

Anne Edwards

Litigation, Partner Inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt

I find inspiration from the words of Eleanor Roosevelt who said "The



future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." From her early days as first lady until her death in 1962, Eleanor believed civil rights to be the real litmus test for American democracy. After the death of her husband, she was freed from the constraints the White House tried to impose on her activities and joined the NAACP Board of Directors. She pressured the Truman administration to recommend a permanent Fair **Employment Practices Commission** to lobby against the poll tax and to propose low income federally financed housing. She later worked with Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks to raise money for the Montgomery Bus Boycott. At the 1956 Democratic National Convention, she chaired the platform hearings on civil rights and after moderating a heated debate between those opposed to the Brown decision and civil rights activists she drafted a plank, which condemned the use of force and declared the Supreme Court the nation's legal arbiter. Eleanor mentioned the Brown decision in every speech she gave for Adlai Stevenson, endorsed the Powell Amendment to bar federal funds from construction of segregated schools. and chided those Americans who did not see the inherent hypocrisy of critiquing communism and supporting segregation. She opposed John Kennedy's nomination as much for his non-existent support of civil rights as she did for his silence on McCarthy.

Why did you choose your practice area?

It was a progression. When I first

graduated from college I wanted to go into social work, which ultimately led to a job as a parole and probation officer and then to a decision to go to law school. My original practice area was in bankruptcies and financial restructuring. When the economy improved, and I found I was doing mostly litigation in the financial services and real property areas, I found the problem solving more intriguing and stayed with it.

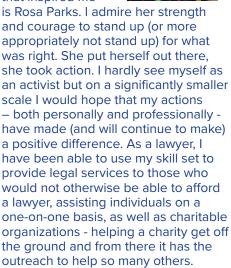
What are three things you wish you could tell every woman you know entering the workforce right now?

This probably sounds really cliché but I would probably tell them:

- (1) Don't sweat the small stuff.
- (2) Don't beat yourself up over the mistakes or losses from an earlier day.
- (3) Nothing comes easy. If you want something, you have to work for it. Practice makes perfect.

Dana Mark Trust & Estates, Partner Inspired by Rosa Parks

A woman in history that inspired me



Did you have a mentor? If so, how did they encourage you in your career?

I did have a mentor and he (yes it was a man) recognized my abilities and guided me in my career. I started as a paralegal. He encouraged me to go to law school and then get my LL.M. which I did while I was working with him and he was supportive of my work/ school schedule. Besides work and school, he also helped me to think about the bigger picture - importantly, that there was more to life than work - and not only focus on an immediate reaction or response, so that when a less than ideal situation presents itself he taught me to step back, examine the situation, think through the next step, and formulate a plan of action. I found this to be somewhat of a life lesson, both with work as well as being mindful of others.

Do you believe a woman can have both a meaningful professional career and a fulfilling personal life?

Yes, you can have both a meaningful career and a fulfilling personal life. I believe there is a balance but that the balance fluctuates. The priorities at a given time will change and part of having both a career and a home life is recognizing when you need to make an adjustment, and also recognizing that the priorities could vary from day to day. Being flexible and resilient come in handy. A sense of humor doesn't hurt as well as realizing that life is what happens while you are busy making plans. Importantly you need to make time for yourself – that's not being selfish, it's self preservation.





The Women of Smith, Gambrell & Russell

Marsha Ajhar

Intellectual Property Gadget Girl

Elizabeth Blakely

Corporate Book Reader

Lisa Carrasco

Employee Benefits Mother of Twin Girls

Melissa Dearing

Litigation Survivor

Marcia Ernst

Litigation Lake Life Lover

Sasha Greenberg

Litigation Beyoncé's Inspiration

Susie Kim

Immigration Intrepid Wayfarer

Jennifer Lawson

Labor & Employment Newlywed & Yogi

Emily McConnell

Corporate
Former Spelling Bee
Champ

Dexterrie Ramirez

Real Estate Wanna-be Party Planner

Terry Schwartz

Corporate Low Country Girl

Robin Silberzweig

Real Estate MacGyver-like Problem Solver

Darlene Tzou

Tax Climbing Dragon Boater Carrie Anderer

Litigation Political Junkie

Elizabeth Borland

Intellectual Property Chorister

Jasmine Chean

Litigation Avid Golfer

Danila Duo

Corporate Hit-or-miss Italian Chef

Shani Smith Fisher

Aviation Responsible & Dependable

Nicole Haff

Intellectual Property Surfer Girl

Darlene Klinksieck

Intellectual Property Animal Lover & Faithful Friend

Kristen Lewis

Tax Newlywed

Aasia Mustakeem

Real Estate Wanna-be Salsaer

Dana Richens

Litigation Award Winning Grillmaster

Leah Ward Sears

Litigation Trials and Appeals/ Fashionista

Ariane Smith

Litigation Arts Enthusiast

Laura Wartner

Private Client Services Aspiring Chef Laura M. Andrew

Healthcare Green Thumb

Kristen Bracken
Litigation

Furniture Refinisher

Nicole Chong

Corporate Lifelong Spanish Language Student

Sharon Duvall

Real Estate Boating Beauty

Chloe Furfine

Litigation Avid Shutterbug

Akiyo Hewett

Corporate Surfer Girl

Simone Kraus

International Multilingualist

Dana Mark

Private Client Services Outer Space Enthusiast

Erin Peterson

Corporate Competitive Tennis Player

Kate Rowe

Intellectual Property Entertainment Fly Fisher

Julie Sebastian

Corporate Sports Nut

Lisa Smith

Real Estate Part-time Pianist

Svetlana Zagorina

Tax Artist at Heart **Emma Barry**

Tax One Proud Mama

Danielle Burnette

Litigation Lover of Art & Fashion

Cassandra Daum

Intellectual Property Future World Traveler

Anne Edwards

Litigation Happy & Gregarious

Alyson Graham

Corporate Handywoman Extraordinaire

Nicole Kalkines

Litigation Brunch Enthusiast

Holly Lance

Intellectual Property Dedicated Yogini

Toysha Massey

Litigation
Seafood Lover

Anne Pitter

Corporate/Real Estate Aspiring Photojournalist

Vickie Rusek

Litigation Road Tripper

Laleh Sharifi

Immigration Avid Hiker

Dominque Tauzin

Tax Urban Gardner

Kathryn Zickert

Zoning Flash Mob Dancer

SGR's Women's Initiative affinity group is committed to the advancement of professional women. SGR recognizes the importance of retaining women in the workplace, fostering stronger relationships, and providing added value to its business and social communities. For the firm's women attorneys, the Women's

Initiative focuses on mentoring and providing resources to hone the skills necessary for career advancement. For the firm's women clients, contacts, and friends, it aims to create opportunities to network and programs to educate about important legal and social issues.