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TOP BOUTIQUES IN CALIFORNIA 2022

REUBEN RAUCHER & BLUM

LOS ANGELES
COMPLEX CIVIL
LITIGATION



STEPHEN L. RAUCHER, TIMOTHY D. REUBEN AND STEPHANIE I. BLUM (PHOTO CREDIT - DENNIS)

Timothy D. Reuben opened the doors of his complex civil litigation boutique in 1992. He remains managing principal, joined in 1994 by Stephen L. Raucher. In 2005, the partners added Stephanie I. Blum, who brought with her an extensive family law practice to the mix of cases the firm handles.

“At first, it was just me and a paralegal,” Reuben said. “But things mushroomed and I had so much fun running a litigation boutique that I concluded being small is wonderful — and there’s a lot more freedom.”

He grew the place slowly. “Steve Raucher joined as a third-year associate, and he demonstrated his skills and abilities from the moment he got here. I didn’t add a family law practice until much later, but Stephanie Blum was so obviously gifted and talented that we wanted to give it a whirl. It’s been quite a ride.” Blum and Reuben were dating in 2005 and are now married. The firm opened its current offices in Brentwood in 2017.

The firm also does appellate work, including its representation of a long-standing client, Angelus Plaza in downtown Los Angeles, the largest subsidized community for low-income seniors in the U.S. The nonprofit running the place sued to challenge city property assessments under rules for business improvement districts. The case hit headwinds at the trial and Court of Appeal levels, but Raucher’s argument before the state Supreme Court last year resulted in a 7-0 reversal in Angelus Plaza’s favor in an opinion by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye. *Hill RHF Housing LP v. City of Los Angeles et al.*, S263734 (Ca. S. Ct., op. filed Dec. 20, 2021).

“L.A. is trying to impose assessments on property owners to fund government activity,” Raucher said. “RHF had

challenged how it had been assessed as a nonprofit. Given the sophisticated questions by the justices, I felt we were likely to win, and we did. Now we’re back in the Court of Appeal and we can get to the substance of the case.”

It’s not the first time the firm has gone to bat for Angelus Plaza. “We have worked for them for many years,” Reuben said. Early on, Reuben sued a multinational corporation in a complex matter involving intellectual property, real estate and construction issues. Ultimately, that matter went to the state high court, where the firm confirmed a multimillion-dollar verdict for the client.

Meanwhile, Blum racked up a long string of successful family law cases. In one case, she represented the father when the mother would not agree to

any court orders other than required supervised visitation and had the father arrested on false domestic violence claims. Blum obtained orders for joint legal and physical custody of the one-year-old child with a 50-50 custodial timeshare. She also obtained domestic violence restraining orders against the mother.

In another, Blum represented the father

in a case where the mother tried to set aside a judgment, claiming fraud and perjury. Blum prevailed on a sanctions request which required the mother to pay the father's fees for about \$50,000 for her frivolous suit.

Blum was named one of The Daily Journal's Top Family Lawyers in 2022. Her key moves, she said, involve guarding her clients' privacy through

the use of protective orders and, when possible, mediation; putting children first in all contested custody matters; and getting strong results.

"My parents had a high-conflict divorce, so I've seen it from every angle," she said. "So kids should be prioritized."

— JOHN ROEMER

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW