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ATTORNEY PROFILE: PATRICIA TROMBETTA

Lindsay Rump

Feisty redhead, aggressive litigator, doting mother, loving wife, savvy business partner, cherished friend. These are not all words you would typically use to describe the same person. But then again, there really is no one like Patricia Trombetta.



Patricia Trombetta

When I first started working with Smith, Rolfes and Skavdahl, I

was quite intimidated by the five foot one, petite lady in the office down the hall. She knew everything, her clients loved her and she was a force to be reckoned with in court. What I didn't know was that eight years later she was someone I would be proud to call a mentor, business partner, and a friend.

When I was first asked to write this article, I was full of ideas. When I sat down to write it, I was at a loss for words. How do you adequately describe someone who is so full of passion and life? My first thought was to go with her employment history, the cases she has won, the clients who love her and what a great business partner she is. But Pat is that and so much more. She is a mother, a wife, a friend, a volunteer, a mentor, a daughter, a sister, and the list goes on. Trying to condense such a strong personality into mere words is a definite challenge.

Pat was born in upstate New York (year not to be stated but I believe she is around 30 years old) and raised in Michigan. While attending Michigan State she met the love of her life, Kim Trombetta. They married in 1978, the day before she started law school. Pat graduated with honors from Michigan State and ultimately obtained her law degree from the University of Kentucky.

The Trombettas were living in Chicago after graduation so she took, and passed, the Illinois bar exam. On the day she got that wonderful news, Kim had some news of his own – he was being transferred to Ohio for a better job. At first, she was elated, and then deflated - when she realized she would have to take another bar exam! Never one to give up, Pat immediately found a job in Ohio and began studying for the bar exam. After passing yet again she worked in-house for JC Penney Casualty until she and Kim were again on the move to Maryland.

It was here that Pat took on her most challenging role yet – mother. Pat and Kim have two sons, Stephen and Nicholas, born in 1985 and 1988. For six years, Pat concentrated on her family, until they ultimately relocated back to Ohio. She then worked for R.L. Davis for several years before joining Smith, Rolfes and Skavdahl. She quickly rose up within the firm as being an attorney the firm and clients could rely on for working her cases aggressively and timely and producing high quality work.

In 2008 Pat was named a Partner in the firm and is actively involved in the firm's management and marketing. At this point in their careers most lawyers slow down, take some time off, sit back and relax and enjoy the accomplishments they have achieved throughout their practices. Not Pat.

A well-known attorney from Lexington recently asked me if I worked as hard, and as much, as Pat does. I told him three of me could not accomplish in one week what she accomplishes in one day. Pat is the last person to leave the office – after every phone call is returned, email is sent, and brief is written. It is then she will usually go home and review dictation, work on marketing or one of her many other projects.

Pat is actively involved with the Northern Kentucky Bar Association H.O.N.K. program, she is co-authoring a book on

women rainmakers for DRI, and she frequently gives speeches and writes articles on insurance law issues.

I may be making Pat sound like a superhero, but in all reality she does have weaknesses. Shoes. Handbags. Clothes. Shopping of any kind. A good bottle of red wine. I mean, even Superman had kryptonite! But in all reality Pat is one of the hardest working, honest people I know. She became a lawyer to fight for her clients and has a real passion for the law. Her ability to correctly cite every case published in the last ten years amazes me. She truly loves what she does and is the shining example of how we want our bar to be represented.

I would be remiss if I did not discuss Pat's proudest accomplishments. Of course she is an outstanding attorney who has been published in a number of magazines and newsletters, she has given numerous speeches, and been recognized for her legal acumen and professionalism. While raising their family, Pat and Kim moved across the country – a number of times. Pat never wavered taking each move in stride and continued to practice law, obtaining her license in Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Washington D.C. and every Federal Court in between. But by far her greatest accomplishment, and what she is most proud of, is her family.

Pat and Kim's sons are extremely successful. Stephen is an engineer with

Microsoft, currently living in Seattle and Nicholas is an engineer, with his doctorate, working and living in Colorado. Kim is now a senior vice president at Huntington Bank. Pat and Kim have been married for more than 35 years and are still as much in love now as they were the day they met. Pat has an extremely close relationship with her sons – texting everyday – and her mother and brother who live out of state.

When I asked Kim to describe Pat as a mother, wife and attorney, his words did not surprise me. Kim said Pat made a huge sacrifice taking seven years away from her career to raise their sons. He is aware she gushes to everyone what a great guy he is – even though he doesn't necessarily agree. He also knows without a doubt she is the most hard working and honest attorney he has ever met. Anyone who has met Pat would absolutely agree. Within the first five minutes of meeting her you know about her wonderful husband, amazing kids and will be convinced she never sleeps until her cases are resolved.

Pat is a feisty redhead – do not get in her way when she is angry. Pat is an aggressive, methodical litigator. I am glad I work with her and not against her. She loves her boys more than life itself and will do anything for them. Kim is her world, her rock, her partner. She is an astute business woman, in a field, when she started, dominated by men. But above all, to me, she is a mentor, a leader, and luckily, a friend.

OPPORTUNITY

Small but exceptionally active Covington litigation practice seeks experienced administrative assistant for full-time position. Preferred candidate will have ability to multi-task, work independently or with minimal direction, and handle a high volume of telephone, calendaring, and file-related tasks. Job duties may include minimal bookkeeping and accounting tasks.

Areas of litigation practice include domestic/family law, injury claims, and commercial disputes, along with transactional work in bankruptcy and estate law. Knowledge of or experience in one or more areas is preferred, but not strictly required.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and education, and competitive to Northern Kentucky market. Interested candidates should submit full resume with references and a cover letter detailing experiences of note in prior employment to director@nkybar.com, using the subject title "RESUME: AEJR248."

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