

- Law.com Home
- Newswire
- LawJobs
- CLE Center
- LawCatalog
- Our Sites
- Advertise



TEXAS LAWYER

Common Law. Uncommon Knowledge.



- Home
- Decisions
- News
- Surveys
- Practice Areas
- Subscribe
- Advertise
- Contact

FREE TRIAL

New Users
REGISTER TODAY!

Print Subscribers click here!

LAW.COM

PRACTICE CENTERS

- Employment Law
- IP Law
- Business Law
- Tech Law
- Litigation Law

Subscribe Today!

Premium Subscription

Get access to all of Law.com's Practice Centers with one click

SEARCH SITE:

GO

▶ [Advanced Search](#)

SITE GUIDE

Texas Lawyer products

- Print and Online Editions Read Advertise
- This week's issue
- Law firm business & management
- Case Summaries
- TL Podcasts and Video Blog
- Petitions Granted
- In-House Texas
- Books
- Seminars
- E-newsletters
- Directory of In-House Counsel
- Professional Announcements
- Reprint & Custom

NEWS

My Atticus Finch Moment: Karin B. Torgerson

Texas Lawyer
Monday, August 21, 2006

Editor's note: Texas Lawyer asked lawyers across the state when they first realized they wanted to become attorneys. We believe such moments matter, because these are the ties that bind the legal profession together. In the coming weeks, Texas Lawyer will run these so-called "Atticus Finch Moments" in the newspaper's "Out of Order" section. Contributors e-mailed their moments, which have been edited for length and style, and provided photos of themselves at the time of their moments. To share your "Atticus Finch Moment," go to www.texaslawyer.com/finch.

Karin B. Torgerson — partner — Locke Liddell & Sapp — Dallas

Despite the fact that I loved listening to my grandfather's stories about his product-liability defense practice in Portland, Ore., I never really considered becoming a lawyer until I took a small debate class in the University of Texas' Plan II program called "Classical Arguments in Math, Love,



Locke Liddell's Karin Torgerson, pictured at the time of her atticus finch moment.

ARTICLE TOOLS:

- [Printer-friendly Version](#)
- [Email this Article](#)
- [Comment on this Article](#)
- [Reprints & Permissions](#)

publishing

and War."

- Courts and government info
- Texas Attorney Directories
- Executive Legal Adviser

FEATURED SPONSORS

- Martindale Lawyer Locator
- FTI
- RenewData
- Fios, Inc.
- Counsel Financial Services
- Merrill On-Demand
- Amicus Attorney
- View D&B Webcast
- Westlaw



PRACTICE AREAS

Bankruptcy
Criminal Practice
Employment
Family Law
Intellectual Property
Torts
More practice areas

FEATURED TL RESOURCE

My professor, Dr. Robert Boyer, who later became my course mentor, noted that I seemed to like to argue — about anything. He suggested trying to find a part-time job at a law firm to see how I liked that part of the practice. I was fortunate to find a job working under Steve McConnico in Austin, and my fate was sealed.

After graduating from the University of Texas School of Law in 1995, I started with Locke Purnell Rain Harrell in Dallas (now Locke Liddell & Sapp). I fell into a practice I loved (most days) and people I genuinely enjoyed working with (every day). With just this, I considered myself lucky. Then I was thrown a curveball.

I had just made partner when I was asked if I would be interested in working at the White House. Who can turn that down? So, in March 2003, I left Locke Liddell to work in the White House as a special assistant to the president and associate staff secretary under Harriet Miers.

I spent a year experiencing history firsthand from an office in the basement of the West Wing before I moved to USA Freedom Corps, the White House office tasked with supporting and encouraging volunteer service. It was through USA Freedom Corps that I had the opportunity to travel to Southeast Asia with Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton (or 41 and 42 as we sometimes referred to them).

Never in my life did I think I would be playing cards with Clinton or flying in helicopters with Bush. In total, I spent two years at the White House before I came to the realization that I missed litigation, the practice of law and Texas.

My firm welcomed me back, and I could not be more thrilled. Looking back, I am amazed by the direction my life has taken me thus far. I absolutely would not have had the opportunities and experiences I have had without first making the decision to become a lawyer. And that happened because of a seminar class I took more than 15 years ago.



[More Resources...](#)

[about ALM](#) | [terms & conditions](#) | [privacy](#) | [advertising](#) | [about texaslawyer.com](#)
Copyright 2006 ALM Properties, Inc. All rights reserved.