

Angela Haas:

I'm Angela Haas. I'm the founder and owner of Haas & Associates. I've been practicing 20 years as of this year, and I focus on the whole spectrum of family law. Family law, when you hear that term, is generally child custody, child support, domestic violence protective orders, spousal support, and equitable distribution. We also practice pre-birth issues that have to do with family, so family planning. It may be an adoption, prenuptial agreement, surrogacy issues or assisted reproductive technology situations where maybe you have an egg donor or sperm donor.

Family planning, prenuptials, estate planning, the regular family law and probate or state administration. So pre-birth to post-grave. The best part about my job is seeing people at the end of the process. They come in, they've got a lot of questions, they have a goal in mind that they want to reach, and seeing them reach that goal and leave really as a better person, that's what I love to see.

I love to see when people go through life's changes and they come out on the other side as a better person for it. As adults, we know we can't control everything. At some point we learn that. I think what's challenging is not only am I working with the law, which I can say this applies to this or that doesn't apply to that, but I'm working against things that I can't control, like the court schedule. Sometimes it takes us what seems like forever to get into court.

I can't control people on the other side, what they're going to do, how they're going to react to what we are doing. I think that's probably the biggest thing that my clients learn, is that we can't control everything. Those things that we can control, great, we'll do that, but if it's beyond our control, we have to figure out another way so that our clients get what they need. At the end of the process when they've worked through what they need to work through and they go about their life and they're a different person than when they came to see me and their family's a different family, and to know that I helped that happen.

I saw someone yesterday in a restaurant. She was my client and her case was horrific. Her ex was creating a lot of problems for her and the children. The woman said to her children as they were leaving, "Say thank you." I knew what she was saying and I think her kids knew what she was saying. To see them in the restaurant smiling, having a nice meal together, enjoying themselves. That's what I love to see because people do go through a hard time and sometimes they don't want to look back and they don't want to remember me, and that's fine, but when I do see them later and I see who they have become and the difference that I've made, that's what keeps me going.