



PHOTO BY KOREY HOWELL

Lisa S. Richardson

Hometown: Port Aransas

Position: Owner of the Law Office of Lisa Richardson in Round Rock

Board Member: District 8 since 2016

[INTERVIEW BY ERIC QUITUGUA]

I DEBATED IN COLLEGE ABOUT WHETHER TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL OR PURSUE A PH.D. IN HISTORY AND TEACH,

but ultimately, I knew my personality was better suited for the legal profession. I concede how trite this sounds but I genuinely want to help others through being a positive influence and driving positive outcomes in tough situations. A law degree also gives me the most flexibility to pursue a career in law or politics. All that being said, my mother would tell you she knew I was destined to be a lawyer by the time I was in kindergarten. Apparently, I was dogmatic about my positions and at presenting my argument.

MY GOAL WAS TO DO GOOD WORK, BE RESPECTED PROFESSIONALLY, AND BE SOMEONE

clients, opposing counsel, the courts, and co-workers could count on to work hard, be responsive, shoot straight, and stand by my commitments. I hope I've accomplished those things but I also know that it's a journey not a destination. I strive to maintain those standards every day and remind myself frequently of the Will Rogers quote, "It takes a lifetime to build a good reputation, but you can lose it in a minute."

AFTER I STARTED WORKING ON FAMILY LAW CASES I REALIZED I REALLY LOVE FAMILY LAW.

It's an area where you have the ability to directly influence the lives of families by helping them navigate what could potentially be the most devastating time in their lives and their kids' lives. It's a very hard and emotional practice. You generally see people at their worst. When I help them navigate this tough time as amicably and fairly as possible, it is very rewarding.

HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN BAR WORK FOR OVER 20 YEARS,

I've seen firsthand the benefits to our Texas communities and to our profession that come as a result of the hard work from the staff of the local bar associations and the countless hours of service by volunteer attorneys. I wanted to continue to be a part of that service. Additionally, I do not believe Williamson County ever had a local attorney serve on the board of directors of the State Bar and I wanted to represent Williamson County.

THE BAR DOES AN AMAZING AMOUNT FOR ITS MEMBERS.

The trough is full. Drink. Not just all the regular programs but look at the response the bar gave during the Hurricane Harvey disaster and the immigration issues facing us at the border right now. When the bar identifies a gap in something, a committee will be formed to try and close the gap. That level of response has always impressed me because it demonstrates firsthand the bar is listening and responding to its members. For example, with the skyrocketing price of insurance the bar created the Insurance/Member Benefits Subcommittee. Now the bar has an insurance exchange that offers competitive insurance benefits for attorneys.

I WANT THE BOARD AND BAR STAFF TO CONTINUE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MEMBERS,

to continue to be responsive to new ideas and gaps that may arise. I think the board of directors and the bar staff do an excellent job of listening to members' needs. I encourage all members to get involved. If you think there is a service that should be offered, a need that isn't being met, or something that can be improved upon, contact a board member or bar staff and let them know. **TBJ**