

Givens Law Group News

Welcome to our January 2012 Newsletter

Questions Someone May Ask You About Divorce

Is the property going to be divided 50/50 in my divorce?

Florida law requires that the assets and debts of the marriage are to be divided "equitably". That technically means that it will be done fairly, but not necessarily equally. If a family court judge has a "substantial" reason to divide your marital property other than 50/50, the judge may do so.

But history shows that many, many family court judges in the past have had their rulings dividing marital property other than 50/50 reversed on appeal. On the flip side, when judges divide property 50/50, they have very rarely had those rulings overturned.

Keep in mind that Florida family court judges run for reelection every six years. When they run, the local newspapers inform the public as to how many times they have been reversed on appeal as compared to other judges. If you were a judge and liked job security, wouldn't you be inclined to almost always divide marital property 50/50 despite the leeway allowed in the law?

Bottom line: Based on my experience as a Florida divorce attorney, although it is not technically required by the statute, you can expect your family court judge to divide your marital property 50/50 almost all of the time.

A PROJECT OF STANN GIVENS ACKNOWLEDGED BY U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR

At the recent Celebration of Excellence held in the courtroom at the Supreme Court of the United States, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor recognized the Family Law Inn of Tampa as one of the few Inns in the country whose achievements epitomize the ideals of the American Inns of Court.

Givens Law Group president, Stann Givens, founded the Family Law Inn of Tampa and has served as its executive director throughout its history. Upon hearing the praise from Justice Sotomayor, Givens expressed his gratitude to the Supreme

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[Read more about Stann Givens](#)

Court for their support of the Inns of Court and to the many judges and lawyers in the Family Law Inn of Tampa who have contributed to the work of the Inn.

The Inns of Court movement began in England centuries ago and made its way to the United States in the 1980s. The purpose of Inns of Court is to create an organization where experienced lawyers and judges mentor younger lawyers and law students in the skills of ethically and professionally advocating for their clients. The Family Law Inn of Tampa concentrates specifically in the area of Family Law.

THANKS!

We are all extremely grateful for the referrals we have received from former clients, fellow lawyers, mental health professionals and others in our community. There is nothing more professionally humbling than knowing that people are counting on us in their life-changing family law problems.

If you ever decide that one more piece of e-mail is too much, feel free to "unsubscribe" to this newsletter at any time. We look forward to working with you to make things easier for those people you know who are having family issues and we look forward to helping you in any way we can to make your life easier.

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