

TEN LEADERS

OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

2003-2004

MATRIMONIAL & DIVORCE ATTORNEYS

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CHARLES F. VUOTTO, JR.

Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer P.A.
90 Woodbridge Center Drive
Suite 900 Box 10
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

Telephone: 732-855-6014

EMAIL: cvuotto@wilentz.com

WEB ADDRESS: www.vuotto.com

EDUCATION

Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey, BA, 1983
Ohio Northern University, Claude W. Pettit College of Law, JD, 1986

AFFILIATIONS

Chuck Vuotto is a member of the American Bar Association and New Jersey Bar Association, as well various county associations, and he is a member of all family law sections of those organizations. He sits on the Executive Committee of the State Bar's Family Law Section, and has served in various capacities analyzing issues relating to emerging divorce law. As a result of his experience and expertise, Vuotto lectures frequently to such forums as the Institute for Continuing Legal Education and the national convention of the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants. Finally, Vuotto, as an editor of the New Jersey Family Lawyer, has written extensively on developments in the law; his articles include "Employee Stock Options and Divorce" and "What to Consider in Divorce Actions When Valuing the Private Equity and Other Investments of High Net-Worth Individuals."

BIOGRAPHY

Still in his early 40's, Chuck Vuotto has already emerged as one of the top divorce attorneys in the state, handling cases so intricate and complex that they can resemble investment-banking transactions. Focused and relentlessly productive, Vuotto is well known statewide for his breadth of knowledge in business and asset valuation issues - issues that are now central to most contested high-profile divorce cases. In his writings and in his cases, he already has amassed a record of accomplishment more common in older attorneys. The Hammonton, N.J. native began his legal career with a small firm in Springfield — it was "kind of a legal boot camp, working every aspect of a case" — and was recruited by Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer in 1996, after he began earning a reputation for preparedness and as an effective litigator. Rival attorneys say he is known for his remarkably detailed preparation - which often compels favorable settlements. Today, based in Woodbridge, Vuotto teams up frequently with fellow Wilentz partner David Wildstein on many of the high-stakes cases handled by the firm, and they are widely regarded as a formidable team. Still, Vuotto is a highly regarded talent; he maintains an informative web site at www.vuotto.com.

Chuck Vuotto: Observations & Perspectives

My primary focus, starting from the initial interview and during the early stages of the case, is to identify the client's goals and develop specific themes. With the client, I develop a strategy for achieving those goals based on agreed-upon themes. Development and implementation of a specific strategy — with close monitoring and careful preparation — are the keys to a successful case.

I believe in a proactive, rather than reactive, method of advocacy in litigation. My strongest attributes are strategizing, organizing and preparing. With these skills, and working with the client, I move the case toward settlement and/or trial.

I often attempt to identify emerging and developing areas of the law through articles and seminars. This intimate involvement in the development of the law assists me in the representation of clients by offering cutting-edge theories to support their case and the strategies to be implemented.

My various activities with the State Bar's Family Law Section - including sitting on the section's Executive Committee and serving as editor of The New Jersey Family Lawyer — allows me to interact with other top matrimonial attorneys in the state to discuss, and perhaps mold, matrimonial law. I know my

clients benefit from that involvement.

No single person could possibly have all of the knowledge, case preparation skills, and litigation experience I want to give my clients. Indeed, the resources of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer — my colleagues, our staff and facilities — assist me greatly in achieving my client's goals. At Wilentz, I'm surrounded by the finest Family Law

talents in the state to draw upon when needed. My role is not unlike the leader of a highly trained military strike force. Our "team approach" is formidable.

I like to focus on complex financial divorce litigation, but do not limit my practice to such cases. For example, I have handled highly contested custody cases and approached those situations as I would any other sort of case, but with the added facet

of care and concern for the children involved.

Serving the best interests of any client, but particularly a client involved in a divorce action, requires a high degree of knowledge, sensitivity and personal stress. Few attorneys have the experience, time or inclination to "do it all."

I enjoy and welcome the challenge of strategizing and organizing a client's case. The client's best interest guides every discussion of strategy.

We are known as tough litigators, and I can say that I out-prepare almost everyone who comes up against me.



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(This list is based on more than 70 interviews and 120 peer referrals in the first quarter of 2003. Attorneys listed here were referred by at least three of their peers. Survey conducted by the staff of Digital Press International, a provider of newfeatures and special editorial sections to weekly newspapers. Survey coverage area includes Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset counties. The above information is provided by the participating attorneys; DPI and Newbridge Media, Fort Lee, N.J., are solely responsible for contents herein. "The Ten Leaders Program" is a product of DPI, Parker Plaza, Fort Lee, N.J. The above participating attorneys underwrote the promotion of this list. To read these "Ten Leaders" profiles and for additional details go to digitalpressintl.com)