



## Kimberly N. Ripp Attorney

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Madison

Kim has practiced family law for over 24 years, with an emphasis on mediation and collaborative divorce. She practices from the firm's Madison office and also frequently consults with clients in Sun Prairie. Kim firmly believes that an effective family law practice requires not only comprehensive knowledge of legal issues and the ability to make an argument to a court, but it also requires compassion and a commitment to civility and cooperation. A conflict resolution specialist, Kim is passionate about alternative dispute resolution options that avoid the emotional and financial costs of litigation. Litigation escalates conflict and destroys relationships, while cooperation preserves them and helps create new ones.

Kim is on the cutting edge of interdisciplinary family law mediation, a cost-effective process that utilizes a team of neutral professionals; including the attorney, who ensures that no legal issues remain unresolved; a financial expert, whose role is to create equitable options for division of assets, debt and income within a range of a reasonable outcomes; and a mental health professional whose role is to create a custody and placement plan unique to each family and which meets the best interests of their children, and to navigate the emotional aspects of divorce such as fear, guilt and anger, which can interfere with effectively and equitably resolving legal issues. The team recognizes that although the structure of the family changes after divorce, they are still a family, and maintaining a functional co-parenting relationship is critical to children's adjustment.

Kim excels at communicating with her clients regarding their expectations both during the divorce process and in the years following. Her long tenure in the field and seasoned understanding of relationships, have made her exceptionally skilled at demonstrating that a time her clients often view as one of the worst in their lives, need not be filled with conflict, discord, and animosity but rather should be approached in a manner which leads to creative and amicable solutions that meet all parties' interests.

By focusing on the human side of divorce and the effects on the family, especially those with children, Kim is able to achieve positive results in a cost-efficient, timely and reasonable manner, and in a way that leaves her clients satisfied both with the process and the outcome.

She is greatly respected throughout the legal community and recognized for her work in family law. Kim's practice areas include divorce mediation, collaborative and traditional divorce, legal separation, paternity, child custody and placement, child support, alimony/maintenance, post-divorce motions, stepparent adoptions and prenuptial and post nuptial agreements.

## Clients

Kim represents clients from all walks of life. She is dedicated to her Dane county and surrounding area practice, and in particular has a large client base from the Sun Prairie and Madison Areas. She also assists clients as a mediator for Westside Psychology Divorce Mediation.

## Client Recommendations

### **Powerful advocate and wonderful resource.**

Kim is an excellent partner to have at your side during a divorce. She truly believes in a collaborative divorce being the best path for all involved but is also more than competent to wage battle with a more aggressive and litigious adversary. There were many times when my ex and her lawyer were aggressive and unreasonable and Kim's advice to stay the course and be reasonable saved me not only loads of stress and escalating tensions, but also loads of legal wrangling and fees. I'd highly recommend Kim to anyone that wants a partner by their side that will reasonably and rationally help you navigate what is typically a trying time.

### **Everything you could ask for.**

I began my journey of collaborative divorce with another attorney who was not the right fit for me. I was working with a counselor during the collaborative divorce process, and he knew my frustrations with my current attorney so he recommended I meet with Attorney Ripp. Immediately after my first meeting with her, I felt like we had a plan and my stress level was cut in half! Attorney Ripp doesn't waste time with getting things done. She leaves no room for procrastinating from other parties and is relentless when it comes to unanswered questions. I never waited long for a response after sending emails or calling the office for an appointment, responses were practically instant. Attorney Ripp is professional, incredibly intelligent, determined, detail-oriented and unbelievably efficient. She was flexible, patient, respectful and kind to me. Having an attorney that has all of these amazing traits, made one of the darkest times of my life as easy as it could possibly be. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

### **Fantastic lawyer.**

Kim was absolutely wonderful in assisting with my divorce. She was honest, nonjudgmental, responsive, and smart. She helped me get what I deserved through this process. I couldn't have done it without her. She made me feel safe and like family.

### **Highly Recommend!**

I made the mistake of not using a lawyer when I got divorced. I was starting to pay the price, then I hired Kim. While I may not have liked everything she's had to say, I have always respected her opinion and guidance. Especially when the things I have dealt with are as emotional as they are. If you want someone who will always have your back and guide you in the right direction with the law.... She's your gal!!!

### **Best Divorce Lawyer in town!**

Kim was extremely helpful in all aspects of my divorce. She took time to explain several options to me in language I could understand! She was always EXTREMELY quick to answer any questions I have, often responding within minutes. I would recommend Kim to anyone who needs a divorce attorney they can trust and rely on to take care of you.

### **Best Attorney!**

I met with Kim about my Divorce, and I knew right away that she would be Great! Kim is very knowledgeable, and put my mind at ease during the first meeting. If I had questions, she (or her staff) responded back very quickly. Kim was referred to me from multiple people, and I couldn't have been more satisfied with how everything ended. Something that sets Kim apart, is that she genuinely 'cares'. I didn't feel like I was just another client. I wish nobody had to ever go through a divorce, but if you do, I highly recommend Kim and her Staff! Thank You Again Kim.... Ron

### **Collaborative Divorce.**

I met with Kim to discuss a divorce. She is very knowledgeable in the area of Collaborative Divorce. When I went in for my consultation, she answered all of my questions, even before I asked them. Any time I had a question, I just emailed her and I received a response within a few hours. If I needed to see her, she made time. She was so nice and understanding. She made sure that I understood everything fully. She and her staff were great to work with. I felt so comfortable with her. I knew she was on my side the entire time!

### **Super!**

Attorney Ripp is very sensitive and is helpful with everything I needed and continue needing. She makes it easy when preparing a will and all that implies.

### **The best of the best.**

When I was going to need an attorney for my divorce, I didn't have to think twice about who I should get, Kim and her assistants were great and very detailed on what to do or not to do. I would highly recommend Kim as she did a great job handling my divorce!

### **Excellent.**

I was not the typical client. After our initial consultation, Kim understood what I was looking for in legal representation. Kim was very professional. She knows the law and was able to offer valuable advice. Reasonable retainer fee and a competitive hourly rate.

## Notable Representations

- Family Law
- Divorce
- Divorce Mediation
- Collaborative Divorce
- Legal Separation
- Paternity
- Custody and Physical Placement
- Child Support and Spousal Maintenance
- Post Decree Motions to Enforce or Modify
- Pre-Nuptial and Post-Nuptial Marital Property Agreements
- Stepparent Adoption
- Estate Planning
- Estate Planning
- Wills
- Powers of Attorney

## Education

- J.D., University of Wisconsin Law School
- B.A., with Distinction, University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Admissions

- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Dane County Bar Association

## Affiliations (Professional and Civic)

- Collaborative Family Law Council of Wisconsin Board of Directors
- Dane County Collaborative Group
- Dane County Family Law Group
- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
- Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce (former board member) Education and Taste of the Arts Fair Committees
- Lead mediator for Madison Mediators and Westside Psych

## Awards & Recognitions

- Recipient of the "Best Attorney" Award from Sun Prairie Star