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AUSTIN LEADERS IN LAW



Passion for Protecting Clients

From contentious custody battles and criminal trials to high-stakes medical kidnapping cases, **Carroll Troberman, PLLC** fights to protect the rights of every client. With experience in family law, Child Protective Services matters, and criminal defense, the firm is committed to ensuring every client gets a fair fight.

It's a parent's worst nightmare: Their newborn is rushed to the ER with a fluke seizure, where an MRI reveals blood on the brain. The news is devastating, the future unknown.

Then, shockingly, the parents are accused of child abuse—guilty until proven innocent. The breastfeeding infant is taken from its mother and placed in foster care. The parents are powerless to stop it.

The term for this terrifying legal scenario is medical kidnapping, and it's where attorney Shelly Troberman often finds her clients—loving, stable parents with no criminal history or abusive risk factors, reeling from an unproven

medical accusation. A seasoned defense litigator, Troberman stumbled upon medical kidnapping—a niche within a niche—in 2019. Until then, she and firm co-founder Blair Carroll had built a steady, successful practice handling family law and criminal defense cases, from routine divorces and misdemeanors to high-stakes assault, manslaughter, and murder.

That first medical kidnapping case changed the trajectory of her career. One case led to another, then another. "I never dreamed I would specialize in medical kidnapping, but after that first case, I realized what a huge problem it was and how few attorneys were equipped to help," Troberman says.

100% Success

Today, many clients later, Troberman has never lost a medical kidnapping case—a testament to both her litigation skills and the medical fragility of many hospital-based infant-abuse accusations.

Parents of very young infants are charged in connection with injuries that are often birth-related, such as skeletal fractures and subdural brain bleeds. In other cases, Troberman finds that abuse allegations serve to obscure injuries caused by the hospital itself.

In one case, an intubation error left an infant without oxygen for 25 minutes. Rather than acknowledge the mistake, the hospital retroactively attributed the baby's brain damage to parental abuse—a cover-up Troberman exposed through meticulous records research.

"I'm not saying most hospital cases are a conspiracy, but malpractice cover-ups do exist. Child Protective Services has good intentions, but they often rush to judgment before a full medical investigation is complete. Decades ago, child abuse was vastly underdiagnosed, so hospitals created task forces to identify it. But the pendulum has swung too far in the opposite direction, and many innocent parents are paying the price. When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail," she says.

"I don't take a case unless I would bet my life on the innocence of the parents," adds Troberman, a mother of four. "I'm driven by a passion to protect babies and families. In every single case, I feel like I'm fighting for my own kids."

Relentless Litigators

Whether navigating family law or criminal defense, Carroll and Troberman remain as amicable as possible—and as aggressive as necessary. As a boutique firm, they build trusted client relationships that endure through life's most difficult moments.

"I have terrible boundaries," Troberman laughs. "I'll take clients' calls at night and on weekends, because I know this is the hardest thing they've ever been through. I want to be there for them—because I truly care about their experience and want to be the steady support they need."



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