



# Patricia Ronayne, Esquire, P.C.

## Family law with a personal touch

GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE IS AN EMOTIONAL TIME FRAUGHT WITH UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

The family law attorneys at Patricia Ronayne, Esquire, P.C., have guided countless clients through these rough waters, providing information, expertise and peace of mind to ease the transition through this difficult life stage.

“Our goal is, at the end of the divorce, everything is structured so that you can go on to your new life,” says Patricia Ronayne, who founded the law firm in 1996.

“We explain things to clients in different ways to make everyone understand. You’re already emotional, so we try to make it an easy conversation.”

The firm handles all matters related to divorce, including child custody, alimony and child support, as well as legal issues

related to domestic violence, including restraining orders and weapons forfeiture.

“If there’s anything that touches family, we do it,” Ronayne says. “I have to know every law: personal injury, worker’s comp, taxes – it all interplays with my client’s divorce.”

The Mount Laurel-based firm has four experienced family law attorneys. Everyone has the same priority: “Doing what’s best for their clients and the clients’ children,” Ronayne says.

“The child is #1 in this office, in our own families and in the lives of our clients,” she says. “We counsel our clients on how to deal with their children throughout the divorce process. If necessary, we refer the clients and their children to therapists.”

From the initial consultation, the firm provides clients with as much information and insight as possible. Understanding it

is an emotional time and the clients will not retain everything from the first visit, Ronayne and her staff continually reinforce what is happening and what to expect.

The attorneys at Patricia Ronayne, Esquire, P.C., understand that emotions and concerns weigh heavily upon people as they go through a divorce, and they’re poised to make the situation easier to endure.

“I’ve been divorced – I know what it’s like,” Ronayne says. “Sometimes the client just needs to be reassured there is nothing to worry about and we are here to listen to them.”

To that effect, every call to the firm from a client during business hours is answered and addressed as timely as is possible, she says. Attorneys respond within 24 hours, if not sooner. In the interim, the office support staff serves to

provide information or comfort.

“When you’re going through stress, you don’t want to leave a message on voicemail,” Ronayne adds. “You’re getting personal attention. We listen to our clients, and we try to do the best for them. If someone wants to talk to me and I’m not available, they will give the call to another attorney, or I will get texted and call during a break in court.”

aggressive. Our clients often praise her writing skills and attention to detail.”

Gitter attempts to settle cases to avoid an expensive and timely trial but is prepared and equipped to try a case if necessary.

Kim Garrigues worked for another firm for 18 years before joining Patricia Ronayne, Esquire, P.C., two years ago.

“She started out with one of the best

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Alexandra J. Gitter, Esq.



Patricia Ronayne, Esq.



Kimberly Garrigues, Esq.



Jaclyn E. Kusmaul, Esq.

Of the four attorneys, Jaclyn Kusmaul, who has been with the firm for 13 years, is frequently a court-appointed guardian ad litem who makes recommendations about child custody and visitation to judges when they’re contested during a divorce. Kusmaul meets independently with the child and each parent. She writes a lengthy report and appears in court to discuss her findings. Being appointed as a guardian ad litem has provided Kusmaul with special insight as to parenting and custody issues.

Kusmaul is also a mediator who meets with individuals as to specific issues or an entire divorce. By mediating the case, the goal is to reach a resolution that is right for the client while saving time and money on court expenses.

Alexandra Gitter, who has been with the firm for 5 years, is often hard at work as early as 6:00 am preparing for court.

Although she can come across as soft spoken, Ronayne says, “She is aggressive when the case warrants, such as in a courtroom. She is always prepared and

civil and criminal attorneys around,” Ronayne says. “She’s aggressive and prepared in all of her cases. She understands people’s emotions and is able to settle cases but also prepared to try a case if necessary.

Garrigues also practices municipal law. Family law cases often result in municipal court offenses being filed against our clients. She handles these cases.

Ronayne takes on the out-of-the-ordinary cases, including the division of a home when a couple isn’t married or civil suits for car accidents or dog bites.

Clients are able to choose which attorney they work with, whether Ronayne or one of her associates. “If you only want me, you only get me,” Ronayne says.

However, all of the attorneys work together on the cases. If you like one of the other attorneys when you meet them, you can go with them. They all have the same compassion and are able to settle a case or if the case warrants to take it to trial.

The majority of the cases that the firm handles are in Burlington, Camden and

Gloucester Counties.

Throughout the divorce proceedings, the firm provides clients with guidance and advocacy while listening to their hopes and concerns. This ensures that clients are satisfied with the resolution of the situation.

“The person that comes in the first day and the person that leaves are two different people.” Ronayne says. “The first day, the parties are stressed and uncertain of their future. The last day, they have closure, direction and are returning to normal.” ■

*Patricia Ronayne, Esquire, P.C.*  
*Attorneys at Law*

644 South Church Street,  
Mount Laurel  
**856-273-2773**

**ronayneesquire.com**