

Speaker 1:

My name is Amy Nuttall, and I'm an attorney here at Haas & Associates. We have practiced for about 20 years in family law. And what I love about family law is the ability to help families. It is very much a personal practice of law, and I believe that we are zealous advocates, that we do an excellent service here and we have a super team that assists us. We've created a very welcoming, very warm, very professional atmosphere. We believe that if you can, it is good to reach a compromise and to reach a resolution without extensive litigation.

As families, you'll be interacting quite honestly for the rest of your lives because you've had children together. However, when it is time to go to court, we are well-prepared and well-respected. And when I go to court, I go to win. I always wanted to be a lawyer from an early age.

I would feel like my life was incomplete if I did not pursue that, and actually it was a second career for me. Around the age of 40, I attended law school with the support of my husband. And we had two young children, so he was working and handling the children while I went to law school. What I love most about my job is feeling like I'm making a difference in families. There's many practices of law, such as transactional law, that is more paper-driven, more corporate-driven, but what I like is the contact with my clients and feeling like I'm helping them maneuver through a very scary, very difficult situation in their lives.

I feel a sense of achievement and that I've done a good job for my clients when we've reached a resolution that is good for the family, good for my client. Sometimes it is walking out of the courtroom having secured custody for a parent who was having very little custodial right. Sometimes it is mediation where we reach a negotiation and a settlement compromise that both parties are satisfied with.

I find this area of law challenging because it's easy to become very emotionally entrenched with your client, and that's not being an effective advocate for that client. What we do is navigate the legal system for them, and I will often tell my clients I'm not a counselor. Seek counseling. Talk to a best friend, clergy, whomever you have, to get that emotional support. Our job is to maneuver the legal process and to give them advice based on sound legal principles.