

Danielle D. Giroux

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A champion debater who has coached college debate teams, Giroux is a civil litigator who represents a diverse clientele at trial and on appeal, and is a hands-on miracle worker who fosters dogs for her local humane society.

Looking back:

My father was in the Navy so we moved around, but I consider Virginia Beach my hometown. I tried acting when I was younger, but my on-stage performances were disasters. During one program, I passed out backstage from the hot lights and knocked over a dozen folded-up metal chairs. In a high school one-act play, the way I was sitting caused my entire leg to fall asleep right before my monologue.

An important mentor:

Stan Wellman, one of the founding partners at HCCW. When I was a younger lawyer, his door was always open, and he patiently answered my incessant questions. He leads by example as a successful trial attorney who practices with professionalism, civility and a sense of humor.

Most meaningful professional/civic group:

Run exclusively by unpaid volunteers, the Henrico Humane Society rescues hundreds of dogs and cats each year, providing them with medical care and temporary foster homes until they are adopted. In volunteering for HHS, I've seen how

resilient dogs are. No matter how rough life can be, dogs have an amazing ability to bounce back and find happiness. Humans can learn a lot from dogs.

An influential leader:

As the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor overcame challenges in a male-dominated profession.

Best advice:

No case is worth sacrificing your integrity. Be a zealous advocate, but always treat opposing counsel with respect and never compromise your high ethical standards.

Personal/professional achievement:

Personally – rehabilitating rescued dogs with special needs. I once fostered a dog with mange who was so starved when he was rescued he could barely stand. A few months later, he had transformed into a happy, healthy puppy and was adopted by a great couple. Professionally – making partner after my sixth year of practice.

Best tip for balance:

Find a profession that is also personally rewarding. When your work-life balance is out of whack, those times are much more tolerable when you enjoy your work.

A favorite get-away:

I rarely vacation in the same place twice. My ideal vacation offers a mix of relaxation and adventure, somewhere with sights that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

My first job:

I was a "Cast Member" at the Disney



Education: BA, James Madison University;
JD, George Mason University

Store. I learned the names of all seven dwarves and the lyrics to every Disney movie song.

I wanted to be:

A princess, a fashion designer and a graphic artist. Law school was a bit of a

surprise.

A favorite book or movie:

The Princess Bride. It never gets old.

You didn't know:

I took a Russian research vessel to Antarctica AND stayed at an ice hotel inside the Arctic Circle. I have fostered almost 100 dogs in five years.