

## **Finding safe harbor in a stormy sea of fear and desperation**

Neda T. and her former husband met while working in the Middle East. He is British and she is Bosnian. Looking back, she views the first 11 years of their 18-year marriage as a fairly happy time. Neda took on the primary duties of homemaking and caring for their daughter and son during that time.

However, the last seven years of their marriage were difficult. Neda and her husband struggled with challenges dealing with their rebellious teenage daughter that brought tension to their home, straining their marriage.

"I also wanted to go back to school at this time and learn some new skills so I could re-enter the workforce," Neda says. "My husband did not support these goals, however, and fought with me about it constantly."

One day she discovered that her husband had filed an injunction against her to force her out of their home. Neda was shocked and terrified. She moved out for six months and then, her husband placed their daughter into treatment. The both entered family counseling and put their separation on hold in order to help their daughter recover. However, a year later, her husband filed for divorce.

"My husband served my papers at work," Neda says. "I was devastated. He cancelled all our credit cards and left me with no money. I didn't know what to do next. How was I going to afford a lawyer?"

"I met with one attorney who gave me little hope for my case," Neda explains. "He did not have any ideas or a plan to help defend and protect me. I felt worse than I did before we met. There was a hearing in 10 days and I was terrified about what was going to happen next."

Then someone recommended Neda call the office of Trey Yates, which she did immediately.

"I was so frightened at our first meeting, knowing my whole life was in his hands," she admits. "But Trey put me at ease quickly. I immediately felt better talking to him. He assured me of my rights under the law and was knowledgeable about the court system. As Trey mapped out his plan, I could see he was very capable and confident on my behalf. I left our first meeting completely trusting in him."

The next few months were very challenging for Neda. Trey defended her at the initial hearing and set the case on track. Then, still facing difficulties with their daughter, the couple tried once again to reconcile. After several months, she decided to proceed with the divorce.

Neda credits Trey with giving her the confidence to follow through on what she knew in her heart was the best course of action.

"Trey laid out a legal plan as well as a financial plan for me going forward," she says. "Seeing a path to a future for myself and my children put my mind at ease that I would be able to accomplish my goals."

Neda, now divorced, recently finished school as a skincare and massage specialist. With a full-time job, she also recently bought a home.

"I am very happy now, and even have good working relationship with my ex. There is no doubt in my mind that I have Trey to thank for helping me get here."