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Don't split without your assets

By: Kim Miller , Staff Writer

Family law lawyer Rick Robertson may, for once, be worse off than his clients.

The longtime McKinney resident currently sports a cast on his leg and a pair of crutches, a result of a skydiving accident that took place a few weeks ago.

"My son took me skydiving as a Father's Day and birthday present. I went to all of the classes and was fine," Robertson insisted. "It was just the landing that I messed up on."

That hasn't stopped him from promoting his new book, "Protecting Your Assets from a Texas Divorce" on local radio stations, or kept him from traveling to a family law conference in downtown Dallas every day for the past week

"Protecting Your Assets from a Texas Divorce," which Robertson co-authored with his partners Ike Vanden Eykel and Kathryn Murphy, is aimed at providing individuals who might be contemplating a divorce with information concerning the nuances of Texas law concerning financial assets, Robertson said.

Robert, who practices in Plano, and his partners are experts on the subject. Both Vanden Eykel and Murphy have written previous books on divorce; all three are listed among the top 100 attorneys in the state.

"There are many books on divorce that deal with the psychology involved," Robertson explained. "Our book provides more practical advice on your financial circumstances and how a divorce in Texas can affect those."

The book, Robertson added, is not intended to replace a lawyer, but rather to help individuals prepare financial information and records before their first consultation. Robertson added that he sees several clients who have been given incorrect information by friends and family, and hopes the book will help set them straight.

"A lot of people have misconceptions about what Texas law actually says," Robertson explained. "For example, many people - especially those that move from in from other states - are surprised to discover that alimony is a rare thing in Texas."

Robertson moved to McKinney with his wife in 1978 after graduating from law school at the University of Texas at Austin. He said he never intended to go into family law, but the shoe began to fit after a few cases in McKinney.

Robertson said he still remembers when both Allen and McKinney were larger than Plano, and added that he sees a connection between the fast growth of the latter suburb and the consequential higher divorce rate among its population.

It is a lesson, Robertson said, that McKinney residents should take note of.

“Inevitably with fast growth, such as the kind McKinney has experienced over the past decade, there are going to be problems,” Robertson said. “There are going to be people moving there that are upwardly mobile, and it is inevitable that that situation creates the kind of stress that can lead to divorce.”

For the past seven years, Robertson has been working as a partner of Plano's Koons, Fuller, Vanden Eykel and Robertson, which claims to be the largest family law firm in the southwest. For the most part, Robertson said his job has been very rewarding.

“It's always very rewarding to feel like you've helped people solve their problems and helped people dissolve their marriage - if it has to be dissolved - with integrity, dignity and grace,” Robertson said. “People who get a divorce usually have to continue dealing with each other with the rest of their lives.”

“Protecting Your Assets from a Texas Divorce” is available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and major bookstores.