

He's Mad

Don't mess with the Mad Dog.

Divorce attorney Joel "Mad Dog" Weissman, so named in the 1970s by Judge William Williams for his "aggressiveness in the courtroom," is a worthy adversary in the courtroom and on the street. Not only does he handle high-profile, high-stakes divorce cases, he also is a martial arts expert and instructor.

"I have to have an emotional outlet," he explains. "This line of law gets very intense."

In 30 years of training, Weissman has earned third-degree black belts in ju-jitsu and kung fu, second degree in kenpo and first degree in judo. Now he's working on his chin-na (joint locking) proficiency.

Never know when that skill may come in handy. "During a deposition, the other lawyer got aggravated with me," he says. "I had to show him the hand lock."

ANIMAL HE IDENTIFIES WITH: "A tiger. It's immediate, it's overpowering, it's over."

DEFINITION OF DIVORCE, PALM BEACH STYLE: "An act in which parties separate, but not with their money."

MARITAL STATUS: Still married, after 25 years. — *D. N.*