



JULIE DEWOODY Greathouse

HARD WORK, CAN-DO ATTITUDE SHAPES LITTLE ROCK ATTORNEY'S CAREER

During a recent partner retreat, Julie DeWoody Greathouse, managing partner at PPGMR Law in Little Rock, watched a male colleague clear the breakfast dishes. Thinking about how a second male colleague had cooked the breakfast and yet another cooked dinner the night before as she led the business meetings, she joked, "Well, I guess we're all just playing to our strengths."

The line got a laugh, underscoring how far roles in the workplace, and especially the legal field, have come.

"I've had some strong role models in my life," she said. "In law, there are a lot of women who have paved the way for someone like me to be in this position and I give them credit for making it easier for those of us who now follow that road."

Greathouse has repaid this legacy through unrelenting achievement, graduating magna cum laude from Harding University. At UALR's William H. Bowen School of Law, she was survey/comments editor of the Law Review and a member of the National Trial Team. She also clerked for Justice Robert L. Brown on the Arkansas Supreme Court where, in 2010, she sat as an appointed special justice alongside her former boss.

For seven years running, she's been listed a Mid-South Super Lawyer and four years a Best Lawyers in America designee by



Thomson Reuters Service. And, she's been equally passionate about work in the community, from serving on the PTA board at her children's school to various councils and committees working to improve conditions in Arkansas.

In 2012, she achieved in her 30s what most attorneys consider the crowning achievement of a career, serving as lead trial and appellate counsel in a case before the United States Supreme Court, winning a unanimous decision.

"I read somewhere you have a better

chance of hitting a home run out of Wrigley Field than getting a case before the United States Supreme Court," she said. "It was an exciting opportunity for our team of lawyers and one that's not likely to repeat itself in my career."

Though there were no lawyers in her family at the time, the Hope native and her sister, Karen Roberts, general counsel for Walmart, developed an early interest in the field. It was a goal fortified by the example of her father, a longtime Union Pacific railroad man, and her mother, a special education teacher.

"We were always just very disciplined," she said. "There really is no magic, except that my parents expected us to put in maximum effort. I watched them do that in everything they did and it instilled a

work ethic and an expectation that we would do our best at whatever we did."

Today, Greathouse passes those lessons along to the next generation, both personally and professionally.

"I say at work and at home to my children, 'There's always a way,'" she said. "There's a way to get it done, there's a way to fix a problem, there's a way to get a positive result. You just have to stick with it, be tenacious, be focused, pay attention to the details, be dogged in your determination to achieve."