MARSHALL STEVENS

THE ROLE OF A DIVORCE FINANCIAL EXPERT



Divorce is inherently complex and financially consequential. For attorneys and clients navigating a marital dissolution, assembling a team with complementary expertise is critical. While a family-law attorney provides indispensable legal strategy, an experienced financial expert is often equally essential to fully understand and reconcile the financial dimensions of separation.

At Marshall & Stevens, this expertise is delivered by seasoned professionals who integrate deep accounting, valuation, and litigation support experience with a clear focus on family law. Our team assists counsel and their clients by aggregating, analyzing, and explaining the financial data that matters most to resolution and settlement. Early involvement, particularly in cases involving business interests, complex investments, or disputed income, often leads to more efficient discovery and better settlement outcomes.

What a Divorce Financial Expert Brings to Your Team

A financial expert should offer robust analytical frameworks, tested models, and disciplined processes tailored to divorce-specific inquiries. At Marshall & Stevens, our Divorce & Family Law specialists work consistently in financial and forensic domains and provide deep expertise in:

- Business valuation and valuation consulting specific to divorce matters
- Preparation and review of comprehensive marital balance sheets
- Evaluation of proposed property settlement scenarios
- Nonmarital (separate property) tracing and classification of assets
- Detailed after-tax cash flow analyses under varying support and division outcomes

When these analyses are well executed, they materially strengthen settlement negotiations and protect long-term financial interests.

Navigating Business Ownership in Divorce

When one or both spouses own a closely held business, financial complexity rises sharply.

A business frequently represents the single most valuable marital asset, yet its true worth is often uncertain. Moreover, owner-operators may commingle personal and business transactions or implement accounting practices that obscure true earnings and distributable cash flow.

In these scenarios, the independence and technical depth of a valuation professional are pivotal. Marshall & Stevens provides independent valuation and investigative accounting expertise rooted in established methodologies—allowing counsel to better assess value, earnings potential, and risk in the context of divorce.

Informed Property Division Through Rigorous Balance Sheets

A comprehensive marital balance sheet is foundational to sound property division. These balance sheets consolidate all assets and liabilities, account for pre- and post-tax considerations, and often incorporate third-party valuations of real estate, business interests, retirement benefits, and more. Our specialists ensure that such balance sheets:

- Capture all relevant financial holdings
- Reflect appropriate tax treatment

- Provide defensible and transparent valuations
- Are clear and usable in negotiations or court

Beyond balance sheet preparation, Marshall & Stevens experts support data collection, settlement discussions, and expert testimony where required to clarify financial implications for both parties.

Nonmarital Tracing with Disciplined Analysis

In many states, distinguishing between marital and nonmarital (separate) property can materially affect outcomes. Nonmarital claims generally arise from premarital ownership, gifts, or inheritances—and often involve complex tracing of businesses, real estate, investment accounts, and retirement plans.

A divorce financial expert helps identify and substantiate nonmarital claims by reviewing documentation, performing detailed analysis, and preparing clear schedules or reports suitable for negotiations or trial.

Cash Flow and Post-Divorce Income and Expense Analysis

Determining income and cash flow is essential when support obligations (child support or spousal maintenance, sometimes referred to as alimony) are contested or unclear. A seasoned divorce financial expert can:

- Assess historical income and expenses to determine actual cash flow and evaluate post-divorce income needs
- Estimate post-divorce earnings, tax liabilities, and living expenses
- Model after-tax cash flow under various support and division scenarios

These analyses improve financial transparency and support realistic expectations during settlement discussions.

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Closing the Loop: Why Financial Expertise Matters

Most family law attorneys excel in legal strategy but do not maintain the finance or accounting background necessary to parse complex financial nuances—or are ethically barred from offering expert opinion testimony at trial. This is where a divorce financial expert bridges the gap.

At Marshall & Stevens, our professionals draw on decades of valuation, forensic accounting, and litigation support experience to help counsel and clients make informed, defensible decisions about financial settlement. Whether the matter resolves through negotiation or requires expert testimony, comprehensive financial analysis makes a tangible difference in outcomes.

EXPERTISE IN ACTION

Founded in 1932, Marshall & Stevens provides valuation consulting, transaction advisory, and litigation support services. The firm's specialists are relied upon by businesses, investors, and advisors for analyses utilized in complex transaction and legal matters.

From the boardroom to the courtroom, Marshall & Stevens delivers clarity, independence, and results.

NEED ASSISTANCE OR WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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Scan the QR Code or click HERE to fill out our contact form and a specialist from our team will connect with you soon.

DIVORCE & FAMILY LAW WEBPAGE:

To learn more about our Divorce & Family Law services and practice specialists, scan the QR Code or click HERE to visit our website.