

The POWER List - Family Law and Estate Planning Attorneys

Welcome to the POWER List, a new feature from the Wisconsin Law Journal that examines the power brokers who lead and influence various parts of the Wisconsin legal community.

For this edition of the POWER list, we're focusing on family law and estate attorneys. In the list, we highlight those whose mere presence on a case signifies the stakes, who have influenced the direction of the law, whose leadership in the community is pervasive and whose respect within the bar is undeniable. To create this editorial-selected list, we interviewed respected attorneys and other leaders around

the state, reviewed outcomes of significant cases handled by these and other attorneys, and consulted the archives of the Wisconsin Law Journal to highlight people whose achievements and influence we recognize as powerful attorneys in Wisconsin.

The profiles in the section were written by Law Journal Managing Editor Steve Schuster and legal freelance writers MaryBeth Matzek and Ali Teske.



DIANE S. DIEL DIANE S. DIEL S.C.

A lesson in perspective following a “victory” in a divorce custody case led former State Bar president Diane S. Diel to Collaborative Practice and mediation.

Diel sees law as a helping profession, marrying her passion for family law with a team approach style that involves mental health professionals and financial professionals. The relationship she’s cultivated allows for a creative approach to family law that changes lives in a meaningful way.

“The most rewarding part of my career is that I have been able to be on the ground floor of developing and growing Collaborative Divorce and mediation,” said Diel.

Dividing her solo practice work between mediation, collaborative divorce and litigation cases, Diel finds time to balance it all with public and professional service. She was appointed to the Access to Justice Commission in 2017 and is currently the chair of the commission’s Systems Reform Committee.

Instrumental in the creation of the pro bono membership category through her work with the commission and the State Bar Membership Committee, Diel helped to create the pro bono emeritus membership category.