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- ▶ **I became a lawyer because,** while I really like to help people, I'm a bit of a control freak. Sometime after graduating from college with a degree in sociology and expecting to become a social worker, I met an attorney who, in contrast to the DSHS social worker she was representing, seemed to have a great many more tools at her disposal with which to help the community members they were working with.
- ▶ **Trait I admire in other attorneys:** The ability to work collaboratively with other attorneys. Finding a balance between being a zealous advocate for our clients, while at the same time being able to see the big picture and the other side's point of view, is often the best way to serve clients.
- ▶ **I am most proud of this:** During my three years in law school, I not only dealt with brain cancer and skin cancer, I carried and gave birth to my son. I survived those challenges and even began to practice law successfully while raising my son (who is now 14). But what I am most proud of is finding an opportunity to really start living my life again, becoming physically active after years of health issues, climbing mountains, and really starting to enjoy the second chance that I have — and not just surviving day to day and year to year.
- ▶ **I am most happy when** I'm living life to the fullest, working hard, playing hard, and getting opportunities to experience new adventures.
- ▶ **My favorite hobbies/interests:** Hard to pick a favorite, but right now, hiking and mountain climbing with my family and friends is near the top of the list.
- ▶ **My favorite vacation place:** The Pacific coast of Washington and Oregon. (On safari in Tanzania is also high on the list, but a lot more expensive.)
- ▶ **Best stress reliever:** I am very task-oriented and derive great satisfaction and stress relief in getting something done. Sometimes this can be as simple as cleaning my house or tending to something in my garden. Other times, I take on larger projects, like redecorating my guest room, including building a bed from miscellaneous used building supplies. A good workout usually helps, too.
- ▶ **Technology is** exciting in the ways that it opens new avenues for us to do our work, informing and attracting clients. Scary in how quickly it advances and the way that it seemingly allows people to be their own attorneys, sometimes to their detriment.
- ▶ **Currently playing on my iPod/CD player/record player:** I think I am the only one in Seattle without an iPod, but Talking Heads's *Stop Making Sense* was playing in my car's CD player the last time I paid attention.
- ▶ **I can't live without** frequent opportunities to travel, most often nearby, to some of the many naturally beautiful parks and trails our state has to offer, but occasionally to someplace exotic and far away, like my 2010 trip to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro and go on safari.
- ▶ **The best part of my job:** I most enjoy helping a client who is dealing with grief or anxiety to quickly and efficiently find solutions to the challenges which they are facing, compassionately relieving them of what stresses I can.



I was raised on Vashon Island, the oldest of four sisters. After attending the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where I met and married my husband of 18 years, I returned to the Pacific Northwest. A few years later, I attended Seattle University School of Law and, after passing the bar exam in 1998, began work as an associate attorney with Sharon E. Best, a small West Seattle firm. In January 2008, I became a partner. My practice focuses on probate, estate planning, and elder law. As a two-time cancer survivor, I feel I have a lot to offer clients who are facing medical challenges themselves. I enjoy people and the world around me, celebrating each day as an opportunity.

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