

ACC-Wisconsin | July 2021

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATING WISCONSIN'S NOTABLE IN-HOUSE ATTORNEYS



**Name:** Denna Flemming

**Company and Title:** AF Group, Assistant General Counsel

**Years of Service:** I've been an attorney for almost 14 years. In October, I will celebrate my 6th anniversary with AF Group. Prior to joining AF Group, I worked for 8 years at Kasdorf, Lewis & Swietlik, S.C. in Milwaukee, where I ultimately became a shareholder.

**College/University and Law School:** University of Wisconsin-Madison; Drake University Law School

**How long have you been a member of the ACC of Wisconsin? Why did you join the ACC-WI?** I joined ACC of Wisconsin in April 2021. I suppose I was one of the successes of the April membership drive. I didn't know much about the organization until I began receiving invitations to CLEs and trivia earlier this year. I'm not sure how I got on the distribution list, but I'm glad I did. I went to a few virtual CLEs and participated in virtual trivia. I especially enjoyed the First Amendment CLE series followed by the wine tasting. Based on my experiences, I thought this is a great group of people, the programming is outstanding, I want to be part of this organization, so I joined. I'm looking forward to resuming meetings in person and becoming involved in the ACC-WI.

**What do you love most about the legal profession?**

My favorite aspect of the legal profession is working with my client to develop creative legal solutions together to resolve or prevent legal issues. Building relationships over time with my client is so important.

**Do you participate in any pro bono service or volunteering?**

Volunteering has always been important to me. I recently accepted an appointment to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Customer Experience Certificate Program at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. During COVID, I served on a committee which worked to amend the by-laws of a non-profit organization to which I belong. I also previously served on the Alumnae Board of Divine Savior Holy Angels High School for a decade. I currently serve on the Board of Directors of Santa Fe Communications. When I join an organization, I like to become an active member and get involved.

**How do you define success?**

One of the ways I define success is not giving up when things are difficult. People constantly face challenges, but a successful person works through adversity and attempts to achieve the best possible outcome given the circumstances.

**Who inspires you?**

One of my biggest inspirations was my maternal grandfather, Arthur Murawski, who passed away 10 years ago. He grew up during the Great Depression and served in World War II. He had to leave school after his first semester of high school to provide for his family. He always wanted to be an attorney but didn't have the opportunity. He was so proud of me when I was sworn into the Wisconsin bar and made the trips to Minnesota and Illinois when I was admitted in those states. He worked as a supervisor in a paint factory. He always encouraged my siblings and me to focus on our education and strive for excellence no matter the task at hand. One of his pieces of advice was, "Do it right the first time," which is something I have tried to implement in my own life as it really is a timesaver.

**What's one thing - industry-related or not - you learned in the last month?**

I love to travel and try new foods but wasn't able to do that recently due to the pandemic, so I signed up for a subscription service that sends a box of snacks from a different country every month along with a booklet with information and fun facts about the country. The most recent box of snacks was from Turkey. I learned that Turkey produces approximately 75% of the world's hazelnuts. From U.S. history perspective, sad to say, I just learned that George Washington enslaved a woman named Ona "Oney" Judge Staines to work at family's plantation at Mount Vernon. Oney fled and became a fugitive slave later taught herself to read. I don't know they didn't teach this in elementary school when I was a student.....it certainly shifts the lens through which I view history.

**What's the last book you read?** The Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason

**Any favorite Podcasts or series you can recommend?** I don't typically listen to podcasts. I've been watching quite a bit of Bake Off (The Great British Baking Show) on Netflix. I'm so impressed by the creativity and skills of the amateur bakers.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ACC-WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2021

OSTHOFF RESORT, ELKHART LAKE, WI