

Holistic Legal Services

I am a holistic attorney. I'm often asked "What is a holistic attorney?" or "Why use a holistic attorney?" My answer is holistic attorneys bring heart to the practice of law. The Boston Globe reports holistic attorneys give "deeper meaning to a profession often derided as morally bankrupt." We strive to live healthier lives which make us happier professional who are more available to our clients.

In my law practice I honor the deeper psychological and spiritual processes that are occurring for my clients. My client and I are co-partners in bring common sense and sacredness to these legal matters. When possible, I incorporate ceremony and warm human connection into my working doing wills, trusts and family law. How this occurs depends on the personality of my clients and their unique legal situation.

Not all clients want to participate in ritual, and that's alright with me as well. Ritual is individual.

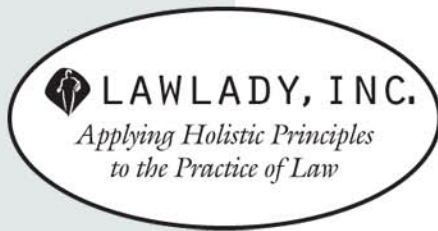
With divorcing clients, the ceremony we incorporate might be taking a picture at the courthouse, going to the beach after the court appearance, or planting a tree. I believe these significant legal events should be "attend(ed) by all the appropriate emotion which such awesome acts should engender," to quote Meg Cox' book, *The Heart of the Family*. I try to act as a buffer between my client and the court.

At all stages of my representation I try to reinforce hope and keep the focus on the positive. I try to help my clients have an uplifted experience where it might otherwise be a bleak experience.

I sense that the legal community as a whole will become warmer as times goes on. I've seen this warming trend during the last 15 years I've been in practice. As a young lawyer, the messages I received were to keep personal things separate from the practice. Back then I did not know any attorneys who mixed soulful connection with legal services. We believed the myth that the "Law" is sterile facts, professional attire, and rigid or aggressive behavior.

Later, I realized that my clients were eager for a deeper, richer experience. Together we started to acknowledge the profoundness of our work. We pushed for more honesty and intimacy and found that the "Law" was flexible and could accommodate emotion and human connection.

With 15 years of practice, I've come to believe that the law should accommodate soulful expression. The "Law" is merely how we choose to self-govern and solve conflicts. It includes the binding customs and practices of our community, and our



mechanism for resolving disputes. At no time is the “Law” ever finished growing.

To give you an idea of the law’s growth, recall that our current American legal system has roots as old as Roman Law, Canon Law from the Catholic Church, and English Law with its jury system. As we, as a society, become more spiritually and psychologically advanced, our wants and needs for our self-governance change. This is why the law can soften. Clients are requesting and choosing more emotionally vulnerable and intuitive attorneys. I and the other holistic attorneys are committed to bringing about these types of changes, and ripping off the façade of the cold and indifferent attorney.

If you are currently involved in a legal matter and want something more for yourself than a grey experience, here are some suggestions to deepen, beautify, and honor your legal matter.

For couples divorcing, plan a celebration lunch with your spouse for the day your divorce is final. Discuss your most special moments of marriage. For people making a will, take the risk and discuss your feelings about aging and death with someone. Use the interim while your will is being created to give voice to this taboo subject. For people entering an important contract, arrive twenty minutes early. Before going inside the building, walk around the block slowly. As you walk, acknowledge the magnitude of what you are signing and appreciate the milestone you are reaching. Life has so few milestones, it is enriching to take time to reflect on your achievements.

I wish you the best of luck turning your legal experience into a majestic event. With an open-heart and an eye for creative detail, it is possible to turn a mundane legal matter into a good memory.