



DYNAMIC *WOMEN*

SANDRA MENDELL

**JAFFE FAMILY LAW GROUP
PARTNER**

Compassion, intelligence and a keen understanding of the legal and psychological intricacies of family law have earned Sandra Mendell an outstanding reputation. As a partner at Jaffe Family Law Group, Mendell combines empathy and legal expertise in assisting high net-worth estates and high-profile clients, and donating her time to advocate for underserved individuals and families in need.

How does your unique background inspire you? My parents were refugees from Communist Hungary and I was the first in our family to attend college. Having a dual cultural perspective and discovering at age 17 that I had a half-sister provided me with a different worldview than my peers and inspired me want to help guide people as their families and personal identities evolve into something new and different.

Why family law? After graduating Yale with honors I went on to NYU Law School hoping to advocate for vulnerable children. While earning my degree, I was recruited by a top international law firm which did not have a family law department and I ended up practicing corporate and real estate law there. I left to pursue family law because I love its highly personal nature coupled with the complexity and intellectual challenge of the practice.

What brought you to Jaffe? When I came on board in 2007 I was drawn to the firm's discreet and sophisticated legal work. I've been privileged to work with the highest echelon of client as well as lawyers from every discipline on complex and important cases. I find it immensely rewarding to advocate for my clients as I minimize conflict and make their family and life transitions as seamless as possible.

Talk about your philanthropic work. I spent last year working on a case through the Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, advocating for a Mexican woman whose husband got her pregnant at 17, abused her and left her penniless with five children. Standing up to this bully and getting her the support she and her children deserve felt really good. I also participate in Second Saturday Divorce Workshops at WIFE, educating the public about the divorce process.

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