

BRETT S. WARD

BLANK ROME LLP

**What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?**

I refuse to accept the status quo, even in areas of family law that can seem cut and dry. In *Davis v. Davis*, my client (wife of multi-millionaire "1-800-LAWYER" founder Bruce Davis) had signed a prenuptial agreement and two post-nuptial agreements waiving interest in her husband's fortune. Such agreements are generally accepted and rarely challenged in New York, but I chose to forge ahead with challenging the enforceability of all three. My aggressive investigation into their circumstances led to discoveries that called their validity into question, including domestic violence, undue duress, and unethical representation. I presented these crucial facts to a trial court and was rewarded for my bold approach when the court refused to be bound by the agreements and set the matter down for a hearing on whether to consider them at all. After I successfully fended off a challenge to the ruling in the appellate court, my client was entitled to a portion of the marital assets that had seemed completely out of reach.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

I have always been a fearless litigator, and my results have directly helped reshape the family law system. I was the first known attorney in New York to help a same-sex adoptive parent obtain custody of their child over the biological mother. I also recently convinced an appellate court to recognize a grandparent's right to an expedited hearing as a matter of constitutional due process in order to keep a family together.

What bearing will this have on the future?

By confronting novel issues head-on, I aim to continue helping the practice of family law evolve in a way that provides modern, just, and fair outcomes for today's families.



We proudly congratulate Brett S. Ward on his recognition as a "Family Law Trailblazer" by the *National Law Journal*.

Brett's commitment to client service and excellence is outstanding and we are honored to call him our partner.

BLANKROME

Attorney advertising. © 2022 Blank Rome LLP. All rights reserved.