

Amy Elizabeth Dohrendorf

Life Is a Work in Progress

By Katherine Bishop

Although born in St. Louis, Missouri, Amy E. Dohrendorf is about as close as one can get to being a native Arizonan. Her parents relocated to Mesa when she was just five. The move made sense. They had family here already. Today, her parents, aunt and uncle, and cousins all reside in Arizona.

By grade school, Dohrendorf was already honing her advocacy skills, fighting injustice and inequality. Told early on that she was “born to be a lawyer,” a diminutive Dohrendorf routinely engaged her parents in spirited debates over everything from current events and curfews, to the dinner menu.

Dohrendorf joined Stewart Law Group (SLG) in 2007, became partner in 2015, and works from the firm’s Chandler office location. She has known Scott D. Stewart, SLG’s founder, since their NAU days in Flagstaff. This Pi Beta Phi Sorority alumna graduated magna cum laude with a BS in communications (1997). A recipient of the Harold C. Lawson Memorial Law Scholarship, she obtained her JD from The University of Denver Sturm College of Law (2000).



On all levels, Dohrendorf supports the firm culture at SLG. As attorneys, she notes, “[w]e have immense work-related freedoms, which is a reflection of the trust [Scott D. Stewart] has in all of us.” Proud of the work they do, she remarked how everyone at SLG works extremely hard to give clients the best results possible.

In 2015, Stewart and Dohrendorf co-

authored a handbook for parents, “Arizona Child Custody Essentials: What Every Parent Needs to Know.” **Criminal Defense to Family Law Attorney**

Dohrendorf became a member of the State Bar of Arizona in 2000 and is active in the Maricopa County Bar Association, Family Law Section. She launched her legal career in criminal defense.

For three years Dohrendorf was Assistant Public Defender with the Maricopa County Public Defender’s Office. Compelling work, she embraced the opportunity to help those less fortunate – people who genuinely needed legal representation. Dohrendorf observed how quick people are to judge others. Part of her job was to interact with and learn about those facing criminal charges. “I realized how fortunate

I was to have the support and love of my family, something so many of those individuals did not receive.”

Dohrendorf then took a position with a Phoenix law firm and shifted her practice to domestic relations law. Two years later, she was with SLG. Tireless, dedicated, skilled in all aspects of litigation, including law and motion practice, mediation, and

trial, she never loses sight of the children's best interests and strives to obtain the best possible results in every case.

For her, being a family law attorney is tremendously rewarding. Assisting people in need. Impacting clients and their families in a positive way. Being there to help others change their lives for the better. After 15 years in practice, she has learned three crucial character traits for a happy and successful professional life: patience, tolerance, and acceptance.

On family law practice, "I chose to primarily practice in family law because I to come from a divorced family. My approach with my clients is to be extremely honest, realistic and forthright. I try to offer a helping hand to guide them through this process. When clients are working with me the type of relationship that they can expect to have is one of personal attention and communication. They can expect me to return their phone calls or emails within 24 hours of receipt and I'm always available to talk to them regarding their concerns."

Her parents divorced when she was a child, but they did so amicably, civilly, respectfully. She and her brother grew up to be well-adjusted adults. Dohrendorf wants other families to have every opportunity to obtain the same positive outcome. With family law, Dohrendorf tries to make the process as painless as she possibly can. Not just for her clients, but for the children.

Apparent to clients and peers alike, she is in her element as an attorney. One of those lawyers who is compelled to over-prepare, Dohrendorf is thorough, compassionate, and a tough taskmaster when dealing with clients' issues. But not all is 'peachy keen' in family law practice. What she finds particularly challenging is the parties' emotions which are at an all-time high. A difficult opposing counsel or party on the other side can complicate matters further. "I maintain professionalism and proceed in an efficient, effective, and civilized manner to yield the best results for my clients," she insists, "the courts, clients, and others take notice and appreciate such."

Dohrendorf is concerned that "mat-

ters can become routine for us because we see hundreds of family law cases per year, but this is typically the client's first experience with an attorney." When combined with the fact that clients are dealing with a life-changing event, it is particularly important to guide them through the divorce or child custody process with compassion and kindness. "I always strive to keep this in mind. To recognize that this is the client's first experience dealing with these types of emotions, challenges, and major life changes. No client's experience should be diminished or minimized by what is, for us, just a typical day at the office."

Community Volunteer and Pro Bono Enthusiast

Back in 2010, Dohrendorf and her team, the "Boot Camp Babes," collected over \$80,000.00 in a three-day fundraising walk for Susan G. Komen breast cancer research. Today, her charitable passion is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She also volunteers on a monthly basis with a local group doing community service here in the Valley.

Traveling the U.S. and the World

"I love to travel!" Dohrendorf has been to almost every state in the U.S., but keeps returning to Hawaii. Most recently, she took a road trip with her mother to the East Coast. The year before, she travelled to England, Scandinavia, and Iceland. She has travelled to most of the Western European countries and shoots for a vacation there every three years. Her brother is a pilot for United Airlines, so she flies free as his "preferred companion." (After all, what is family for?) She hopes to fly to distant and exotic destinations even more often in the future.

Always the athlete (she played four sports in high school as an honor student), Dohrendorf plays soccer and is currently trying her hand at tennis. She also enjoys snow skiing whenever and wherever. But more than anything else – including the Phoenix Suns and Starbucks – she treasures each moment spent with friends and family. She offers this sage advice: "Try to live life with no regrets, it is a work in progress."

At a Glance

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Practice Area

Family Law

Education

Juris Doctor, University of
Denver, 1997-2000

Bachelor of Science in

Communications,

Northern Arizona

University, 1993-1997

Professional Memberships

State Bar of Arizona

Family Law Section

Maricopa County Bar

Association Board Member

Hobbies

Traveling

Phoenix Suns

Skiing

Favorite Quote

"What you do not want
others to do to you, do not do
to others."

– Confucius

