

Before I get into a long winded story about why you should allow Judy Barganier to represent you, I would like to summarize my experience by using words to describe the type of lawyer Judy Barganier is: Advocate, Defender, Coach, Confidant, Director, Teacher, Expert, Friend, Helper, Mentor, Partner, Upholder, Ambassador, Ambitious, Caring, Common-sense, Confident, Determined, Devoted, Diligent, Disciplined, Empathetic, Encourager, Enthusiastic, Excellence, Hard worker, Helpfulness, Honesty (she will give you full honesty but expect the same in return), Honorable, Patience (she will expect the same from you and during the early stages of your divorce, this will be hard for you to understand), Principled, Self-Control, Selflessness, Successful, and Understanding just to name a few.

I would like to get into the stages of divorce, yes there will be stages and please be prepared for a long divorce process. In the beginning stages, Judy will sit down with you and discuss your options, answer questions, and advise you on her strategy based off the information you have given her. Judy is a very well prepared lawyer and the more prepared you are for her, the easier it is for her to advise you. Also, you will quickly learn that time equals money so again, the more prepared you are, the less time you take of hers, and the less money you spend. Something I did during my interview process (yes, I interviewed 3 attorneys' before choosing Judy) is prepared a list. Out of all 3 attorneys', Judy was the only one that answered all my questions without being asked the questions. What I mean by that is this, Judy did an outstanding job telling me what I will go through during a divorce, what a husband can expect, what my chances are at getting custody of my children, and what to prepare for. My list consisted of 30+ questions and during our meeting she answered them all just by having a conversation with me. Once I made my decision to have Judy represent me, she put me to work. Yes, you heard me, she put ME to work. I quickly learned that I work for her and she advises me on her strategy.

Gathering evidence and deposition: During the second stage of divorce, you will start to gather evidence and brief Judy on your findings so she can prepare for depositions. When Judy and you first meet, she will advise you on what type of evidence is admissible and what type is not. Judy will strongly encourage you to be organized and detailed. The more organized and detailed you are, the more money you will save. Judy and her staff will gladly prepare, organize, and present your evidence, but they will charge you for all their work as well. Judy's staff is great at what they do but remember, the more prepared you are, the more

you save! During your second, maybe third meeting with Judy, she will start to review the evidence you present to her. Judy's strategy will change several times throughout the course of the divorce but that is because of the evidence or findings from either side. The one thing that will never change is her care for her clients, your children (if you have any), and her reputation. I bring up reputation because around this time, it will be time for depositions. This is where both attorneys get the opportunity to cross examine each other's clients and both clients will be under oath. It is very important that if there is anything you need to get off your chest (i.e. affairs, bad relationships, money spending, social settings, anything bad, etc.), you inform Judy immediately!! Judy needs to know the whole truth and nothing but the truth so she can advise you and formulate a strategy. Not to help you lie!! Judy will drop you as a client if she catches you lying! Judy is not here to judge you or make you feel bad, but she will not represent a liar. I will say this as a side note, you want the other party to be the one caught in lies. Up until this point, you have gathered evidence to ensure you can build a solid case and to also back up your testimonies under oath (without letting the other party know you have the evidence.) Holding onto the information/evidence and not letting your soon to be ex know is probably one of the hardest things to do during a divorce.

What to expect after depositions? Judy will go over what her strategy is now that depositions are over and prepare you for mediations. From this point forward, your primary goal is to continue to gather evidence and organize it for Judy and her staff. The communication between you and Judy will probably lessen because it's more about the evidence gathering and preparing for final hearing than anything else. This can be a stressful time though because up until now you had short term goals, i.e. Filing for divorce, having the other party served, gathering evidence, presenting evidence, waiting to hear what the other party will say during depositions, waiting to hear what Judy will advise you on, etc. etc. Depending on who your spouse has representing them, motions might be filed, hearings may come up, etc. etc. This can be a very stressful time because you feel as if nothing is moving forward and everything is out of your control. You will quickly learn that the court systems move very slow and your final hearing will probably be 3-6 months down the road. I can honestly say that this period was probably the hardest for me but Judy was there for me every step of the way. Now with that being said, Judy is going to tell you what you NEED to hear, not what you WANT to hear. Judy can be snippy and will

at some point in time, put you in your place. This is going to be hard to expect at first, especially if you are in a situation where you feel as if nothing is fair and the "system" is out to get you. The part you won't understand at that moment in time is she is being subjective and not letting emotions control her decision-making abilities. Judy is constantly thinking of the long-term goal, not the short-term victories.

Final stage, preparing for final hearing, and during court: Expect to spend quite some time with Judy prior to the Final Hearing. If you did a good job on gathering evidence, organizing evidence, or anything Judy or her staff asked you to do, then this process should just be preparation and getting on the same page as Judy for the Final Hearing. If not, Judy will let you know what all is needed to be ready for the Final Hearing and will ensure you are ready. Over all, Judy and her staff will do everything possible to ensure you are set up for success. By now you will have seen 100 different sides of Judy, mostly great and some that put you in your place (for the right reasons). During court, Judy is a very well prepared trail lawyer that is calm, collective, and prepared for anything that might come up during court. I was very pleased to see how well prepared she was from start to finish. If the judge needed something, she had it and was prepared to brief it. As an example, my judge issued a pre-trial order that stated both parties will present XX at the beginning of trial. Judy had hers prepared and ready for the judge when he walked in. My ex's attorney did not and that set the tone for the rest of trial. Judy did a great job preparing me for trial, examining me during trial, and cross examining my ex. At no time, did I feel Judy was unprepared or not ready for trial. Judy showed nothing but confidence and ability to adapt under any situation that came up.

In the end, Judy was able to get me awarded Joint Legal custody, Physical custody with me, and final decision making authority of my two children. Furthermore, I am an active duty military member, married for 12 years and my ex did not get any of military retirement or thrift savings. No words can express the gratitude I have with Judy Barganier and not enough words could express why you should allow Judy Barganier to represent you!! So, when I'm asked, would you recommend Judy Barganier? I think of this: Why is Judy Barganier the best lawyer to represent you? To answer that question, you must first ask yourself, do you want to be represented by the best? Can you listen to the advice of the best, whether you like what you hear or not? Can you do what the best requires you to do? I ask you those questions

because these were the lessons I learned very quickly during my time with Judy Barganier and I wouldn't choose anyone else!! Hands down the best attorney for you!!

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