

COOPER-GORDON LLP

Winter 2015-16 Newsletter

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A considerable amount of time has passed since the last newsletter due to our firm having been extremely busy accomplishing a great deal in quite an assortment of cases, including a number of highly contested divorce and probate trials. As the Winter Holidays are approaching, we are beginning to realize it is time to touch base with our on-line community and wish everyone a fabulous holiday season as well as a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

This year, the partners of Cooper-Gordon, Frieda and Avery, have been able to travel monthly to their second home in Cambria, California, where they have continued to establish a presence among the local family law, estate planning and probate and trusts legal communities. In addition, they have been involved in legal matters in New York City, requiring some travel there as well; so it has been a year of work-related travel to two of the most beautiful areas in the world.



Frieda, the Botanical Gardens in Bronx, NY

Whether your case is complex or simple, at Cooper-Gordon LLP, each client and matter has the benefit of the Partners' combined sixty years of experience along with the associates' attention and cost-effectiveness. We strive towards maintaining a level of personal attention that sets us apart from other firms and to always tailor the needs of the client, the case and the law to procure the most effective all-around outcome.

In broadening their practice from Southern California, to North of Paso Robles through all of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County, it has been imperative for us to keep up with the local rules and customs. Word of mouth has grown our practice considerably and we love helping the people from all of the Central as well as Southern California offices. If you wish to set up an appointment to meet one of the partners in a location near you, please contact them at 1-800-561-6322 to set up an initial consultation.



*The Big Island, Hawaii
Photo taken by: Christine Donald*

Avery, has been busy with various matters including estate planning, estate and trust administration and family law matters. He has recently concluded several major multi-day family law trials and probate trials, which all concluded favorably for our clients. Avery just finished his second term on the board of the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and second foray to the State Bar Conference of Delegates, after having been appointed to serve as delegate again from the Los Angeles Bar Association at the Conference held this past September in Anaheim, California. Despite Avery's substantial caseload and additional commitments, he consistently assures that his clients' needs are met. Communication is key; and Avery strives to keep his clients informed regarding the status of their cases.



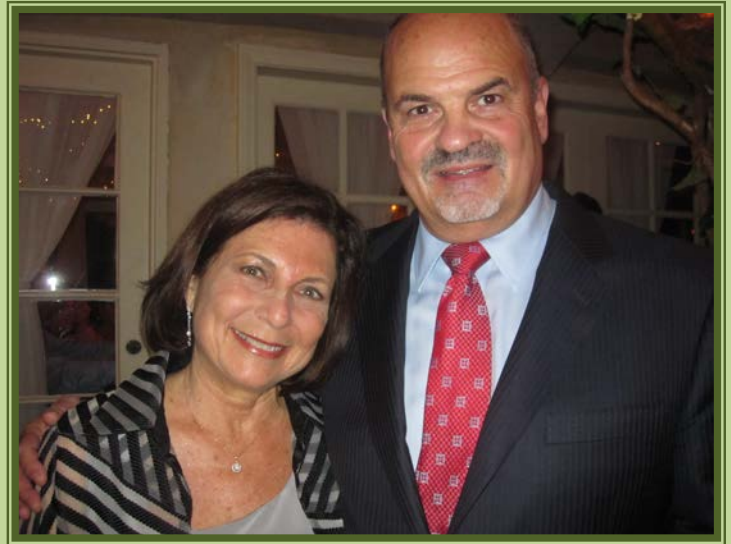
In his spare time, Avery enjoys spending time with his Yellow Labrador dog named Mickey, playing basketball, bicycle riding and collecting and consuming fine wines. He has also been busy with his book club and co-chairing a wine club. Additionally, he travels back and forth to his Central Coast home and office. He and Frieda last Spring celebrated a milestone birthday traveling through Spain and Portugal.

Frieda continues to manage the firm as well as her own her case load. She plans on reducing the amount of high-conflict family law matters she will take on and concentrating more on negotiating and mediating divorce settlements and handling probate, conservatorships and trust administration and litigation. However, other members of the firm are experienced and qualified to take such matters to trial when the situation requires it and Frieda will continue to be available for consultations on each of those cases.

When it comes to work-life balance, Managing and Founding Partner, Frieda Gordon, keeps long hours, but also find the time to meet her personal needs, including spending time with her family and maintaining an active lifestyle. This balance is encouraged throughout the firm, which gives her and the other attorneys an opportunity to recharge and be at their best when it comes to taking care of their clients.



In her spare time, Frieda shares most of her husband Avery's extracurricular pursuits. In addition, she enjoys being with her 8 year old granddaughter and spending time with her two lovely and talented daughters, the younger of which is soon expecting her first child. Frieda also enjoys gardening, yoga, knitting and crocheting, studying languages and photography and playing and listening to classical music. Most of all, she enjoys hiking along the Central Coast of California with her dog Mickey.



Our Senior Associate, Katherine Su O'Connor, is a dedicated member of our team. Every free moment not working for Cooper-Gordon LLP, she is spending time with her family. She recently traveled with her husband Brian and son John to Massachusetts and took a cruise with her husband's family to Bermuda to celebrate her in-laws' milestone 50th anniversary. She is also an avid half marathon runner, although she is presently taking a break while expecting her second child due in January of 2016.

Katherine has been busy assisting the partners with the preparation of a number of estate plans, preparing with the partners for trial, and preparing petitions, motions and other pleadings in our various cases.



Drorit Bick Raiter has been a long-time associate at Cooper-Gordon, but she has recently opened her own practice. Although she is now “out on her own,” she still works closely with Cooper-Gordon and assists us regularly with various cases.

For example, Drorit recently assisted partner Avery M. Cooper on a complicated long-cause Dissolution of Marriage Trial in front of Judge Mark Juhas. The 10-day Trial was spread out over the course of several months and featured many witnesses including a forensic accountant on each side. Cooper-Gordon represented the Husband and the Wife was demanding spousal support and refusing to work. At Trial, among the witnesses for the husband was Vocational Expert Susan Miller. She was brought to Court to testify as to her report on Wife’s ability to earn. In testimony proffered in Court, Ms. Miller opined that Wife should be working. She testified that there is a therapeutic value to working. Ms. Miller stated that studies have found that working mothers suffer less from depression than stay-at-home mothers do because by working they have access to income, adult companionship and a connection to the social world. In its Ruling made at the conclusion of Trial, the Court agreed with Ms. Miller’s assessment and ordered that the Wife make good faith efforts to find employment.



When not working on dissolution of marriage or probate cases, attorney Drorit Bick Raiter, spends time with her husband Shai, her 3 year old son Naveh, and her 1 year old son Lahav. They enjoy taking road trips throughout California and dining at local eateries.

Christine Donald, our trusted and longest serving employee, continues to interface with new clients, assist the attorneys with their litigation and transactional practices and generally keeps the office running smoothly and efficiently. In addition to her busy work life, Christine spends a lot of her free time road cycling and continues to participate in charity cycling tours throughout the year and all over the State of California.



Yana Rozovskaya is our paralegal who works primarily for Frieda. She continues to be a substantial asset to the firm, as she is the first contact with clients and potential clients, sets all of the appointments and prepares much of the forms, transmittals and other documents for the attorneys who handle Frieda's case load as well as for their own caseloads. When not busy assisting the attorneys at Cooper-Gordon, Yana enjoys spending time with her husband Art and her son Alex. She also enjoys yoga and running and taking her dog Tyson to a local park near her house or to the beach.



The Founding Partners of Cooper-Gordon LLP have over sixty-five years of combined experience in Probate and Trusts Administration and Litigation, Estate Planning and Family Law matters. If you have questions regarding your matter, contact them today to receive a discounted initial consultation.

If you have questions or comments about any of the news provided here or about anything related to family law and/or probate and estates, please send us an email, call or blog us and we will respond right back. As always, it is a pleasure to serve our community.