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## Dana Stagg Belknap, Gallagher & Kennedy PA



## ATTORNEY RELISHES LAND-USE CASES

**DANA STAGG BELKNAP IS PART** lawyer, part mom, part volunteer. The 47-year-old attorney juggles a lot of tasks in her daily life.

The Austin native and alum of UT Austin, where she received both her Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor, has spent 19 years at Gallagher & Kennedy, specializing in land use, real-estate development, zoning and governmental affairs.

Though Belknap began her career practicing environmental law, it wasn't until her mentor, Steve Betts, introduced her to the archaeological side of law that Belknap shifted her interests.

"It's just happier," she says of land-use law. "It's more people-oriented and you have to help figure out how to develop something. Environmental law is more technical."

Primarily, Belknap's job entails helping draft development agreements, working with school districts and utility providers — "anything related to development of property," she says.

"Being a lawyer is a very service-oriented job," she says. "It's about being responsive, understanding what the client needs and then helping them accomplish their goals."

Belknap says her favorite part of the job is interacting with her clients.

And Gallagher & Kennedy "is a very warm, bureaucratic-free place," she says. "They have been very flexible, especially after I had kids."

She has received much recognition for her work. Belknap says she is most proud of receiving a preeminent rating in the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating in 2009.

Belknap's clients share similar admiration for the attorney.

On the website bestlawyers.com, Jerry Hug of Waveyard Development LLC wrote, "(Belknap's) 'fair but firm' policy was very effective during our entire negotiation and I would absolutely recommend her to any group who required this area of expertise."

Another client, Karrin Kunasek Taylor of DMB Associates Inc. says, "When it comes to land-use development agreements in Arizona, Belknap is as good as they come."

She's been a Girl Scout troop leader and a desert landscaper (she received her certification through the Desert Botanical Garden), but Belknap says she spends most of her free time with her family.

Ultimately, she says, her goal is to raise her two kids to be happy and productive.

**SABA HAMEDY**

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