

The Financial End of the Affair

Television and movies aside, the No. 1 tool of the divorce lawyer's trade is not the private eye returning to the tryst site at dawn to watch the errant spouse sneak home or snapping the fuzzy photo from afar to capture a moment of stolen intimacy. Nor does every divorce lawyer wield the instincts of a therapist and a ready supply of tissues. Today the key legal expertise needed in many divorces is a sophisticated understanding of business issues and law.

The valuation, separation, and allocation of business interests is a confounding maze of financial gymnastics, deal documents, and interlocking future arrangements. Insert those difficulties into the world of marital breakdown, often awash in ill will, and "the deal" can be very hard to complete. Over the last 20 years, here's where the business litigator who knows divorce law, or the divorce lawyer who knows business, has become increasingly conspicuous.

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