

EXPERIENCE AND AREAS OF LEGAL PRACTICE

Most people would define the field of practice of domestic relations and the designation of practicing Family Law to be synonymous. However, Jerry makes a distinction. His perception of the practice of domestic relations law denotes divorce, custody, actions for modification and motions for contempt and legitimation proceedings. Jerry's perception of the area of practice of law designated as Family Law includes all of those areas plus anything that affects the family unit. For example, estate planning, probate and the area of trusts, wills and estates greatly impact the family unit. Also, juvenile court issues and personal injury issues greatly impact the family unit. Claims involving worker's compensation, medical insurance and life insurance can also impact the family unit. Jerry believes that it is important for a family law attorney to be mindful of all of the issues which can have a direct and substantial impact on the family unit. Although 75% - 80% of Jerry's practice for the 46 years of his career have involved cases concerning issues of Family Law, most of which were concerned with the area of domestic relations, he has had extensive experience in representing clients in related areas which impact upon the family unit as a whole. Some of those cases will be referred in the sections that follow.

CRIMINAL PRACTICE

Throughout Jerry's practice, he has represented clients in several hundred criminal cases including felony and misdemeanor charges in Federal and State courts. Obviously, a family member's charge or conviction of a crime greatly impacts the family unit. Although Jerry handles very few criminal cases at the present time, he is willing to refer prospective clients to other attorneys if he is unwilling to accept a criminal case.

FAMILY LAW

In Family Law, it is imperative that the attorney considers the question of whether or not his client has a valid, current Last Will and Testament, Advanced Directive For Healthcare and a valid Power Of Attorney For Asset Management. All of those documents are extremely important in dealing with the overall picture of the health of the family unit. In addition, the family lawyer needs to be aware of the named beneficiaries of all accounts, retirement funds, pension funds, life insurance policies and annuities. Many people seeking a divorce or legal separation do not have a valid Last Will And Testament or the other mentioned documents. Whether a divorce takes place or not, the family unit is going to be greatly impacted by the question of whether or not the deceased has the necessary documents in place to protect the family unit.

PERSONAL INJURY

Personal injury is a rather broad area of practice concerning many types of injury to the person. There are many ways that a person can be injured either by the intentional acts of another person or by the negligence of another person. Some of those ways are as follows:

- Automobile accident
- Truck accident
- Pedestrian accident
- Slip and fall accident
- Premises Liability
- Use of excessive force
- Unprovoked attack
- Medical malpractice
- Wrongful death
- Airplane accident
- Toxic chemicals
- Products liability
- Defective design

Jerry has been involved with cases involving many of those issues including, but not limited to, automobile accidents, guest passenger accidents (which involves a passenger being injured in a car driven by another person), intentional infliction of injury causing brain damage, pedestrian accident, products liability injury, worker's compensation injury, slander, injury to reputation, injury by animal and spousal abuse.

WRONGFUL DEATH

Although wrongful death involves the element of personal injury, it is considered to be a separate category of injury. A wrongful death claim can arise when someone dies as a result of any type of injury, including but not limited to, an automobile collision, a truck/car collision, medical malpractice, airplane crash, train crash or any type of intentional act causing the death of another person. Jerry has experience in dealing with wrongful death actions caused by the negligence of another person, including medical malpractice.