



OWENS PERKINS

### Areas of Practice

Family Law  
Bankruptcy  
Business Law  
Contract Law  
Criminal & DUI  
Civil Litigation  
Estate Planning  
Probate  
Real Estate Law  
Short Sales

### Family Law

OWENS & PERKINS offers a full range of legal services for all aspects of Family Law such as divorce, legal separation, paternity and post decree matters.

### Attorney Spotlight

#### Michelle J. Perkins

is the Managing Partner. She has received numerous professional accolades including leadership awards, an Award of Excellence and being named one of the top 5% of Family Law lawyers in Arizona.



## Divorce Mediation is on the Rise

As the economy continues to struggle, people want a quicker and more cost effective way to get divorced. In 2009 and 2010 many couples stayed together simply due to financial constraints. Their house is upside down, their credit card debt is growing and one or both spouses may have been laid off. As we go forward into 2011, mediation may be the answer or way out.

### Process

Mediation is a formal process of dispute resolution that can conclude a divorce quicker and less expensively. The couple hires a mediator, often a lawyer, to help the parties come to an agreement. These issues include child custody, parenting time, child support, division of assets and debts and spousal maintenance. With a successful mediation, an agreement is reached in 2-3 private sessions at much less cost than going to court.

### Decision Making

The mediator is not a decision maker. The mediator uses facilitation and negotiation techniques to guide the conversation on each issue and proposes other options that the couple may not have considered.

Mediation discussions are by law, confidential and cannot be used in any later lawsuit.

### Use and Cost

More and more people are turning to mediation as the quicker, more cost effective way to divorce. While most people mediate for the cost effectiveness, others, like Tiger Woods and his now ex-wife Elin Nordegren, use mediation to keep their divorce private and out of the public record.

Litigation is costly and emotionally draining. Mediated settlements can remove much of the stress from going to court. And, with mediation, you maintain control. You are part of the process and agree on a final outcome, rather than having a Judge decide your future. Because the case is resolved quicker with less animosity, it also takes less of a toll on the children.

### Full Agreement

In order for mediation to be successful, both parties must agree to cooperate and share the goal of a quick and easy divorce. If one party wants to drag it out or argue for the sake of arguing, mediation is probably not an option.

Owens & Perkins provides mediation services for both divorce and business matters. If you would like to schedule a consultation to find out more about mediation, please call us at 480.994.8824.

