



FRY & ELDER

By Sarah Mitchell

As an accomplished Tulsa family law attorney for over 50 years, Robert G “Hap” Fry Jr. has developed a unique perspective on domestic relation matters when it comes to consulting current and prospective clients from his Fry & Elder offices at 1630 S. Main Street.

“Learn how to love, communicate and, more importantly, to forgive,” said Fry. “A great marriage is incredible, and a bad one is unbearable.”

Contrary to the opinion of some, there are lawyers out there who care and Fry is one of those attorneys. He states that it is very important to him that his clients know that they have a say in the final outcome of their family’s lives.

“When parties have so much emotional part of them at risk, they need

to know that their voice is important,” Fry said. “It is equally important that they know that they have an attorney that is known for keeping his word. It has been my experience and practice that if a client authorizes me to make an offer, and the offer is accepted, then the client has two options – honor the agreement or secure another lawyer.”

Family Law is not for the faint of heart, as it is natural that in domestic relations, you often see people at their very worst. But Fry says that sometimes people find their very best in a difficult and emotional circumstance.

“That is when you learn something about character and integrity,” he said. “It is those instances that give me joy. There are often times where it may take years for people to correct past mistakes, and it brings incredible satisfaction and a feeling of a job well done when that happens.”

Fry & Elder, which was named to the U.S. News & World Report’s Best Law Firms for a seventh consecutive year this month, has roots which date back to 1932.

Lawrence Elder began practicing law in Tulsa in 1932 until his passing in 1972. His son, James R. Elder, then took over and continued the practice, later joining Fry to form Fry and Elder in 1991. Fry has been involved as a trial lawyer since 1967 after passing the Bar, and he eventually became the Chief Public Defender for Tulsa County.

“I also had the pleasure of being a clerk for the Honorable Robert D Simms while in law school,” shared Fry. “I was able to observe numerous jury and non-jury trials. At that time, the laws in Oklahoma were such that it was extremely rare for a father to secure custody of his children. Women’s liberation has done more for men in current divorce cases than any other areas of law. Now both parents can start off on the issue of custody on equal footing.”

In addition to custody issues, Fry and Elder also provides options for division of property, guardianships, adoptions and support alimony, as well as aggressive representation of clients in matters that deal with immigration and criminal law.

Fry is privileged to work with two wonderful Paralegals who have been with him for over 40 years each. “They are like a part of my family,” he explained. “It is easier to be in difficult circumstances when you have great people watching your back.”

Fry is also blessed to have five children and ten grandchildren, and family dog, Badger. “It is neat at this stage in life to learn how to take advice from your children- provided they don’t try to put me in a home or take away my car keys,” he laughed.

Recently, Fry was selected for inclusion in leading legal publication, Best Lawyers®, 2020 listing for best lawyers. This selection marks the 10th consecutive year that he has been recognized for his work in family law and domestic relations.

“To be this highly thought of for 10 consecutive years is extremely significant and is a huge honor,” stated Fry. “To be recognized by my peers and colleagues, particularly at this stage in my career, is very humbling and satisfying. Honors such as this are never taken lightly or for granted.”

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