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The Bay Area Law Practice with the French Connection

I was born in Rochester, NY, son of a physician in the military. This meant many moves throughout the United States as well as a stint in Germany. Eventually my family ended up in Santa Rosa when I was 16. While in college at Harvard University, I thought I might want to follow in my father's footsteps and took pre-med courses, but I soon discovered that medicine was not my calling. I switched to humanities and in 1982 graduated with a degree in history. I received my Juris Doctor in 1985 from the University of Chicago.

For the first three years after law school, I joined law firms in San Francisco and Palo Alto, where I practiced business law. But soon the travel bug bit me. International affairs, and especially Europe, have always had a strong pull, and I decided to move to Paris in 1988. While there, I consulted in American language and culture to Languacom until 1992. I also became acquainted with the charms of a Parisian female who was to end my bachelor days. We were married and moved back to California in 1992. Today we are the proud parents of two children, and the language we speak at home is French. I also read, write and speak German and have a working knowledge of Spanish.

I practiced workers' compensation and civil law at Brayton Law Offices in Novato for three years, but in 1996 opened my own law practice in Santa Rosa. I specialize in wills and trusts and business and tax law. My typical client is a corporation or LLC with 1 – 15 employees based in the greater Bay Area. I can also assist start-ups with obtaining funding and existing companies with obtaining expansion capital. Because of my personal "French Connection" I can be especially helpful to French nationals who are married to U.S. citizens, or to U.S. citizens with property in France.

What I enjoy most about my practice is using my unique combination of mathematical- analytical qualities and love of language to create wealth for business owners and their families. A good listener and communicator, I make it my top priority to forestall problems before they occur. Often a small business owner does not even know all the legal issues that can become so costly if not addressed in a timely manner. In business situations involving multiple owners, the most common mistake is the failure to have a buy/sell agreement in place.

I recently had a situation like that in my practice. The owners' squabble had deteriorated all the way to litigation, and I had to become truly creative to solve the problem for my client. Ultimately one owner put a dollar value on the business, and the other owner made the decision whether to buy or sell, which solved the problem to everyone's satisfaction.

How may I assist you?

Memberships:

California State Bar

Sonoma County Bar Association

Wills and Trusts Section of the California State Bar

Wills and Trusts and Business Law Sections of the Sonoma County Bar Association

French-American Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco, CA

Alliance Française of Santa Rosa, CA