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## OUT AND ABOUT

**A**s an adult, I have come to understand that there are some words that sound sweeter than they usually are. "Free vacation" often means an hours-long presentation. "Best quality" generally comes lower on the superiority chart than "premium" and "ultimate." However, even though "divorce attorney" combines two rather powerful and frightening words, I found KoenigDunne Divorce Law PC, LLO comfortable and relaxed, which is what Angela Dunne tells me the firm aims to do.

Over the years, KoenigDunne Divorce Law has continued to evolve and grow, while keeping its clients and divorce law itself at the center of the practice. Angela tells me that she recently went through her own divorce (including a name change from Tiritilli to Dunne), which has given her a different understanding and appreciation for the experience that her clients go through.

A partner in the firm, Angela tells me she feels lucky to work alongside her mentor, Susan Koenig. Today, Susan's role is of counsel. Other members of the team include Philip Katz and Angela Terry (attorneys at law), Christi Leupola (executive assistant), Lori Froistad (certified paralegal), T.C. Nguyen (office and accounts manager), and Megan Andersen (reception).

The choice to have "divorce law" as a part of the firm's name

was a very conscious decision, Angela tells me, because divorce law is all they do. An effective divorce attorney must be extremely familiar with all of the various legal components that come into play, such as how to divide financial accounts, tax implications, nuances in income when considering alimony and child support, how health insurance is impacted, and so forth. There are continual changes in legislation that a divorce attorney must keep up with, she adds.

As an example, Angela, one of a handful of attorneys in Nebraska who is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, was recently appointed to serve on a statewide committee to review Nebraska child custody laws.

Along with being able to handle the technical and legal sides of divorce, KoenigDunne Divorce Law is also experienced in helping clients navigate the emotional path of divorce, says Angela. When someone begins the process, even if it is just exploring the possibilities and ramifications of making such a decision, they find that it really helps to have a partner help them navigate through these life-altering stages, she explains. "I have to be a part of their emotional path," explains Angela. "My clients count on me to be strong for them, especially when they can't

be strong for themselves. It is really such a privilege to do this kind of work."

Angela reminds me that lawyers are also known as counselors

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of the law, which she doesn't see as being a coincidence. "Within the first two minutes of a consultation, this person has to tell me why their marriage is ending," says Angela. Divorce is—at best—life-altering, but often it's life-shattering. Decisions can be fraught with stress and guilt, and clients find themselves second-guessing every move they make. "They wonder, 'Am I doing the right thing in this moment of stress?' As their legal advocate, I have to be sure they do not react unfairly to themselves in a moment of pressure."

To support their clients during this emotional time, Angela and Susan write a weekly blog entitled "Doing Divorce: A Thoughtful Discussion About Divorce." They share personal insights, advice, strategies, and support for anyone experiencing divorce.

In fact, one former client tells Angela that she continues to, "Think about how you helped me when I really needed it. I went into your office feeling like a squished bug and you told me, 'If you don't want to fight for your rights, then you need to find another lawyer because I am going to get you what you deserve.'" She goes on to say, "I will always be grateful for your strength and courage that I didn't have."

Another benefit of working with a firm uniquely dedicated to divorce law, Angela tells me, is that the support staff is also well-versed in the emotional and technical processes that clients go through. They can walk clients through what they need to bring to an initial consultation, advise them on what steps to take if they feel they are in imminent danger from their spouse, and answer basic questions. "The support they offer clients is priceless," says Angela.

The first meeting with a client is a one-hour consultation, during which they are provided with a lot of information. Angela reviews the process and the timing of each step, in addition to

the paperwork that the client must take home and complete. One of the unique things about working with KoeniglDunne Divorce Law, Angela says, is the "toolbox" of information that clients receive. From help in creating a parenting plan to how they are going to simply put their life back together, clients say the resources are invaluable.

The firm recently announced the release of its second edition of "Divorce in Nebraska: The Legal Process, Your Rights, and What to Expect" (Addicus Publishing 2013) written by Angela and Susan with support by their fellow attorney, Angela Terry. Providing answers to over 400 questions about divorce, Angela says it is an "invaluable resource" for their clients. From what to expect at an initial consultation and how to control legal fees, to what a deposition is or what happens at trial, "Divorce in Nebraska" provides answers to important questions.

Angela says "Divorce in Nebraska" is not only helpful for anyone who is concerned that divorce could be in their future or people experiencing divorce, but also for friends, family, or professionals supporting them. The book has been adopted by attorneys in 15 states across the country.

Not every case is easy, but Angela says that her firm is working toward changing divorce in Nebraska. This does not necessarily mean making legal changes, but creating an outcome that is as amicable and healthy as possible. This comes when you have the right tools and the right communication, and you really dig to discover what is important to each side and what their intentions are, she says.

For more information about KoeniglDunne Divorce Law, visit the firm online at [www.nebraskadivorce.com](http://www.nebraskadivorce.com). For an appointment or to speak with someone in person, call 402-346-1132. **WE**

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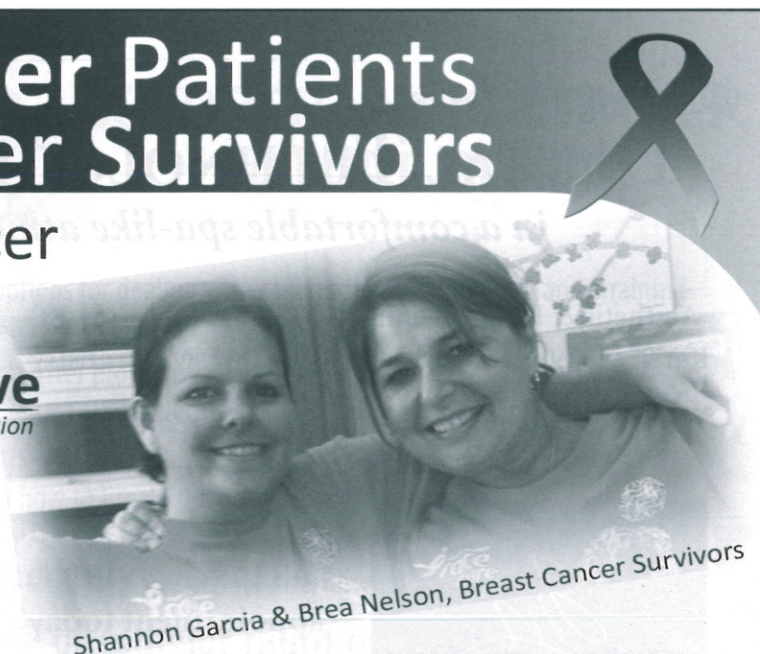
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