



About

Membership

Committees

Projects

News

Athletics

DAYL Foundation

Sarah D. Johnson is One to Watch

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Sarah D. Johnson is a DAYL member whose service has deserved recognition for some time. She has been a star in her new role as Co-chair of the newly re-named Lawyers Serving Children committee (fka Barristers for Babies), but Sarah has a strong history of service to the DAYL. That is why Sarah is this months very deserving "One to Watch."



Sarah D. Johnson currently practices complex insurance coverage counseling and litigation at Meckler, Bulger, Tilson, Marick & Pearson, LLP in Dallas. She graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Public Relations, then went on to graduate *cum laude* with a J.D. from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in 2006. The signs of her future leadership interests were evident before law school, when Sarah began volunteering at the Children`s Advocacy Center in 2001 and later served as Chief Counsel in the Child Advocacy Clinic at SMU. In addition to these activities, Sarah was active in Moot Court and chaired a very successful law school golf classic.

Sarah first became involved in DAYL through the Environmental Awareness Committee meetings. She then joined the 2008 DAYL Leadership Class. Sarah says, "I love the small community of other young and newly practicing lawyers in Dallas and have so much fun getting to know everyone through service to the bar and the community." Her love of service has been evident as she helps plan the Lawyers Serving Children committee`s involvement in the March of Dimes Walk on April 16th and the March 31st CLE program on "Recognizing Child Abuse and Your Duty to Report it: A Legal Responsibility."

Sarah decided to go to law school after traveling to Europe and the Middle East during her sophomore year of college, hoping to learn more about laws, governments and society. Now, she enjoys getting to know her clients and helping them step-by-step through the process of litigating a case. In addition to her DAYL involvement, Sarah is a member of the Tort and Insurance Practice Section, Appellate Section, and Business Litigation Section of the Dallas Bar Association. When she`s not focusing on work and the community, Sarah enjoys spending time with husband Matt, daughter Madeline (who turns two-years-old this June), and their miniature schnauzer Boone.

When asked who inspires her the most, Sarah has a ready answer – her grandfather who raised her, the late Byron L. "Pete" Davis, Sr. He grew up poor in Alabama and North Carolina and attended Wake Forest University on a basketball scholarship, where he played in the first NCAA basketball tournament. He also played four years of varsity tennis and served as President of the Student Body. After graduating, he served four years in the U.S. Navy and went on to work his way up the ladder in the insurance industry and health care industry, while serving on various community leadership boards. He eventually earned the award of Distinguished Alumni at Wake Forest. Sarah states, "I admire him for his leadership, giving back to his alma mater, and also giving of his time so freely to serve on different boards, committees, and in his community. He also taught me how to be goofy and laugh at life."

Sarah, I have no doubt you are inspiring others as you follow in your grandfather`s footsteps to leadership, community service, and a love of life. We will be watching!