

Special Advertising Section

GEARY PORTER & DONOVAN

A FAMILY LAW TRADITION

You might say it runs in the family. Attorney Michael Geary is a shareholder in the law firm founded in 1958 by his father, Joseph Geary Jr. Michael Geary, who is certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, oversees the firm's family law practice section, which is one of many areas of law available to the clients of Geary, Porter & Donovan, P.C.

According to Mike, today's family law practice covers a multitude of areas, including premarital and postmarital property agreements. In divorces, a lawyer must handle not only the emotional trauma of husbands, wives and children redefining their personal lives, but also the frightening and complicated matter of dividing real property, businesses, stocks and bonds, retirement benefits and other assets owned by the

parties. Mike has written and spoken numerous times on various family law topics, including the characterization and tracing of separate property, valuation and division of executive benefits and retirement plans.

Emerging technology allows people today to be increasingly mobile. As a result, a family lawyer increasingly must negotiate long distance child visitation in connection with one of the parents relocating. It is a delicate balancing act to negotiate or litigate cases to meet the needs of the parent who wishes to relocate, as well as ensure that the non-custodial parent has access to the children. The legal issues are only part of the case. The attorney must also be sensitive to the emotional issues involved.

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Michael P. Geary

he says. This allows the firm's attorneys to more effectively utilize the clients' resources to assist each client in obtaining his or her goal. Geary, Porter & Donovan's office is located in North Dallas, a short ride from downtown Dallas, making the location easily accessible. Mike says, "The firm provides professional personalized service to all of its clients with attention to detail and efficiency. While a mutually satisfactory settlement between the parties is preferred, we are not afraid to face off with the best of them down at the courthouse."

More Than Just Family Law

While Geary, Porter & Donovan is well known for its family law practice, it also has many other lawyers in a variety of disciplines. "Most family law firms do only family law," says Mike. "But we have the ability to draw on other resources within our firm, and without having to go outside to hire trust and estate lawyers, corporate or real estate lawyers."

Geary believes that he and the other attorneys at Geary, Porter & Donovan are respected and sought after in their respective fields. In fact, several of the firm's attorneys, including Mike, have earned designations as "Super Lawyers" by *Texas Monthly* magazine. Mike has also been included in *Best Lawyers in America* since 2006 and has been voted as one of "The Best Lawyers in Dallas" in Family Law by *D Magazine* in May 1995 and May 2001.

Geary Porter & Donovan also has practice areas devoted to:

- Ad Valorem Property Tax
- Business Litigation
- Business Organizations
- Commercial Real Estate
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Oil and Gas - Energy Law
- Wills & Estate Planning

Professional Personalized Service

Mike says the firm makes every effort to fight the rising cost of legal services. "We try to make the best possible use of our time, personnel and resources in order to minimize our clients' expenses,"



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