

GREATER DALLAS EDITION | Vol. 12 No. 2

ATTORNEY AT LAW

www.AttorneyAtLawMagazine.com
MAGAZINE®

Have Climate Cases Been Trumped?

MASS TORTS

Landmark Texas Supreme Court Decision on Hospital Accountability

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

ATTORNEY OF THE MONTH

NATALIE WEBB

Carrying on the Family Tradition of Family Law

ATTORNEY OF THE MONTH

Natalie Webb

Carrying on the Family Tradition of Family Law

BY DAN BALDWIN

ATTORNEY AT LAW MAGAZINE - DALLAS - VOL. 12 NO. 2

12

Halley Studios

“This was my dad’s law firm, and I worked with him for a long time. After he passed, I took it over and everyone here works as a team dedicated to helping other families,” says Natalie Webb of Webb Family Law Firm, PC.

The firm serves an equal number of men and women, typically representing clients navigating divorce involving significant assets and custody of minor children.

Webb says she inherited more than just a law firm from her father, the late Brian Lockwood Webb. Widely known as “one of the greats,” he was outgoing, warm and a natural mentor. “He never met a stranger and had tons of friends,” she says. Webb began working in his office during summers at age 14 and joined the firm full-time after law school.

“My father had the best sense of humor which is essential when dealing daily with some very stressful and difficult situations. He taught me how to deal with that, to not internalize it, be sympathetic, and to make real connections with every client, which is something I practice every day.”

Webb says her father was a progressive figure in family law. “Before I was even in law school, a lot of women would come up to me and say how great my dad was and how he always treated them as equals and helped them grow in the practice. This was back when women were not as accepted in the profession as they are now.”

A cum laude graduate of SMU Dedman School of Law, Webb is board certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She exclusively practices family law, focusing on complex property divorces, custody litigation, premarital and postmarital agreements, uncontested divorces, enforcement actions, custody modifications, and protective orders.

The family connection to the firm is strengthened by her brother, Brant, an owner in the firm who also exclusively practices family law.

EARLY INFLUENCES AND LASTING IMPACT

Webb was shaped by being surrounded by her father and his legal peers. Though she explored different legal paths during law school, she was always drawn to the desire to work with families in need of legal representation from attorneys not only versed in the law, but who actually cared about each client. One key influence was Justice Ann McClure of the El Paso Court of Appeals, where Webb interned for two summers. “I saw firsthand how the law can help individual people and families in dire circumstances, to help them move on and keep as much of their life intact as possible.”

truly headed in the right direction with her future career. “I enjoyed it, but realized ultimately, I’d be dealing with contracts and related legal matters and not really connecting directly with people. That made up my mind and I moved 100 percent to family law.”

CARRYING THE TORCH, LEADING THE TEAM

Webb says she feels extremely lucky to have worked closely with a father who was considered one of the best family lawyers in Texas. She not only learned the ins and outs of family law, but she observed firsthand and adopted the courtroom skills and demeanor necessary for winning for her clients. One of the

“MY FATHER HAD THE BEST SENSE OF HUMOR WHICH IS ESSENTIAL WHEN DEALING DAILY WITH SOME VERY STRESSFUL AND DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.”

In her final summer of law school, Webb interned at the FDIC to explore a new direction. She took on the task to “try something new” and to make sure she was

things she learned, practices and encourages with her team is to aggressively represent the client, but respect the opposition.

“It’s important to fight hard



■ WEBB AND HER FAMILY IN COSTA RICA. L-R: WEBB, HER FATHER, BRIAN LOCKWOOD WEBB, AND HER BROTHER, BRANT WEBB

but be respectful of your peers. My father taught me that you can have attorney friends and go against them in court, but you don’t take the fight outside the courtroom. No matter how hard the struggle may be in the courtroom, you can still be friends outside those doors.”

“ I SAW FIRSTHAND HOW THE LAW CAN HELP INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO HELP THEM MOVE ON AND KEEP AS MUCH OF THEIR LIFE INTACT AS POSSIBLE.”

Today, Webb applies those same principles in her leadership style. With a degree in international business from Trinity University, she brings legal and operational acumen to running the firm.

Since her father’s passing, the firm has grown significantly – from just Natalie and Brant to a robust team of eight attorneys (six are board certified in family law), seasoned paralegals (five are board certified in

family law), and legal professionals.

The other two attorneys plan to become board certified once they’ve practice long enough to apply, she says. Four of the attorneys are members of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a peer-reviewed organization recognizing the top family law attorneys in the country.

“Being part of these and other state and national organizations helps us stay up with changes in the law and to be on the leading edge of change as it arrives. There’s always something new we need to learn,” Webb says.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

A recent case exemplifies Webb Family Law’s persistence. Representing a mother whose custody rights were challenged post-divorce, the team spent eight months in litigation. The case went back and forth in court for months, which was physically and emotionally draining on the client. She was being called an unfit mother and to make things worse she was physically separated from her child who was required to live in another city.

“Sometimes circumstances don’t always go your way at first, but we hang in there.

We were with her every step of the way, letting her know that any setback can be temporary and that we were totally focused on her needs,” Webb says. Eventually, the case went to court where they turned things around and got full custody for their client.

While approximately 80% of the firm’s cases settle outside of court, Webb and her team are always prepared to go the distance when necessary. “Our first goal is resolution, but not at the expense of our client’s best interests.”

Webb also handles Hague Convention cases involving international child abduction. These cases are highly jurisdictional and may involve state or federal courts. When the U.S. State Department receives a report of a child wrongfully removed from another country and brought to Texas, they contact attorneys like Webb. “It’s fair to say we sometimes operate on an international level.”

Handling emotionally charged family matters requires more than legal skill—it takes emotional intelligence. “Sometimes, we have to serve as both attorney and counselor. Clients may be grieving, angry or overwhelmed. We have to balance empathy with honesty and keep them grounded,” Webb says.

Internally, that same balance shows in the firm’s collaborative culture. “Each case is assigned to an attorney, but we work as a team. If someone needs backup or insight, we’re there. This is a family business in every sense.”

FAMILY OUTSIDE FAMILY LAW

“I don’t know what life has in store for me, but I don’t want to wait until I’m too old to enjoy it. I work hard so I can travel and experience a good life now. As with handling a client, life is a balancing act. I don’t think you can be a great attorney if the rest of your life is out of balance,” Webb says.

She and her husband share a love of Netflix type series and documentaries on a wide range of interests. “I’m one of those serial documentary people,” she says. They also love national and international travel and try to take a couple of big trips each year.

Webb became involved with the International Academy of Family Lawyers a few years ago and has attended conferences in locations as far afield as Morocco and Santiago, Chile.



■ WEBB WITH HER FATHER, THE LATE BRIAN LOCKWOOD WEBB

She enjoys hanging out and playing tennis with friends. Webb practices yoga and once a year attends a week-long yoga retreat. “It’s a great workout. More than that, I think of it as doing a personal reset at the beginning of the year. I look into myself and set my intentions, personal and business, for the year,” she says.

At a Glance

Webb Family Law Firm, PC

325 North St, Paul St, Suite 3900
Dallas, TX 75201
214-871-2730
www.webbfamilylaw.com

Practice Area

Family Law

Education

Juris Doctor, Southern Methodist University School of Law, 2008
Bachelor of Science, Trinity University, 2004

Honors

Board Certified Family Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 2014
Up-and-Coming 100: 2022 Texas Rising Stars
Up-and-Coming 50: 2022 Women Texas Rising Stars
Texas Super Lawyers, 2022-Current

Professional Memberships

Dallas Bar Association, Family Law Section
Dallas Bar Foundation, Fellow
Tarrant County Family Law Bar Association
American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Fellow
American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Foundation, Lifetime Sustaining Fellow
International Academy of Family Lawyers, Fellow
Texas Family Law Foundation
College of the State Bar of Texas
Annette Stewart American Inn of Courts
Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, Executive Board Member

Hobbies

International Travel, Serial Documentaries, Tennis, Yoga, Crime Novels, WWII Historical Fiction, Piano

Webb enjoys reading crime novels. Kristin Hannah is one of her favorite authors. She also enjoys reading historical fiction centered on the World War II era and even the occasional “beach read” just for kicks. She was competitive in playing the piano during elementary and junior high. “I still dabble in it, and I’ve recently been trying to improve my skills.” Having studied abroad, she also speaks “enough French to get by,” which is handy because one of the destinations she and her husband enjoy is France.

“I just think self-care is definitely needed in this line of business because you can let that stress affect your personal life if you’re not careful. I say do what you love and make sure you make time for it.”

LEGACY AND VISION

Natalie Webb has built on the foundation her father laid – growing the firm while remaining rooted in the values of service, respect and personal connection.

“My dad got me involved in the profession. He taught me that it’s rewarding to give back to the profession, and to be a mentor, to be involved in the family law section of the Texas State Bar, and to have a say in how our practice goes forward in the future. He really pushed me to get involved and to stay involved with my firm, my industry and my family. I don’t know that I would have known how to do that or where to start if it hadn’t been for him.”

