



BRIAN J. BLITZ

AGE

33

LAW SCHOOL

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF LAW**

AREA OF PRACTICE

FAMILY LAW

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"He is a
worthy opponent."

40 under
F O R T Y 2010

Brian J. Blitz's colleagues say he has persuasive negotiating skills, which are a key to success for any divorce lawyer. Blitz, a partner at Berger Schatz, and earned his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2002 and practices family law. He is only 33, but lawyers who have watched him say he's already highly knowledgeable in his field of law.

"Brian goes out of his way to achieve the client's results, without unnecessarily raising the temperature in a case," says lawyer Howard P. Rosenberg, who has been Blitz's legal adversary in divorce court. As a result, Rosenberg says, "Blitz often helps his clients get what they're asking for, but the other spouse doesn't feel as if something has been taken away from him or her." Rosenberg continues, "One gets the feeling that he believes in his client's position, which is a helpful, persuasive technique when advancing that position before the court."

Another one of Blitz's opponents was working on a case against Brian that included a complex financial matter. The nominator had this to say about Brian's handling of the case, "He had maturity beyond his years, and an excellent grasp of domestic relations law and complex financial matters." The nominator continued that he has "consistently been impressed with his ability beyond his years."

Many of Blitz's nominators were his opponents. They all commented on how Blitz could be found working on behalf of his clients days, nights, and weekends. His work ethic and thorough preparation could be seen in results he obtained for his clients. Rosenberg chimes in, "Brian's hard work and ability to maintain client confidence, I believe, is the reason why he was offered partnership at the firm at such a young age."

Brian has made an impression with his peers and more seasoned attorneys since his days in law school. Robert I. Berger, a partner at Schiff Hardin, worked with Blitz at Altheimer & Gray when Blitz was a summer associate there. The two have kept in frequent contact throughout the years, and Berger has referred clients to Blitz. "Having practiced less than ten years," Berger says, "Brian has, nonetheless, mastered the statutory rules and law concerning all aspects of marriage and dissolution of marriage, including the complex business and tax aspects that abound in the high net-worth marital cases. Many of Brian's contemporaries are still learning, while Brian is already teaching."

Howard C. Emmerman of Beermann Swerdlove, who has opposed Blitz in the past in cases involving complex financial and child custody issues, says that Blitz shows "compassion in understanding the emotional issues that permeate family law cases." Emmerman adds, "He is a worthy opponent, always well-prepared, with an exceptional talent for writing. His skills are equally excellent in examining witnesses and in arguing legal issues."

Also impressive for a lawyer just eight years out of law school, Blitz has published several articles for various publications, including the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, *Georgia Family Law Review*, *American Bar Association Family Law Section Online Resource Center*, *American Bar Association CLE Conference Articles*, and the *Illinois Practice of Family Law*. In addition, Blitz has spoken at seminars about financial issues related to divorce and family law. For example, in 2009, he was a moderator at the ABA Family Law Section Meeting, overseeing a panel discussion on "Estate and Gift Tax Issues Related to Transfers Incident to Separation or Divorce."

Leonard F. Amari, of Amari & Locallo, offers that Blitz's volunteerism shows that he's a community leader, and his legal record shows that Blitz "is certainly one of the extraordinary young professionals" in the Chicago legal community.

Blitz is a member of the American Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. He is married, and is the father of two young sons. Brian's community involvement includes past service on the Children's Memorial Hospital Medical Research Foundation Junior Board. He currently serves on the Michael Rolfe Pancreatic Cancer Foundation Board. His role with Rolfe has included assisting the Foundation in starting a Young Professionals Board. Brian also mentors law students as part of the Young Leadership Division of Jewish United Fund.