PHILOSOPHY

It has long been said that the in criminal law, you have bad people at their best, while in family law, you have good people at their worst.

Mr. Robbins often says that if you want the meanest, nastiest attorney in Flagstaff, you don’t want him to represent you. But he adds that in family law court “mean and nasty” is not only expensive, it is usually counterproductive. Instead, steady and sober judgment is usually what is called for. Coconino County has a small legal community with only two family law judges. These judges know by their day-to-day experience which attorneys tend to be bombastic and aggressive, and which attorneys are assertive, yet reasonable advocates for their clients.

If you have children, both you and your spouse (or partner) need to work together and co-parent in the future for the best interests of your children unless there is significant domestic violence or substance abuse. You need to co-parent your children long after the case is over, and the attorneys and Court are out of your life. Emotions in a family law case are usually already high; the last thing you or your spouse or partner need is for one or both of the attorneys in the case to whip the case up into more of a frenzy.

On the other hand, while Mr. Robbins doesn't start fights for the sake of fighting them, he will not allow you or him to be run over by an aggressive bullying attorney. He is tenacious and methodical, and he doesn't back down. Mr. Robbins says that while he doesn’t go out of his way to start fights, he will end them.

Mr. Robbins' philosophy is to balance strong advocacy for his clients with compassion for all concerned. The benefit to this approach is that it sets a conciliatory, yet firm tone, while not being overly aggressive. Mr. Robbins also often suggests that the parties use a Judicial Settlement Conference, a mediator, or the collaborative divorce process to see if those approaches can help resolve issues in a less aggressive manner.