

An interview question our Firm asks: "If you and another candidate had the exact same skills, why would you be our obvious choice?" We will answer this for our nominee for the LLPA Legal Professional of the Year and refer to her as *Miss Keeper*. *Miss Keeper* is the obvious choice because her attitude, work quality and work ethic improves our entire team. Wherever she is, the level of productivity, quality, and spirits are lifted. On *Miss Keeper's* most recent review, her attorneys and administrator collectively wrote, "During the time we have had the opportunity and privilege to work with *Miss Keeper*, she has exceeded all of our expectations. She is a tremendous asset as she provides the firm with the flexibility and bench strength to take on new clients and new cases knowing that they will be effectively staffed regardless of the track it takes. She has earned our confidence in her ability to effectively support litigation efforts. She ALWAYS reacts in a manner that delivers value to our client. She is an excellent team player, she dives right in, she rolls up her sleeves, and she is an honest communicator. She gets it." The note goes on, and ends with, "She's a keeper."

*Miss Keeper* is an alum of Midland Lutheran and after working for 10 years as an administrator for two well-known Lincoln businesses, she also earned her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Legal Assisting from the Lincoln School of Commerce with a 4.0 GPA. Before our Firm, she served 12 years as a Legal Assistant, Paralegal, and Office Manager at two other firms. *Miss Keeper* has been our teammate for six years and has the credentials, achievements, and experience to be the LLPA Legal Professional of the Year.

Not only does *Ms. Keeper's* performance excel in the office, but she also travels with attorneys for trials in other states, working long hours over days or weeks in a make-shift litigation room. This work involves assisting during the day at the hearing and then working after the normal work day to help prepare the case for the next day's hearing. This is tiring, stressful and difficult work that demonstrates *Ms. Keeper's* ability to focus, communicate and produce a high-quality product when everyone on the team, including *Ms. Keeper*, are fatigued from the difficult grind of trial work. She has shown herself to be a crucial team member whose work directly causes the team to succeed. This is all a result of her heartfelt core belief that she is involved in a good cause. So, she initiates; she is proactive; she has little need to be managed; and she influences the direction for how certain ideas and projects go. She is energized by her role, not by her job description.

In addition to legal work, *Ms. Keeper* assists a Firm attorney teaching an UNL College of Law class. *Miss Keeper* is responsible for the overall administration of the class to keep the class on track and provide an organized environment for the students and the teacher. This is an example of the assistance she provides to younger lawyers seeking to succeed in the legal profession.

*Miss Keeper* is the captain of our American Cancer Society of Nebraska fundraiser. She has a passion for this organization as too many loved ones have been affected by cancer. She also helps our firm support Carol's House of Hope for young mothers and their babies, Pink Bandana which cares for men and women under the age of 40 who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and the Child Advocacy Center in Lincoln. *Miss Keeper* advocates for important causes and makes our Firm a better place.

The bottom line is this; *Miss Keeper* cares, not only about the quality of her work and our clients, but also about people around her. It is with great enthusiasm that we nominate *Miss Keeper* for the Lincoln Legal Professional Association's Legal Professional of the Year.