



Blair Wood of the Creekmore Law Firm in Blacksburg

Accepting the challenge >

Executive Summary:

Creekmore Law Firm newcomer Blair Wood has made excelling at the unusual a normal part of her cycle.

By Rachael Garrity

Forget the pinstripes, the stuffy sentences, the suspicion that not only business, but life, may be measured in “billable hours.” Witness instead a wet suit, easy laughter and a tall, athletic woman who admits that she is a workaholic and her life isn’t really as balanced as it should be, but she really can’t figure out how to represent her clients ethically any other way. Meet Blair Wood.

A wet suit? Before earning her law degree, Blair served in a variety of capacities in the world of forensics. Having grown up in California and Southern Utah, she moved to East Tennessee when she married, and applied to the Oak Ridge police department, following in the steps of her mother, who is a police officer. Already a certified scuba diver, she included in her training courses at the Swiftwater Rescue School and the Dive Rescue International PSD School, and

eventually became the training officer for the dive team.

“Typically, we were called out three to five times a month,” says Blair, who is 33. “Oak Ridge is surrounded by water, and there was lots of evidence to try to retrieve.”

After that she trained as a methamphetamine lab technician. That work required a totally different kind of suit—and gloves and other protection—as she and her colleagues cleared meth labs of dangerous substances.

Then, in 2005, she trained at the Medicolegal Death Investigation School, and became coroner for Anderson County, Tenn. Didn’t she find that a bit grisly? Her answer is serious and considered:

“As a coroner, you represent the body. In essence, your findings are the last words this person will ever speak. It is a meaningful role, and one that I really had a tough time walking away from.”

Having taken the Legal SAT, though, and nearing the time when its results would no longer be valid, she applied to Appalachian School of Law, and received a full academic scholarship.

“It was a tough decision,” she admits. “Frankly, I was afraid I couldn’t do it, just might not have what it takes. So I put everything I had

into it. My husband [of 12 years now] stayed in Knoxville and I moved to Grundy—way back in the remote area of coal mines—and concentrated on doing the very best I could.”


By the time she graduated in May of last year, she had made dean’s list every semester, was first in her class, had served as Justice of the Honor Court and as senior articles editor for the Appalachian Journal of Law. She wrote for the Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, from which she received another scholarship.

Add to that a series of awards for excellence in achievement, a stint as a research assistant for a professor working on First Amendment and group defamation issues, and clerking for the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of Interior, the Federal Public Defenders Office and a law firm in Knoxville. Seems

that “all she had” was more than a little.

It was her work on the law journal that introduced her to the Creekmore Law Firm in Blacksburg, where she now concentrates on business litigation and energy and mineral law.

“This is business law,” she explains. “For many of my cases, the subject happens to be coal and gas, but I also serve clients in other areas.”

While the legal profession may have been unfairly criticized in recent years, and it’s decidedly inaccurate to describe every member as slow to produce and quick to collect, this young woman’s level of activity and commitment is hardly the norm. Indeed, she’s not just an exception to the rule—she’s exceptional. 

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