

## Volunteer of the Month

# Mark Friel Takes the Helm of Business Litigation Section

**M**ark Friel, an attorney at Stoll, Stoll, Berne, Lokting & Shlachter PC, is stepping up to co-chair the Business Litigation section along with Mike Wise. The section brings together attorneys who represent consumers in cases of investor fraud and negligence, general business disputes, unfair competition, intellectual

property and trade secret disputes, and other business matters.

Friel has been an OTLA member for five years, since joining the firm shortly after obtaining his law degree from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall). He takes over the section from Stoll colleague Scott Shorr. For Friel's new leadership

position, he is OTLA's Volunteer of the Month.

Friel originally learned about OTLA through his colleagues. "The attorneys here valued their membership and I found my membership to be a way to be more a part of the legal community. It's a great organization that has a lot to offer," he says.

As for stepping into the co-chair role, Friel says, "I wanted to do my part by contributing to an organization that does significant work for consumers and the legal community that serves them. When Scott asked me about co-chairing the section, I said 'of course.' I thought the meetings were valuable and a great way to meet colleagues who are doing business litigation."

His goal is to maintain, if not increase, the visibility of, and participation in, the Business Litigation Section. It meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. You can call Friel or Wise to suggest a topic or speaker.

To find out more about Friel, read on:

### What I do at work:

I am involved in securities arbitrations, trade secret and unfair competition cases, and class actions. One of our cases involves representing shareholders against a local company that is alleged to have falsified its financial statements to artificially inflate earnings. I also handle cases of investors who have suffered losses due to the misconduct of their brokers. That can range from negligence, to fraud – even theft.



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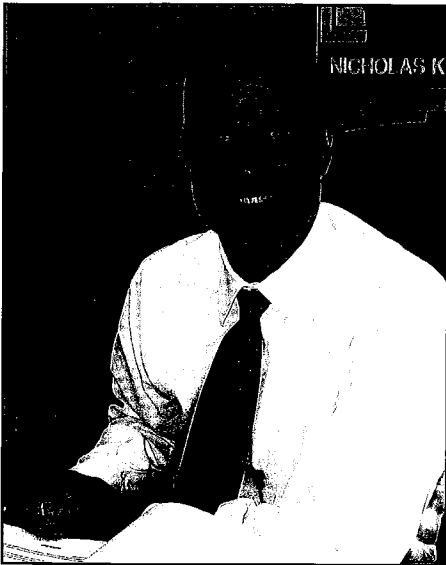
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Mark Friel

**The best thing about my job is:**

The people I work with. There's a real sense of collaboration and respect among the attorneys here. The firm doesn't have a rigid hierarchy between senior and junior attorneys. Plus I work in an office where we can open our windows.

**Growing up I thought I would become:**

A physician or a veterinarian. My mother was a critical care nurse, my uncle a doctor. I also read a lot of James Herriot (the veterinarian turned best-selling author).

**Why I didn't:**

I discovered there was too much math and science required.

**There's more to life than my job. My favorite activities are:**

Spending time with my wife, our 15-month-old son and our dog, and reading. I'm a work-to-live person. I'm fortunate to have a work environment where I can maintain the right balance between work and family.

**Most influential person in my life:**

My mother. She's influenced my general approach to life. Which is mostly keeping an open mind and not taking things at face value.

**My first job was:**

Mowing lawns (I was 10).

**Recently I finished reading:**

*How to Write a Damn Good Novel*, by James N. Frey. But I'm not writing one.

As a lawyer, though, you're telling the story of your clients – and I can learn from writers how to make our clients' stories compelling.

**Advice you would give to a new lawyer:**

Write early and write often

**Guilty pleasure(s):**

Corndogs, Taco Bell and White Castle hamburgers.

**What I appreciate most among my friends:**

Patience, understanding and loyalty

**My motto:**

There are no stupid questions

**My epitaph:**

He asked too many stupid questions



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**ANNOUNCING A NEW LAW PARTNER  
AT THE DON CORSON LAW FIRM,  
LARA JOHNSON**

Lara Johnson has joined The Don Corson Law Firm. Her focus is on personal injury. She is a member of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, is admitted to the state and federal bars, and is a member of the Lane County Bar Association.

Lara previously practiced with Johnson, Clifton, Larson & Corson, where she emphasized civil litigation, including nursing home cases. She was admitted to the bar in 1993 after graduating from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. She received her bachelor's degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, graduating with honors.



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