

COVERING THE
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Executive People

The movers and shakers of
Metropolis business



FACETIME

PHOTO/ KENNETH BROCK

Gavel time

MARY GRIFFITS FINDS THE RIGHT BLEND

As president of Trial Consulting Enterprises, a Dallas-based firm that consults with corporations about trials, Mary Griffiths says her job "is helping corporations figure out what jurors are thinking about their cases." She started her company after a stint at Dr. Phil McGraw's Courtroom Sciences Inc., where she was a senior litigation analyst. Her company's clients include Johnson & Johnson, Whataburger and Carnival Cruise Lines. So far this year she's helped clients win verdicts totaling \$52 million. Griffiths was interviewed by Cynthia D. Webb.

FAMILY: My family lives in Slidell, La., which is 30 minutes from downtown New Orleans. My parents are Peter and Kathy Skalkos. I married my law school sweetheart, Ryan, who works in the Dallas office of Thompson, Coe, Cousins and Irons.

EDUCATION: I attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where I received bachelor's degrees in political science and psychology. I received my law degree from Oklahoma City University.

HOMETOWN/CHILDHOOD: I was born in Abington, Pa., and I lived there until I was 12, when our family moved to Slidell.

HOBBIES: When I have time, I enjoy running and swimming.

FIRST JOB: After law school, I worked in the law offices of Bob Harvey in New Orleans, where I practiced plaintiff labor and employment law.

MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOK: "Creative Visualization: Use the Power of Your Imagination to Create what You Want in Your Life" by Shakti Gawain.

ROLE MODELS: Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. She is a mom, a wife and a very important member of the Supreme Court. She didn't give up the important things that make us who we are.

ASPIRATIONS: To enjoy the journey as much as I can, because I may not reach my destination.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: If there's a war between my brain and my intuition, I need to trust my intuition.

CAREER INSPIRATION: The fusion of law and psychology, which are two of my biggest interests.

WORST BUSINESS DECISION: I should have hired more people before I did but, as a type A personality, I thought I could do it all. I need more people; it makes the business run so much smoother.

PHILOSOPHY: Only work on projects and cases you really believe in. You'll be inspired far more.

FUTURE GOALS: I'd like to do more nationwide cases. I've done six national cases this year, but by next year I'd like to do more than 20.

FIRST CHOICE FOR A NEW CAREER: Actor — film and television is what I've done in the past, so I'd be a film actress and work a combination of studio and independent projects.

PET PEEVES: People who don't park in the first parking space available. Just park the car and let's go!

FAVORITE WEB SITE: dailycandy.com

DREAM CAR: I'm a convertible girl. There's something about them I love, but I can't have one because of my hair.

WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOU: Sincere

TOP THREE PASSIONS: My husband, my German short-hair pointers, Ruben and Roscoe, and acting.

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