

Testimonial for Mark Baer:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to let others know about my experience of utilizing Mark Baer to handle so many legal aspects of my life.

I have hired Mark for many circumstances in my life, some were proactive such as a Domestic Partnership Agreement and a Living Trust, and some reactive, such as legal representation in a dissolution of Registered Domestic Partnership.

In all of these situations, hiring Mark turned out to be the right decision!

I first hired Mark to draft my Domestic Partnership Agreement. My then partner and I were expecting a baby and we were going to register as Domestic Partners in order for her to legally adopt my baby as the second parent. I retained Mark for his expertise in protecting my assets and financial life in the event of a dissolution of that Registered Domestic Partnership.

The experience of working with Mark in drafting and negotiating that Domestic Partnership Agreement was amazing. He was very thorough, detail-oriented, and offered many "life" examples through his legal experience. His "what if scenarios" helped me to understand what I did or did not need included in that agreement. He was very understanding, funny at times, but serious when appropriate. He was honest, truthful, and had the ability to tell it like it is, whether or not I wanted to hear certain things. Most of all, the Domestic Partnership Agreement held up in court when the relationship came to an end.

A few years later, I consulted with Mark Baer regarding the impending dissolution of my Registered Domestic Partnership. At that point, our daughter was 3 years old. I was struggling as to whether to mediate or litigate the dissolution action. My thoughts at the time were to save money by mediating the case (so I thought...). I also thought my ex-partner and I could work out an agreement through mediation. Was I wrong!

During my consultation with Mark, he expressed to me that he thought mediation was a good idea in certain situations, but he also expressed to me that in situations such as my own (after hearing my "story"), I should have legal representation in the mediation because he referred to my ex-partner as a "bully". I took all of Mark's advice and thought about it, but thought I could save money by mediating the case without legal representation (big mistake).

I went ahead and tried mediation without representation for one year with a mediator that my ex-partner and I agreed upon. Yes, one year, and I got nowhere with my ex-partner. My ex-partner would not commit to showing up to the mediation meetings after the first

couple of meetings, she refused to pay child support, would not stick to the parenting plan we had in place, was rude, and thought that I would be a pushover and settle the case.

After one year of getting nowhere in mediation, I decided to meet with Mark Baer for another consultation, as I was at my wits end.

During this second consultation with Mark, I told him of what had transpired over the past year in mediation, and he reminded me that mediation without legal representation when I was dealing with a "bully" was very risky. He explained to me how things would be different if I hired him and that he would fight for me and what was important to me. After this second consultation with Mark, I decided without hesitation to hire him to represent me.

At this point, I needed someone who I could trust to take control of this situation. I trusted Mark because everything he had consulted me about in the first meeting was accurate and had come true.

After hiring Mark, my ex elected to retain counsel of her own to represent her in our ongoing mediation efforts. We spent a significant amount of time and money continuing in our efforts to mediate the case after involving our respective attorneys. We ultimately resolved all of the issues relating to division of property and almost all of the issues relating to child custody and visitation through mediation, with the help of our respective attorneys. There were a few issues that we were unable to agree upon with regard to child custody and visitation and we were unable to come to any agreement with regard to child support. Mark made certain that the mediation agreement was signed by both of us and our attorneys before litigating the remaining issues in court. He was afraid that if one of us was unhappy with the results of the court hearing, the mediation agreement would never be signed and all that time and money spent on reaching that agreement would have been wasted.

I never felt empowered in mediation before hiring Mark. I felt like the mediator was there to settle the case, but was not there to fight for what was important to me. Once I hired Mark to represent me, I felt like I had someone who really cared, fighting for me and fighting for what was important to me. Finally, I had some control over this case and my life.

On those issues which we litigated in Court, Mark successfully obtained results far greater than my ex's final position offered in mediation. Everything that Mark had consulted me on and what he told me would happen, did happen! I was very pleased with the outcome.

If it were not for Mark Baer's experience in Family Law, his ability to argue and win positions, his personality, his truthfulness and character, my case never would have been settled in such an expedient and effective manner.

I thought I was saving money by going to mediation. Was I wrong! In my case, mediation cost me tens of thousands of dollars, and in retrospect, I never should of attempted mediation because I was dealing with an ex-partner who was trying to walk away with paying no child support and did not want to compromise.

This was another example of the correct advice Mark gave me at the very beginning and he was right on track. I should have listened...If I could only go back in time...

But, the good news is, that when mediation was not going well, I hired Mark Baer to represent me!

Hiring Mark Baer was the best decision I could have made. I recommend him highly.

I trust him so much, that I have now hired Mark for another legal aspect of my life – a Living Trust!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'M. F.' with a stylized flourish.

M. F.