

October 19th, 2010

GIVENS LAW GROUP AWARDED HIGHEST NATIONAL RANKING

U.S. News and World Report and *Best Lawyers* have awarded Givens Law Group the highest ranking in the country for marital and family law firms. Givens Law Group has over 85 years combined legal experience and includes two attorneys board certified in the area of marital and family law. Firm president, Stann Givens is a former president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Florida Chapter.

WE OWE SOME OF YOU AN APOLOGY

Some of you who received our last Newsletter received it more than once. We apologize. Something happened in the distribution system that caused it to be processed differently than we had intended. We have taken every step to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

GARRETT RILEY JOINS GIVENS LAW GROUP

Givens Law Group is excited to welcome Garrett Riley to the firm. He received his B.A. from Florida State and J.D. from Stetson College of Law. Garrett brings ambition, drive and energy to deliver the best resolution possible for his clients.

As a former assistant state attorney in Miami-Dade County, Garrett handled over 15 jury trials and countless non-jury trials and substantive motion hearings. He is a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association; family law and criminal law sections, and the Florida Bar. His areas of practice include all aspects of family law including collaborative divorce and flat-fee divorce, child custody, alimony, property distribution, enforcement and defense of domestic violence injunctions, recovery of attorney's fees and costs, modification actions, and enforcement actions.

We are pleased to offer yet another member of our team who is dedicated to getting our clients through the tough times.

QUESTIONS SOMEONE MAY ASK YOU ABOUT DIVORCE:

Can I make my spouse pay for my divorce lawyer?

Many years ago, there was no way to get your spouse to pay for your Florida divorce lawyer. This was at a time when the difference between the income of the average man and the average woman was much greater than it is today. The result was that the husbands would hire experienced divorce lawyers and the wives could only afford inexperienced lawyers right out of law school. It was not a fair fight.

The legislature changed all of that and for years now Florida divorce courts look to the respective financial abilities of the divorcing spouses to determine if it would be fair for one spouse to pay any of the other spouse's attorney's fees and costs.

Givens Law Group



[Read more about Stann Givens](#)



[Read more about Garrett Riley](#)

At the end of the case, the judge will look at how much in assets and debts each spouse is taking from the marriage, how much each has in non-marital assets and debts and how much income each has. If one spouse is notably better off than the other by this comparison, the court will order the wealthier spouse to pay some or all of the attorney's fees and costs of the more needy spouse.

Even before the end of the case, Florida divorce law provides for a judge to award temporary attorney's fees and costs based upon work done to that point in the case or for the predicted amount of future work to be done in the case.

The result of these changes in the law is that the spouse with the lower income has better access to an expert Florida divorce attorney than ever before.

Bottom line: Even though you earn less money than your spouse, you should be able to hire a Florida divorce lawyer who is just as skilled as your spouse's attorney.

Thanks!

We are all extremely grateful for the referrals we have received from former clients, fellow lawyers, mental health professionals and others in our community. There is nothing more professionally humbling than knowing that people are counting on us in their life-changing family law problems.

If you ever decide that one more piece of e-mail is too much, feel free to "unsubscribe" to this newsletter at any time. We look forward to working with you to make things easier for those people you know who are having family issues and we look forward to helping you in any way we can to make your life easier.

