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TOP FAMILY LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA 2026

The annual list highlighting the top performing California attorneys handling divorce and custody matters.



ANTHONY STORM

STORM PALYAN LLP

GLENDALE

Anthony Storm's path to family law began not in a classroom, but in a moment of family crisis. When his sister experienced a mental health breakdown that led to a custody battle over her daughter, Storm watched the legal system shape lives in ways he had never anticipated.

"The experience brought into sharp focus that the law is not abstract; every order, every ruling, every letter sent has a ripple effect on families and communities," Storm said.

That realization prompted Storm to change careers and attend law school. Today, his practice reflects the conviction that family law sits at the intersection of legal precision and human need.

"The practice demands both intellectual rigor and compassion," he said. "It asks us to navigate conflict while keeping sight of dignity, stability and long-term well-being."

Storm has observed a shift in how courts and practitioners approach family law matters. Mediation, settlement-focused initiatives, and collaboration with financial experts, mental health professionals and retired judicial officers have become tools for resolving disputes that might otherwise drag through litigation.

In one recent case, Storm settled a matter involving assets in the billions without a single hearing. One party was a musician; the other held substantial financial resources. After resolving custody and security concerns with the assistance of an experienced neutral, the case reached a resolution.

"With thoughtful collaboration with skilled forensic accountants and the assistance of experienced neutrals, I am able to guide the parties toward a comprehensive resolution preserving assets and minimizing further disruption," Storm said.

Among the cases that have defined his career, Storm points to his time as an associate at Walzer Melcher, when a matter he worked on reached the California Supreme Court. The case, *Marriage of Valli*, addressed the character of a life insurance policy purchased during marriage and a conflict between the evidence code and the family code.

"Being involved in the progression of that case from the trial level on up and watching the oral argument before the Supreme Court was a profound and memorable experience," he said.

Storm also looks ahead with attention to forces reshaping the profession. Technology has expanded access to legal education, and the bar has made strides in reflecting the communities it serves. But Storm sees a more pressing concern emerging.

"The legal profession is confronting a period in which the rule of law and judicial independence have been publicly tested in unprecedented ways," he said. "One emerging trend is the necessity for greater solidarity among legal professionals to safeguard the integrity of institutions that underpin democracy."