Florida state family laws, one involving alimony and

the other involving child support.

DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Subtle. Sasser has been described as an intellectual and a technogeek. He's less overtly aggressive than his peers in the field, he's almost never quoted in the press, and he refuses to name his clients.

JOEL M. WEISSMAN

Joel M. Weissman

Weissman has been aiding Floridians in their high-stakes divorces for 35 years, but he was thrust into the spotlight in 2001 when he became the first lawyer ever to prove adultery using DNA. Nanette Bailey, suspicious that her 74-year-old husband, former Massachusetts Financial Services chief Richard Bailey, was cheating, took their sheets to a DNA lab and was proved correct. The attention surrounding the case helped land such clients as New York Yankees partner Jack Satter and Red Sox owner John Henry, but Weissman hasn't become picky about whom he represents. In fact, he says, "If you can afford me"—reportedly a \$15,000 retainer and \$450 per hour—"you've got me. Before your husband calls."

MORTAL ENEMY: Fellow Palm Beach attorney Jeff Fisher, with whom he's butted heads in the divorces of Boca Raton hedge fund manager David Polen and ex-wife Rosa (Weissman, representing Rosa, planned on calling more than 150 witness) and Checker Motor mogul David Markin and ex-wife Susan. After the court ruled that Susan would receive half of David's \$106 million in assets, David and Weissman appealed—unsuccessfully—and were caught in legal battles with Fisher for another four years.

SIGNATURE PLUMAGE: His black belts—in jujitsu, kung fu, and judo.

DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Aggressive. In the seventies a judge gave Weissman the nickname "Mad Dog" for his courtroom style, and the nickname has stuck ever since.

CHICAGO

- NATURAL HABITAT:** Winnetka
- MIGRATORY PATTERN:** Lake Geneva, WI, in the summer
- FEEDING GROUND:** Morton's
- MODE OF TRANSPORTATION:** Mercedes

DON SCHILLER

Schiller DuCanto & Fleck

Chicago's a tough town, and in the world of Chicago attorneys there are few tougher than Schiller, who can claim as clients the boldest of the town's boldface names. They include Andrea Kelly, the wife of R&B singer R. Kelly, who several years ago was embroiled in an underage sex scandal; Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher; Hyatt Hotels scion Robert Pritzker; Elaine Wynn, ex-wife of casino magnate Steve Wynn; and Joan Stonecipher, ex-wife of former Boeing CEO Harry Stonecipher. "If a Bull, a Blackhawk, a Bear, or a Cub has been through

a divorce, he has probably been in a room with Don," wrote one local magazine.

BIG KILL: The \$168 million settlement he won for Juanita Jordan, ex-wife of Michael Jordan, which *Forbes* deemed the most expensive divorce in entertainment history.

FLOCKS WITH: The athletes he's often called on to represent.

PERSONALITY TRAIT: Gracious. He's often referred to as a gentleman in an ungentle field.

DALLAS

- NATURAL HABITAT:** Highland Park
- MIGRATORY PATTERN:** Aspen in winter
- FEEDING GROUNDS:** Capital Grille
- MODE OF TRANSPORTATION:** Escalade

IKE VANDEN EYKEL

Koons Fuller

The upper echelons of Dallas/Fort Worth society have long turned to Ike Vanden Eykel when it comes time to separate—without the whole world knowing. With an hourly rate of \$700, the 60-year-old Vanden Eykel, whom the *Dallas Morning News* called the most powerful divorce attorney in Texas, is also reportedly the state's highest-paid one.

BIG KILL: A \$61 million settlement for Josephine Cauble, ex-wife of rancher and convicted drug smuggler Rex Cauble.

DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Business-savvy. Vanden Eykel has a banker's grasp of finance and is a pro at analyzing statements and evaluating assets.

PREYS ON: Hypocritical spouses who accuse his clients of overspending while they indulge in their own extravagances—which Vanden Eykel's eagle-eyed researchers always uncover.

LOS ANGELES

- NATURAL HABITAT:** Beverly Hills
- MIGRATORY PATTERN:** Ojai in the summer; Mammoth in the winter
- FEEDING GROUNDS:** Culina, Modern Italian (inside the Four Seasons Beverly Hills)
- MODE OF TRANSPORTATION:** Mercedes E-Class or Lexus hybrid SUV

SORRELL TROPE

Trope and Trope

If there's anyone in Hollywood who can claim to have seen it all, it's probably Sorrell Trope, who's been hearing some of the biggest names in entertainment air their grievances about each other since 1949—among them Cary Grant (for whom he also filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the *National Enquirer* in 1981), Rod Steiger, Nicole Kidman, Nicolas Cage, Britney Spears, Shaunie O'Neal (ex of Shaquille), Dennis Quaid, and Melissa Carrey, ex of Jim.

MORTAL ENEMY: Bad boys. Though he's been busy representing Dodgers owner Frank

McCourt in his divorce, Trope has recently signed on to represent Oksana Grigorieva in her feud with Mel Gibson and Brooke Mueller against Charlie Sheen.

PREYS ON: Inexperienced attorneys who are oblivious to his pedigree.

DENNIS WASSER

Wasser, Cooperman & Carter

Wasser has a list of clients that reads like the Hollywood Walk of Fame: Tom Cruise, Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Jane Fonda, Stevie Wonder, Alec Baldwin, Jennifer Lopez, Tony Curtis, James Woods, Lionel Richie. He shot to fame with tennis icon Billie Jean King's so-called "galimony" case in the early eighties. (King's live-in girlfriend wanted alimony and their Malibu beach house.) Today he takes only "high-asset" cases—most recently, Frank McCourt's wife, Jamie—and requires a \$25,000 retainer. (For more on the McCourt case, see page 85.)

MORTAL ENEMY: The FBI, which declared Wasser a "person of interest" on account of his business dealings with Anthony Pellicano, the jailed private investigator who was arrested for unlawful wiretapping and racketeering.

DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Resourceful. Wasser puts his Hollywood connections to good use. He once got an ex-girlfriend of Clint Eastwood's a first-look deal at Warner Bros. to settle a palimony case.

SIGNATURE PLUMAGE: Tailored suits, sunglasses.

LAURA WASSER

Wasser, Cooperman & Carter

It was practically preordained that Laura Wasser would become—at the age of 42—the go-to divorce lawyer for young(ish) Hollywood. After all, not only has dad Dennis (see above) long been one of the town's big-name divorce lawyers (not to mention Laura's boss), she's just as glamorous as much of her client list, which includes Angelina Jolie, Britney Spears (though she dropped Spears when the pop star refused to take her advice in her custody battle with Kevin Federline), Kate Walsh, Spike Jonze, Patricia Arquette, and, most recently, Christina Aguilera. Often quoted in the press, Wasser doesn't shy from the spotlight. A couple of years ago she celebrated having a tequila drink named after her at the Sunset Tower Hotel, and consulted (along with her father) on *Liar Liar*, the Jim Carrey movie about a divorce lawyer.

FLOCKS WITH: A fast-moving L.A. crowd of publicists, agents, and studio execs.

DOMINANT PERSONALITY TRAIT: Strong-willed. Divorced herself at 25, Wasser swore she'd never marry again; today she's happily unmarried but resides with the father of her younger son in the Hollywood Hills.

SIGNATURE PLUMAGE: Prada, Lanvin, Alberta Ferretti—and an ankle tattoo that she tries to keep out of sight of the judges she faces.