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Kathy K. Condo Litigation Attorney

Did you have a career prior to becoming an attorney? Immediately upon graduation from college with a degree in Social Work, I obtained a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. Thereafter, I worked as a social worker in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Magee Women's Hospital for two and a half years before going to law school. Growing up when I did in a small town in central Pennsylvania, women were encouraged to become nurses, teachers, or social workers. As a result, I never considered a career in law until after moving to Pittsburgh and beginning my work here. Although I found my work with parents with babies in the NICU rewarding, I yearned for a more intellectual challenge. Friends encouraged me to consider law school. With some hesitation, I decided to give it a try believing that if I didn't like it, I could always continue to work as a social worker. From the first week of law school, I loved it and have never looked back!

What areas of practice do you enjoy most and why? As a young litigator in the 80s and 90s, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to try a lot of cases, most of which involved the presentation of expert testimony. Since then, throughout my career, I have continued to try cases involving scientific expert testimony. I enjoy working with experts to present sophisticated scientific and medical evidence in an understandable and persuasive way, and cross-examining opposing experts to expose the vulnerabilities of their opinions. Although the techniques used in this work are often similar from case to case, learning the new subject matter involved in each expert's testimony is a welcomed challenge.

What do you like most about Babst Calland? Working at Babst Calland feels more like working with friends than working in a corporate structure. Although the firm has grown in size and geographic scope, it has never lost its sense of camaraderie. No matter the client, the practice area, or the experience level of the attorney, everyone pitches in to get the job done. Because my toxic tort litigation practice involves a lot of issues that overlap with the firm's environmental practice, the luxury of having this experience at my fingertips is priceless.

What are the qualities that you most like to see in young attorneys? It is critical to my peace of mind that I can give a project to an associate and trust that it is being done timely, competently and with attention to detail. I encourage follow-up and welcome questions and dialogue about the project. I never mind identification of problems so long as they are accompanied by suggestions about how to resolve them. Last, but certainly not least, I appreciate a sense of humor.

What vacation(s) did you take this year? This one is easy. Since I was a young child, I've "camped" at the Centre County Grange Fair in August. I began this tradition staying in my grandmother's tent; I continued the tradition with my children; and now look forward to sharing the tradition with my grandson. Every year we return to the same tent spot, catch up with our Grange Fair neighbors and in my case, (mostly) forget about law for a week.

Where is your happy place? This one is very easy, too. I am blessed with my husband, three children, a son-in-law, a future son-in-law, and one grandchild. My happy place is wherever they are. Spending time with them together or individually is what is most important to me!



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