>> FAMILY LAW

## A Top Team in New York Family Law

Long-time legal partners take pride in advocating for families during difficult times, winning ground-breaking cases, and changing the face of New York family law.

## **Blank Rome LLP**

ois Liberman and Caroline Krauss-Browne have been practicing matrimonial law together for more than two decades. Early on, the pair worked in a small, five-person matrimonial group within Tenzer Greenblatt, LLP, which merged with Blank Rome in 2000. Today, they're co-chairs of Blank Rome's Matrimonial and Family Law practice, a 30-person group representing clients in California, Pennsylvania, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and they bring in some of the firm's highest net worth and celebrity clients.

Krauss-Browne's career began in 1990 when she clerked at a firm specializing in commercial and corporate bankruptcy litigation. After filling in on a matrimonial case, Krauss-Browne was hooked on family law. "What I enjoy most about family law is having the opportunity to help people on a personal level. I'm not just getting more money for a creditor; what I do has a tangible impact on someone's life."

Liberman knew after law school that she wanted to be in the courtroom. She ended up in the Family

Court Division of the Nassau County Legal Aid Society and "loved it," she says. By the time she and Krauss-Browne met up 22 years ago, she was practicing family and matrimonial law exclusively. "I get a great deal of satisfaction helping individuals through the most difficult times in their lives and getting them to a better place when their case has closed than when we started working together."

Blank Rome's Matrimonial and Family Law team is unique because "most of us have been together more than 15 years," says Liberman, and because the firm offers clients one-stop-shop access to multiple practices—everything from tax, trusts, and estates to employment and labor, to corporate and real estate law and white collar crime—all under one roof.

Liberman and Krauss-Browne's ground-breaking work in same-sex divorce law sets the matrimonial and family law practice apart from peer firms. In 2008, Liberman represented

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a litigant in the first ever same-sex divorce case in New York state. And in 2016, Krauss-Browne and partner Meg Canby helped overturn 25 years of state legal precedent by representing a plaintiff pro bono in a same-sex parenting and custody case. "We won legal standing and, ultimately, joint custody for our client who was the non-biological, non-adoptive lesbian mother of a son she hadn't seen in more than three years," says Krauss-Browne.

Success aside, Liberman and Krauss-Browne consider themselves more than just attorneys. "We counsel our clients," says Liberman. "We are up against people all the time who do things that place families on a difficult road: spending money unnecessarily, putting kids through the wringer, or using the court process in a way that's not

helpful. That is not our way."

"We advocate for our clients to get them to a better place," says Krauss-Browne. "Everything we do can have a very significant impact on families and their lives."

