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TRICIA MAGEE

Career Law Clerk to the Honorable Frank D. Whitney,
United States District Judge for the Western District
of North Carolina



Q: What is your current position and company?

A: I am the Career Law Clerk to the Honorable Frank D. Whitney, United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. In this role, I provide researched recommendations to the judge on a variety of issues that arise in civil and criminal cases. I also manage the hiring and onboarding process for term law clerks, interns, and externs.

Q: What was your position at Shumaker?

A: I was an associate in the Litigation practice.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your career?

A: The people – I enjoy working with the brightest legal minds in the profession, including the judges, fellow law clerks, and attorneys who appear before the court. I also appreciate the ability to work on a wide range of cases. Whether it is a case involving a criminal conspiracy, tax fraud, civil rights violations, employment litigation, or a trademark or patent infringement dispute, no two days are the same.

Q: What is your favorite Shumaker memory?

A: Saddlebrook! As a new attorney who had recently joined Shumaker, the firm retreat provided a fun opportunity to meet firm leaders and learn more about my new colleagues and their practice areas. A close second would be working on appellate cases with Bill Sturges and John Kocher.

Q: What advice would you give a new lawyer?

A: Know the judge, know courthouse staff, and know your case. Know how the judge has ruled on similar issues; learn the judge's preferences for written submissions and standard practices for court proceedings. Make extra efforts to be courteous to courthouse staff, including judicial assistants, law clerks, clerk's office staff, court reporters, and court security officers. Their institutional knowledge is a great resource when you have questions or need assistance. Finally, know the strengths and weaknesses of your case and recognize when to concede an issue to maintain credibility with the court or jury.

Q: What news would you like to share about your personal or professional life?

A: My husband Patrick and I have two daughters – Anne Louise (12) and Spencer (10). Together, we love a bike ride at the beach, game night, or family pickle ball match. When I'm not spending time with my family or working, you can likely find me on the tennis court or volunteering with local organizations doing good around Charlotte. I've had the honor of serving as President of the Junior League of Charlotte, Inc., as well as serving on the board of directors for the Mecklenburg County Bar and Charlotte Family Housing. I recently graduated from Leadership Charlotte and look forward to seeing how I can leverage that experience in finding new ways to make Charlotte a better place to work, live, and play.