

## ***Michelle's Story***

After 15 years of marriage and nearly 25 years together, I divorced my husband. In the three years leading up to signing the final papers, I lost my life partner, my house, my social circle, my good health, and my dog. There were times when I thought I would also lose my mind.

Beyond the emotional toll, there was the financial cost. The calculation in my financial declaration estimated a cost to me of \$1.4 million in lost wages – solely based on my income when we were first married, without inflation or raises or bonuses -- by following my husband and supporting him in his career. And in addition to the cost of staying in the marriage, to leave, I signed away my interest in the house we had spent 13 years restoring. Over the years I had made every effort to make the marriage work, but it was over. I was alone, and I was scared.

But I was also free.

As a financial professional, I'd worked with clients going through divorce. What I learned firsthand was how difficult it was to make sound financial decisions during the highly-charged divorce process, and how there was still much to do after the lawyers had sent their last invoices.

What I needed was a safe place to assess my resources post-divorce and regroup. I needed some help understanding what I still needed to take care of in order to get my new life on track. Given my profession, I felt I knew more than most facing a similar situation, but every time I touched anything related to the divorce, it felt like opening old wounds. I toughed it out, but there had to be a better way. And I wasn't the only person who needed a guide to help her find her equilibrium. I discovered issues attorneys didn't cover, the difficult encounters with other financial professionals to close old joint accounts and transfer others, and the tax planning needed to get the most out of a financial settlement. And while I wanted to lay the groundwork for my long-term financial security, I also wanted to protect it so that in time I could pursue a new love relationship with confidence and an open heart.

Many decisions should not be made during an emotionally difficult time, and yet some things need to be addressed, and are often out of the scope of the work of an attorney. Whether you ultimately utilize a financial advisor or continue to manage your personal finances, Satori Financial offers you that safe place, and experienced guidance.