

## Sam M. (Trey) Yates III

Law Office of  
Sam M. (Trey) Yates, III, P.C.

The law office of Sam M. (Trey) Yates, III, P.C. has been serving Harris and contiguous counties since 1986, with a primary focus on family law, probate/guardianship litigation, major personal injury litigation and professional negligence litigation. Most of Mr. Yates' time is spent in the courtroom, where he is devoted to family law, specifically custody litigation.

"The best interest of the child should always be the top priority," Mr. Yates says. When emotions run heavy, it's easy to lose sight of what's best for the child." Mr. Yates' firm serves a diverse clientele with open-mindedness. Mr. Yates points out that in Houston's conservative environment, many misconceptions exist regarding race, gender and the legal system. Education unlocks these misconceptions.

"Everyone needs to educate themselves and get people beyond prejudices," says Mr. Yates. If the best thing for the child is to be placed with an alternative couple, this is the option that should be explored.

He also cites daytime television as a source of misconceptions. "Some clients have watched enough daytime television that they come in with unrealistic expectations and no sense of the process," says Mr. Yates. In this world of unpaid child support, abandonment and abuse, the court will look very closely before removing a child from a loving home.

Mr. Yates is successful because he helps clients understand the process. "We give homework. We make them participate in the process to give a realistic assessment from the beginning." Each family law case is different and they run the gamut from adultery and abuse to odd partnering.

When it comes to divorce, sometimes, the best advice is not to go through with it. "With the amount of debt that some people carry, divorce is not an option they should pursue. Economically, they may never recover," says Mr. Yates.

Mr. Yates' overall philosophy is to listen to his clients. "In a service business where competition is fierce, we balance a heavy client load against making people feel special," Mr. Yates says.

Mr. Yates is a graduate of St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio. He holds undergraduate degrees from the University of Houston and The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. He is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Texas Trial Lawyers, the American Bar Association and many other professional groups.



**5225 Katy Freeway, Ste. 550**  
**Houston, TX 77007**  
**(713) 932-7177**

#### Specialty

Family law

#### Education

University of Houston, B.A.; St. Mary's School of Law, J.D.