



Next Gen



This week's Q&A with

Julie Dziobak

***Julie Dziobak** is a Partner in Locke Lord's Securitization and Debt Finance Practice Group based in the Chicago office, representing both lenders and borrowers in all types of debt financing transactions, from small venture capital loans to widely syndicated billion-dollar deals. In her 18 years of practice, she feels like she has done some work in every conceivable industry, from Broadway theaters to oil and gas and TV and radio. She does a lot of work across multiple offices and with numerous Partners in the Firm's Private Equity and Corporate groups, so her practice morphs as needed.*



More About Julie

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

My family relocated several times during my childhood, with the most significant move from Pittsburgh to Las Vegas in the middle of my sophomore year of high school. While each move was quite difficult for me as a shy youngster, my mom insists it turned me into a chameleon who can be thrown into any situation and somehow manage to adapt to the current surroundings. Even though I have been with Locke Lord my whole career, both my practice and my location (I'm now in my fourth office in the Firm) constantly shift, with one year almost unrecognizable compared to the next. My experiences growing up gave me the ability to ignore all of the movement around me and focus on the work.

How did you know that you wanted to practice law? // What inspired you to become a lawyer?

My dad has a PhD in groundwater-engineering-something-or-other and my mom has a master's in computer science, so it was fully expected that I would go into a science field. I toed the party line and majored in civil engineering. And hated every minute of it. So, I needed something else to do with my life that (a) would not necessitate a complete redo of undergrad; (b) would make use of the analytical skills I picked up as an engineer; and (c) would not require me to remember anything about derivatives and factoring (the calculus kind, not the financial markets kind). I took a business law class my junior year of college as a bit of a last resort after sleeping through my scheduled time to pick classes, and it ticked every box that I needed. After that, I started seriously considering law school and the rest is history. Essentially (and appropriately for those that know me), I became a lawyer because I hate mornings and never hear my alarm clock.

What drives or motivates you on your hardest days/during your most difficult matters?

Knowing if I'm drowning in the deep end, I'm never alone!

What do you do to give back to the community?

I volunteer at my local animal shelter for several hours each weekend walking dogs, taking them to offsite events and helping with adoptions. It is, hands down, my favorite time of the week and replaces countless hours of therapy (dogs make VERY good listeners). We have also fostered very young puppies that are too small to be adopted, but I have to spread the fosters out as my husband and older dog don't think they are nearly as much fun as my younger dog and I do.

Tell us your favorite book, movie or TV show and why you like it.

I read *To Kill a Mockingbird* for the first time in junior high, and I still remember thinking Scout Finch was just the greatest character. I loved everything about her outlook on life and her spitfire personality. Unlike most, I remember the book because of Scout, not because of Atticus.

What would be your fantasy career if you weren't a lawyer?

Researcher/writer for *Lonely Planet*, or anything else that would pay me to travel around the world.



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