

# **MARTHA-IRENE WEED, ESQUIRE**

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## **EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS**

### Education

My educational background started in law enforcement when I graduated with my second Associates degree in 1972, in police science. I took a double-class load at the University of South Florida and graduated with my Bachelor's of Arts the very next year, in 1973, with a major in Criminology. After working in various law enforcement-related positions, I went back to school in 1975 and received my Juris Doctorate from Stetson University-College of Law in May 1978.

After practicing Criminal Defense Law for a few years, I discovered that my calling was to Family Law. While all areas of law are important, I feel strongly that without a solid family system, our society will crumble. Therefore, I have dedicated my work to helping people re-structure their personal lives.

My full Curriculum Vitae is located in the "Resources" section of this website, should you want the particulars of my education.

### Licenses and Certifications

June 1985                      Board Certified in Marital and Family Law  
The Florida Bar

September 1978              Admitted to The Florida Bar  
Florida Bar #258016

## **EXPERIENCE:**

While still attending law school, I worked just about any job available to put myself through school. Prior to graduation in 1978, I was fortunate to find a position working under one of the best personal injury attorneys in this area of Florida, A. Dallas Albritton, and with his good friend, B. Anderson ("Bob") Mitcham, who was known state-wide for his criminal defense expertise. Having a strong background in law enforcement, I gravitated towards this area of work, but within a year or two, it became clear that my real "calling" was in Family Law, and I have focused my practice on that ever since.

Whether working in my own practice as a sole practitioner or working with the firm Bob Mitcham, Rex Barbas, and I built in 1981, I have focused my efforts on Family Law. Mitcham, Weed, & Barbas flourished and grew into a healthy law firm with several more partners and associates, providing services in most regularly needed areas of law. Our firm was always “AV” rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and the partners became very well known in their respective fields of law. I was honored to become Board Certified in Marital and Family Law the first year that it was offered to attorneys, 1985.

Time changes and law firms do, too. My “brother,” Bob Mitcham, took the Bench as a Circuit Judge in 1991, and Rex Barbas followed him in 1997, also as a Circuit Judge. In May 2003, I left the law firm that had evolved from our original one and started my own private practice, specializing in Marital and Family Law.

In the 33 years I have been practicing, I have represented hundreds of people from every walk of life and many from other countries. I enjoy representing a diverse cross-section of our society. Thus, there is no “typical client” in my office. My practice now tends to gravitate towards cases with difficult parenting and co-parenting issues and detailed financial matters. My goal is to wrap up each case within six months, but some are so complicated that they take much longer.

At no time during my practice have I ever strayed far from legal education. In fact, I attend almost every course offered by The Florida Bar and the Hillsborough County Bar. Also having a healthy practice in my home county, Hernando, I was honored to be asked to join the Inns of Court for Hernando – Citrus Counties. I also participate in a Hillsborough County Inn of Court that specializes in Marital and Family Law. Recently, I joined the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts so that I could increase my knowledge in psychological issues relating to my field of law and provide the best information concerning parenting issues.

In 2010, I was honored to be asked to teach “Florida Civil Procedure” for Stetson University’s College of Law, and then asked back for 2011. This has woven nicely into my private practice, and I look forward to teaching again for the Fall 2012 semester.

For a detailed chronology of the special awards I have received, my employment history, legal courses I have taught, and associations to which I belong, please see my Curriculum Vitae in the “Resources” section of this website.

### **ON THE PERSONAL SIDE ...**

Life has its twists and turns, and many involve agonizing decision-making. That is something with which I am also familiar on the personal side of things. After two lengthy marriages, I have gone through “the process” myself. Therefore, I know how one feels at the various stages of a dissolution of marriage case, and that having a good attorney and a solid support system behind you can make all the difference in the world. I have been the gut-wrenching process of deciding if I should seek a divorce, had to fill out the Financial Affidavits, sat through depositions

where I was the deponent (not the attorney), considered whether to “take a settlement” or not, worried about my children’s emotional well-being, gone through contested and uncontested final hearings, and come out on the other side. If my first trip through this process was not enough to educate me to how my own clients felt, there was a second divorce to act as a reminder.

This personal experience has made me a more understanding and compassionate attorney. It has given me a much fuller knowledge of the importance of family ties, as well as providing a future for oneself and protecting one’s children. Whether paternity or dissolution of marriage, life does not end with the lawsuit’s closing statement; life continues. The goal is to help one transition from one form of “family” to another and to provide as best possible for your new family’s future. After all, “Troubles come to pass, they do not come to stay.”