

# NELSON KIRKMAN

## THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA DIVORCE IS HERE

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
**PAUL NELSON, ESQ.**



*The Dissolution Solution: A Divorce Lawyer's Advice on the Best Ways to Part Ways* (River Grove Books) just published. Featuring a foreword by the *Orange County Business Journal's* very own Executive Editor Peter J. Brennan, it's already receiving high praise.

Nicholas A. Salick, prominent divorce attorney for Kanye West, gave this glowing endorsement of the book: "An indispensable tool to prepare for divorces, whether you are the divorcing spouse, a family law practitioner, or simply curious about the process."

Michael Ashley, Paul's coauthor, sat down with Paul to conduct the following interview:

**Q:** Why did you want to write this book?

**A:** My inspiration came from observing my clients' experiences on a daily basis. As a seasoned family law attorney, I frequently encounter individuals who, despite being successful and well-educated in their own domains, are completely baffled by the divorce process. I wanted to provide them with guidance and insight to demystify what lies ahead. Having informative reading material, especially before issues escalate, can be immensely beneficial.

**Q:** Why is it helpful to read a book like this from a divorce expert?

**A:** Just as many people now use WebMD to self-diagnose medical maladies, many individuals now turn to erroneous online sources for divorce information. It used to be that people would Google what to do. Nowadays, they query ChatGPT. Or ask their hairdresser. Why not turn to someone who has successfully worked in this field his whole life? Once upon a time, my dad used to say, "If you don't know diamonds, you better know

your jeweler." Here's my update: "If you don't know family law, you better know a family law attorney."

**Q:** Who is this book for?

**A:** This book is designed for anyone going through, considering, or completing a divorce. It combines informative content with an engaging writing style. While the subject is serious, we've made it reader-friendly. The book includes numerous real-life stories covering a wide range of topics, including planning, attorney selection, conflict resolution, children, mediation, trial, and life after divorce. Even if you're not personally experiencing divorce, you likely know someone who is or who's contemplating it.

**Q:** What can readers expect to learn?

**A:** It's my hope they learn how to correctly approach divorce. Going in with your eyes open is the best preparation. To this end, we are careful to explain common mistakes and errors to avoid. Perhaps surprisingly, in the first two chapters we emphasize the importance of avoiding divorce, if possible. As someone who has personally gone through the experience, I wouldn't wish it on anyone. This book shows you how to avoid needless expenses, how to simplify complex matters, and how to make things less traumatic for yourself and your family.

**Q:** What's something that might surprise readers?

**A:** They might not expect to read so many stories with elements of humor. Despite the seriousness of what can be a very difficult situation, we offer lighthearted anecdotes to enliven

the material. My view is always: How can we take chicken bones to make chicken soup?

**Q:** As a veteran family law attorney, what advice do you have for someone contemplating a high-stakes divorce?

**A:** Find the right attorney for you. It certainly doesn't have to be me. But you do need someone competent, someone you trust. It sounds funny to say this, but in some ways, your relationship to your family lawyer can be likened to a (short-lived) marriage. That's why we even include vows between lawyers and clients in the book. These are promises both sides can make to facilitate the best working relationship.

*A member of the Family Law section of the Orange County Bar Association, Paul Nelson, Esq., also belongs to the Family Law section of the State Bar of California and the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. As a certified Family Law Specialist, he has tried hundreds of family law matters, giving him uncommon familiarity with local judicial officers and opposing counsels. These are strategic advantages evidenced by his winning track record. Paul was chosen as a Super Lawyer for 2021, 2022 and 2023. He also holds an AV Preeminent® rating with Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest possible score for both legal ability and ethical standards.*

*Paul is the author of *The Dissolution Solution: A Divorce Lawyer's Advice on the Best Ways to Part Ways*, now available for purchase on Amazon. Filled with practical advice, history, interesting facts, real-world stories, and even viewpoints from other experts, his work is an informative guidebook for anyone going through one of the most difficult processes couples can face.*

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