



LAW OFFICE OF
BRYAN FAGAN
— PLLC —



HIGH NET WORTH DIVORCE IN HOUSTON, TX

WORK WITH A HOUSTON ATTORNEY

CALL US FOR ALL YOUR FAMILY LAW NEEDS (281) 810-9760

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for downloading our special report: about High Net Worth Divorce, with information that will help you protect your assets and secure your future. For more insider divorce tips, please download our other special reports about Dirty Divorce Tricks, How to Plan and Prepare for Divorce, and Divorce after 50. We understand that you have a lot of questions and concerns about your divorce and we want to help you feel as comfortable with the process as we can. If you would like to speak to one of our highly skilled Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC attorneys, we encourage you to contact us to schedule a free confidential consultation. We're here for you, always. Sincerely, Bryan Fagan, Law Office of Bryan Fagan

HIGH NET WORTH DIVORCE IN TEXAS

HIRE OUR HOUSTON ATTORNEY TODAY

There are obstacles unique to facing a high net worth divorce that require the skilled guidance of a trusted legal professional. At the Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC, our attorneys have extensive experience helping clients secure favorable outcomes in a wide range of divorce matters.

When faced with any complex legal issue, your choice in representation matters. Attorney Bryan Fagan has devoted his practice to providing professional and effective legal counsel – if we see that a favorable solution cannot be achieved through negotiations, we are prepared to fight for your case in court.

EXPERIENCED REPRESENTATION WHEN YOU NEED IT

You've spent the years leading up to your marriage acquiring valuable assets that cannot be left in the hands of substandard representation. Because the importance of discretion and confidentiality cannot be understated in a high net worth divorce, we work tirelessly to ensure that your matter is handled quietly and professionally. Should we find that you are being shortchanged in any way, you can trust that we will vigorously advocate on your behalf.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED A VALUABLE ASSET IN DIVORCE?

Valuable assets in a high net worth divorce can include:

- ☑ Trusts
- ☑ 401k plans
- ☑ Stocks
- ☑ Professional licenses that impact current and future earnings
- ☑ High Net Worth Divorce / High Asset Divorce
- ☑ Business Owners and Business Assets in a Texas Divorce
- ☑ What Wikipedia Can't Tell you About Texas Divorce and Marital Property Division

HIGH NET WORTH DIVORCE / HIGH ASSET DIVORCE

Divorce is a trying experience for anyone, but it can be especially contentious when one or both spouses have a high net worth or a complex property portfolio. Complex and high asset divorces often involve claims of hidden assets and marital torts such as fraud on the community. Many high net worth individuals are also concerned about being burdened with oppressive alimony or spousal support payments even after the divorce is finalized.

Persons going through a high net worth divorce need experienced attorneys to help them develop a comprehensive divorce plan to successfully navigate through the process and protect their closely-held business, oil and gas interests, and other complex property issues. The marital property division attorneys at The Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC are ready to assist you and begin developing a strategy, along with professional advice from other professionals, to help you work through the specific issues that you are concerned about.



HOUSTON HIGH NET WORTH DIVORCE ATTORNEY

Our Houston divorce attorneys have extensive experience in representing clients throughout Harris County including Houston, Northwest Houston, Champions, Spring, Tomball, Klein, the FM 1960 area, as well as The Woodlands and Conroe in Montgomery County.

ISSUES AFFECTING HIGH ASSET DIVORCE CASES

- ☑ Separate Property vs. Community Property
- ☑ Business Valuation
- ☑ Financial Experts
- ☑ How We Can Help

SEPARATE PROPERTY VS. COMMUNITY PROPERTY

There are three types of marital property - separate property of the wife, community property, and separate property of the husband. All marital assets can be characterized as one of these types, or a combination of them. In Texas, the court will presume that all property the spouses own is community property. It is up to the spouse claiming property as his or her separate property to overcome the presumption by proving very clearly to the court the separate property character. The benefit of an asset being characterized as your separate property is that the judge cannot award it to your spouse.

Characterizing all of your marital property as either separate property or community property is vital to fairly dividing your assets during a divorce. Consulting an experienced and knowledgeable attorney is the only way to ensure your assets are properly characterized before they are divided or confirmed by the court as separate property.

BUSINESS VALUATION

If you own a closely-held business or have family business interests, a primary concern in the divorce process will be valuing the business and determining its marital property character. We work closely with our high net worth clients, in conjunction with valuation and financial experts, to obtain a clear picture of the nature of your business interests and their current value. After your business interests have been appraised and a settlement agreement or final divorce decree is drafted dividing the property, it will be important that the actual division of the business is handled with expertise.

In a business owner's divorce, it is important the attorney possess the ability to properly document the division of the business assets, ownership rights, and ownership duties when the divorce is finalized. This documentation must be included in the mediated settlement agreement, final divorce decree, and in the internal resolutions, minutes, ownership certificates, shares, and relevant agreements of the business entity. If not properly documented, the division of the business will not be completed and conflict between ex-spouses or with the other persons involved in the business is likely to occur in the future. The attorneys at The Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC are knowledgeable and experienced in representing business owners in divorce, purchase and sale of businesses, as well as other civil litigation proceedings. This experience outside the divorce process provides us with unique skills to facilitate the property division in your high asset divorce involving a closely-held or family business.

FINANCIAL EXPERTS

In addition to providing top-notch legal advice to high net worth individuals involved in divorce, we also work closely with experts in other fields to ensure all of their complex property issues are addressed. High income divorce cases, may require the assistance of a highly skilled financial team to properly assess the monetary value of all the property involved. Some of the highly qualified experts we will recommend to work on your case may include

- ☑ Forensic accountants
- ☑ Certified Public Accountants (CPA)
- ☑ Certified Financial Planners (CFP)
- ☑ Business valuers



- ☑ Residential and commercial property appraisers
- ☑ Personal property appraisers

BUSINESS OWNERS AND BUSINESS ASSETS IN A TEXAS DIVORCE

Complex property division cases, high net worth divorces, and matters that require divorce planning in Texas often involve business owners and business interests. If one or both spouses own a closely held business, the process of dividing their community estate takes special legal, accounting, and tax expertise.

Frequently in these cases, one or both spouses will be the owner, director, primary shareholder, managing member, or partner in a small- or medium-sized business.

HOUSTON BUSINESS OWNER DIVORCE ATTORNEY

The divorce attorneys at The Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC, are effective at representing business owners going through simple or complex, high net worth divorce. It is imperative to individuals that own a business that they seek adequate legal representation.

Our marital property division attorneys are exceedingly experienced in Texas civil litigation and business law, which is exceptionally valuable to representing business owners in divorce cases. If you are a business owner, shareholder or partner in a firm, contact us to secure your legal representation.

Types of Business Property that must be divided in a divorce case:

CLOSELY HELD BUSINESS

Closely held business entities can be in the form of:

- ☑ a 'C' corporation
- ☑ 'S' corporation
- ☑ limited liability company (LLC)
- ☑ limited partnership, sole proprietorship or
- ☑ any other recognized type of entity.

An attorney with experience in business law and business litigation will need to assess whether all or part of the business is community property

BUSINESS INTEREST

If the business interest is community property, the lawyer must consult with experts in other fields to value it.

After the business is valued by an expert or a value is agreed upon by the parties to the divorce, the attorney will advise the client of his or her legal rights and develop a strategy to facilitate an agreed division or, if necessary, present the case in the most favorable light to the court.

BUSINESS ASSETS

A critical skill your attorney should possess is the ability to properly document the division of the business assets, ownership rights, and ownership duties when the divorce is finalized.



WHAT WIKIPEDIA CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT TEXAS DIVORCE AND MARITAL PROPERTY DIVISION

Texas courts must divide the community estate in a manner that results in a just and right division. Community property includes all property that was obtained throughout the course of the marriage. In some cases, marital property division becomes more intricate when the marital estate consists of extensive property and assets - these matters are often referred to as high-asset divorces or high net worth divorces. Investments, pension plans, real estate and business holdings may be vital components of your community estate, and you need an experienced legal team to assist you in making sure that you receive or protect your share.

The Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC provides legal assistance for the following marital property division related matters:

- ☑ Business Owner Divorce
- ☑ Complex Property Division
- ☑ High Asset Divorce / High Net-Worth Divorce
- ☑ Retirement and Employment Benefits
- ☑ Separate Property
- ☑ Characterization of Marital Property
- ☑ Just and Right Division of Marital Property
- ☑ Divorce Planning
- ☑ Hidden Assets
- ☑ Tracing

When the issues surrounding the division of property in a divorce case, it's important to have an attorney on your side who is familiar with properly handling each and every detail to ensure that your interests are protected and the divorce is resolved without the risk of future property disputes.

HOUSTON MARITAL PROPERTY DIVISION ATTORNEYS

Whether you have a relatively simple community estate or a complex one, the attorneys at the Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC are successful at assisting our clients in all aspects of dividing marital property. Contact us for legal representation in Harris County including Houston, Northwest Houston, Champions, Spring, Tomball, Klein, FM 1960 area, or The Woodlands and Conroe in Montgomery County.

MARITAL PROPERTY DISPUTES

Before property can be divided, you must know whether it is separate or community property, and you must know its current value. Distinguishing the type of marital property (i.e., community or separate) is called characterization. Determining the current value of the assets is also called valuation. When disputes arise in a divorce case, it's important to have an experienced attorney on your side to help you sort through all the details.

CHARACTERIZATION OF PROPERTY

Determining whether property is considered separate property or community property is contingent on various factors such as whether it was attained before or during the course of the marriage. Other factors are much more complex such as when an asset (e.g., a 401(k) or pension plan) has a mixed character.

VALUATION OF PROPERTY

Stock in publicly traded companies and checking and savings accounts can be easily valued. Other assets such as stock options, retirement plans, pension plans, business interests, and professional practices have value that is not easily determined. Many times, valuation of more complex assets requires a team of experts working together, including your attorney, accountant, certified appraisers, and other professionals.



DIVORCE | PROPERTY DIVISION SETTLEMENTS

Our Houston family law attorneys have experience in all areas of family law and divorce. Our law firm has been successful, in part, because we personalize legal representation for our clients and listen to your goals.

As part of that personalization, we pursue negotiated and mediated settlements to achieve cost-effective and efficient solutions. However, when a marital property division settlement that meets our client's goals cannot be reached, we will stand firm to protect your rights in court.

The Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC routinely works with other professionals such as expert investigators and accountants to ensure the best possible results for you. These professionals assist our attorneys in locating, evaluating, and appraising your complex marital property. A team of professionals is most often needed in high asset and high net worth divorces, but even a simple residential appraisal in the most basic divorce may help to resolve contested issues in the case. For over 40 years The Law Office of Bryan Fagan, PLLC has had experience with networking with skilled and qualified professionals to better assist our client with marital division of property settlements.

Often our client's property, assets and debts include:

- ☑ Closely-held businesses
- ☑ Partnerships
- ☑ Corporations
- ☑ Limited Liability Companies
- ☑ Family trusts
- ☑ Professional practices
- ☑ Advanced degrees
- ☑ Real estate
- ☑ Ranches
- ☑ Securities
- ☑ Livestock
- ☑ Oil wells
- ☑ Overseas holdings
- ☑ Executive compensation packages
- ☑ Estates
- ☑ Student loans

We provide the expertise and know-how to deal with all types of marital property, including those listed above.





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WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

When it comes to your financial future, your peace of mind matters. No matter where you are in the divorce process, we are always available to help you protect your assets and safeguard your future. As a Texas law firm exclusively devoted to divorce and family law, our experienced divorce attorneys will explain your options and support you throughout the process. Please contact us at (281) 810-9760 if you would like to schedule a free confidential consultation

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