

# TRAILBLAZERS

## DIVORCE, TRUSTS & ESTATES

### DAVID L. LADOV

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**PIONEER SPIRIT** Dave Ladov's major in college encompassed aspects of psychology and sociology. "Unlike my law school peers, my major focused more on people. That has helped me along the way." Ladov started in a general law firm, then worked for a well-known attorney who was starting a family law practice. "I was her first associate."

**TRAILS BLAZED** Among his cases, Ladov was involved in *Mascaro v. Mascaro*. "I represented Mr. Mascaro. The law at the time was that spousal support was all formulaic, while child support was only formulaic up to a point, after which the needs of the child were taken into account. I argued that spousal support should also be needs-based over a certain level. While I lost, the Supreme Court eventually realized it was inconsistent. It was the impetus to change and standardize child and spousal support." Another case, *Zummo v. Zummo*, looked at how a court should consider religion. A Jewish mother and a Christian father were raising their children as Jewish. After the divorce, the father brought up the issue of whether he had to take the children to synagogue and could have them celebrate religious holidays at church. "The appellate court said that since they had decided together to raise a child in one religion, it was both parents' responsibility to ensure the child is educated in that religion. On the other hand, each parent can bring the child to their own places of worship, unless it's shown to be psychologically harmful to the kids, which is a very high standard. That continues to be the law in Pennsylvania."

**FUTURE EXPLORATIONS** More women have begun working, and more men are acting as equal caregivers. "As women move up to executive positions and become larger wage earners, there will be more fathers with primary physical custody. It will be an interesting changeover."