

THOMSON REUTERS LEGAL COMMUNITY FOR SMALL LAW FIRMS

FEATURED MEMBER: STEPHEN ASBEL



After nearly three decades in practice, Stephen Asbel enjoys managing a thriving business and mentoring newer attorneys. Asbel is a partner of Berman & Asbel, LLP, a full-service boutique firm outside of Philadelphia. Asbel, who earned his J.D. in 1989, has focused his efforts mainly on estate planning and administration and family law - particularly second parent and intra-family adoptions, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, divorce mediation, gestational carrier contracts, and more.

"I like helping people to plan for what lies ahead, to anticipate situations and to prepare for the unexpected," Asbel said. "I find it really meaningful to help people build their families and to secure their futures."

In Asbel's time as an attorney, society and law have changed. For example, he started to represent same-sex couples about 15 years ago. At the time he did not encounter controversy in doing so, but it was not necessarily common either. "I approached it as a legal puzzle," Asbel said. "How can I help these clients be in as good a position as possible when the law is written in a way that doesn't really help, or even address, them or their needs as a couple? It appealed to me because it was a chance for me to approach a problem by using strategy and creative lawyering in my practice."

Today, social and legal recognition of same-sex couples has advanced, but creativity and ingenuity are still required to meet the needs of all clients. These are also qualities Asbel hopes to foster in the two associates who joined Berman & Asbel, LLP in 2016. "I really like working with them because they're such bright and eager students of the law," he said. "I consider it an honor to play a hand in the development of our profession's next generation."

ATTORNEY PROFILE

TITLE: Partner

PRACTICE AREAS: Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Family Law

EDUCATION: Villanova University School of Law, J.D. | University of Pennsylvania, BA International Relations, *Cum Laude*

FIRM PROFILE

FIRM: Berman & Asbel, LLP

LOCATION: Media, Pennsylvania

YEAR FOUNDED: 1997

SIZE: 4 attorneys

WEBSITE: www.bermanlaw.com