

Exploring Life & Business with Alisa Peskin-Shepherd of Transitions Legal

Today we'd like to introduce you to Alisa Peskin-Shepherd and her boutique law firm, Transitions Legal PLLC. Alisa and her team share their story with us below:

Transitions Legal is a family law firm specializing in Divorce, Collaborative Divorce, and Mediation, and was founded by Alisa Peskin-Shepherd in 2013. After decades of practicing, Peskin-Shepherd sought to create a one-of-a-kind law firm that focuses on family law as a path to help people through life transitions, rather than setting them up for acrimony, difficulty, and sadness. "Divorce does not have to be agonizing," she says. "It can simply be a way to compassionately end a relationship that has fulfilled its purpose, without judgment, and with healing."

It was important to carve out a specific identity based on Peskin-Shepherd's unique approach to family law. "I want people to see that divorce is not an end," she says. "And even if it's not something that you initially want, most people end up in a better place once they get through it. Having my own firm allows me to not just be a lawyer, but to also carry this message through social media, relationships, and as a role model that no matter what path a relationship takes, we can be respectful and kind and have good outcomes."

Transitions Legal helps people make their lives better. Whether that's bringing financial wisdom and independence to a formerly controlled spouse, freedom from domestic abuse, or simply a peaceful parting for spouses seeking a collaborative end to their relationship, Transitions Legal focuses each case around the particular client's needs and goals. The firm guides clients in forming new definitions of family and self, building healthy relationships in the next phase of their lives.

From full Collaborative and Litigation cases to Limited Scope Representation, Transitions Legal serves clients in Southeast Michigan who seek optimal outcomes for their relationships and their lives. The firm's "mediative" approach is a realistic perspective of potential outcomes based on client goals, working alongside clients to reach a place where their reality and their goals align.

Alisa Peskin-Shepherd was attracted to family law after spending the formative years of her life witnessing family dysfunction, relationships that came and went, and yearning for a sense of completion through strong family dynamics. "It taught me empathy and an easy connection to people experiencing family struggles," she says.

A strong leader with impactful perspectives, Alisa teaches others that they can cultivate the strength to get through difficult times. Determination, perseverance, and self-discipline are core traits that she teaches her clients, with a healthy respect for family.

An approved Michigan mediator, Alisa Peskin-Shepherd has more than 30 years of experience practicing law in the state of Michigan, primarily in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. She is specially trained as a family, divorce, and custody mediator as well as a collaborative family law attorney. She also has experience in school and employment law and acts as a guardian-ad-litem, protecting the interests of children within the legal system.

Alisa has completed special training in domestic violence through the State Bar of Michigan Open Justice Commission. She has led workshops for Wayne State University, Jewish Family Services and the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on topics related to divorce, counseling, and mediation. She is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, serving on its Equity and Inclusion Committee, and a member of the Oakland County Bar Association where she formerly chaired the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, and the State Bar of Michigan.

Alisa's memberships also include the Collaborative Practice Institute of Michigan, serving on its Board of Directors and the Michigan Interprofessional Association on Marriage, Divorce, and Family. She was a Board Member for the Women's Divorce Resource Center from 2015-2018 and served as Board President for One Earth Writing from 2016-2019.

"I appreciate the hard work and satisfaction that comes from a good outcome at the end of a case," Alisa says. "I strive to be a strong advocate for my clients while pairing that with compassion and cooperation. It serves no one to be needlessly aggressive. I do what it takes to achieve the outcomes my clients deserve and desire. And at the same time, I view this whole process as a powerful transition for people seeking change and second chances."

"I want my clients, when they think back on that time in their lives, to be grateful and thankful that together, we got them through a difficult transition to a brighter next place," she says.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Alisa has been named a 2020 Leader in the Law by Michigan Lawyers Weekly, a Super Lawyer every year since 2015, a Top Family Lawyer from business Magazine since 2011, and a Best of Michigan by the Jewish News for three years.

Can you talk to us a bit about the challenges and lessons you've learned along the way? Looking back would you say it's been easy or smooth in retrospect?

It's never easy to go out on your own and start a practice! But I had a great partner in the process, my marketing consultant, and we were really thoughtful about the process of branding, telling our story, and establishing an approach to family law that is unique and needed. I learned to juggle running the business with attending to client cases. In time, as the firm grew, I added team members to help lighten the load on me – now I have an office manager/legal assistant, associate attorney, and bookkeeper, and we are in the process of hiring a legal administrative assistant. I've had tons of lessons over the years – but ultimately, what I've learned is that slow and steady wins the race. Being deliberate, thoughtful, and focused has led me to do good work and establish a memorable footprint in the legal industry and in SE Michigan.

We've been impressed with Transitions Legal, but for folks who might not be as familiar, what can you share with them about what you do and what sets you apart from others?

Transitions Legal is a family law firm that serves SE Michigan clients who are divorcing, considering divorce, or needing support in family law issues. We take what I call a "mediative approach" to family law, which means we don't judge divorce as good or bad; we see it merely as a transition between different stages of life. It's my goal to guide my clients through this transition so they can come out on the other side stronger. Last year, I added a divorce resource to our services called Our Family in Two Homes ("OFTH"). It is a workbook paired with legal consulting time in an effort to help our clients be reflective, efficient and streamlined when they go through their divorce. The OFTH resource is in line with our firm's mission to serve and respect each client's unique family circumstances in a way that supports them through this life transition so that they proceed with their values top of mind and feel good about where they are headed.

What matters most to you?

Achieving balance in life! I work hard, but I play hard, too, and I make ample time for my two grown daughters. I plan time with friends, travel to visit my mother, sisters and daughters and see the world, and I love to be outdoors, or in my community, sharing time with great people. It is so important to nourish the self while you're growing a career and a business!

<https://voyagemichigan.com/interview/exploring-life-business-with-alisa-peskin-shepherd-of-transitions-legal/>