Attorney Kathy Minella of the Minella Law Group Recently Featured on Close Up Radio

SAN DIEGO, CA, UNITED STATES, September 24, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Ask Kathy Minella, founder of the Minella Law Group, what a new client can expect from her office, and she answers with a question: What are your goals? That question, she says, is the whole point of her practice, and it is why the firm's motto is simple: service first.



"Typically, family law clients are driven to fight back against something they didn't anticipate," Minella explains, "and they can get thrown off because they're driven by anger or jealousy. I always take a step back and ask, 'Does this get you to your goal? If it doesn't, then why are we doing it?'"

Minella did not set out to practice law. In 2003, she trained at Columbia College Chicago, where she earned a BFA in interactive media before moving on to California Western School of Law. Earning her law degree in 2010, she began her career at a large family law firm in North San Diego County. She then led the family law division of a boutique practice before opening Minella Law Group, APC, in January 2014. Although she still finds room for creativity, including a stint doing stand-up comedy, she describes her legal work itself as a creative outlet. "Family law rarely follows a script," she shares.

In 2016, Minella earned certification as a Family Law Specialist from the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, a designation held by a small fraction of the state's family law attorneys. She has also been appointed by the San Diego Superior Court to serve on its Minor's Counsel panel to represent children's interests in high-conflict custody cases. In 2023, 2024, and 2025, she was honored by Thomson Reuters as a Super Lawyer, and she also is named a Best Lawyers in America for 2026.

Her caseload today reaches well beyond divorce. Adoption became a personal focus about seven years into her career. It now makes up a meaningful share of the firm's docket, with roughly 30 adoptions pending and 300 active cases firm-wide. Attorneys at the firm also handle guardianships for relatives raising children and contracts that let same-sex couples and others build families through fertility arrangements.

MINELLA LAW GROUP
A FAMILY LAW FIRM



Military families make up another specialty. "California's status as a community property state often surprises service members who assume a pension earned through years of service belongs to them alone," Minella shares. She also watches for lesser known traps, such as a retiree converting standard retirement pay into disability related combat pay, a move that can strip a former spouse of a benefit share already negotiated in a settlement.

This range shows up in how Minella talks about outcomes. She described a client who arrived with a restraining order against him, a rebuttable presumption against custody, and supervised visitation limited to six hours a week. After sobriety and months of court-ordered classes, paired with careful preparation for what a judge needed to hear, the presumption was rebutted and he now shares 50-50 custody. "It's about what the judge needs to hear to make the findings they need to make," she asserts.

Minella does her best to guide clients toward settlement before trial when it serves them. "About

90% of the firm's cases resolve outside a courtroom," she says, and every case she has personally mediated (using a private judge or outside mediator) has ended in agreement. A single day at trial can run about $15,000, she notes, a cost that often dwarfs whatever is actually in dispute, especially when children are involved.

For high-net-worth clients, Minella focuses on structuring settlements, including the division of restricted stock units and retirement accounts, so the split does not trigger avoidable tax consequences.

Accessibility runs through the firm's operations, too. It went paperless years ago and now runs on their own secure server. Going paperless means that clients are given their own logins to track deadlines and case status without waiting for a call back.

For clients who cannot afford full representation, the firm offers unbundled services, including hourly consultations to review a settlement agreement before it is signed. The firm also maintains a free blog and a divorce preparation kit, dedicated LGBTQIA+ resources, and a no cost initial consultation focused on strategy rather than guarantees.

"Everybody wants to be heard, but there's often not enough time to be heard," Minella explains of the family court system. "I think the system works as well as it can, given all the constraints around it." Her answer to those constraints, she says, is to make sure clients walk in prepared and informed, with a clear sense of what they actually want.

Long based at its Mission Valley office in San Diego, Minella Law Group recently opened a second location in Orange County after fielding a steady stream of calls from potential litigants.

About Minella Law Group, APC

Founded in January 2014 by attorney Kathy Minella, Minella Law Group, APC, is a woman-owned family law firm based in San Diego, with a second office serving Orange County. The firm handles divorce, custody, support, adoption, guardianship, fertility and surrogacy contracts, military divorce, domestic violence matters and mediation, with an emphasis on settlement over litigation whenever it serves a client's stated goals. Minella, a Board-Certified Family Law Specialist and a California Western School of Law graduate, is joined by a team of associate attorneys and staff who share her focus on the client's goals first. The firm operates a paperless, secure client portal, offers unbundled legal services for clients seeking limited scope help and provides free initial consultations.

Close Up Radio recently featured Kathy Minella, attorney and founder of the Minella Law Group, in a two-part interview with Jim Masters on Tuesday September 22nd at 3pm Eastern, and with Doug Llewelyn on Tuesday September 29th at 3pm Eastern

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