

# Member Spotlight

## Dana Wilson

### Counsel

*Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, Inc.*  
Chicago, IL

**Current position since:** 2012

**Years in-house:** 6

**Law School:** The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL

**Undergrad:** University of Iowa, Elementary Education

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### **Best thing about my current job:**

Working in a small law department... because I get to handle such a wide variety of different things on any given day. It keeps things interesting!

### **Biggest accomplishment as an inside lawyer:**

In a previous position, I managed domestic and international consumer litigation involving hundreds of cases and dozens of outside law firms. We had tons of paper files. I led a long project converting to electronic files and implementing a case management tool that improved the accessibility of information we needed to manage cases.

### **Favorite volunteer activity:**

In 2012, I served on the Illinois Chapter Leukemia Cup Regatta Committee. As part of my involvement in the regatta, I organized a cupcake fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. With the help of a cupcake food truck vendor and former colleagues, we sold hundreds of cupcakes on one of the hottest days of the summer and raised hundreds of dollars for LLS.

## **Pivotal Career Move:**

Sometimes you wonder how or why you ended up in a certain job, but when it leads to the next job, then it all makes perfect sense. Moving from litigation management with one organization to a corporate transactions/regulatory role with another was pivotal for me; the varied experience is what prepared me for a more generalist role in my current position.

## **Hardest lesson I've learned as a lawyer:**

Write... everything... down! It is no good when someone has to remind you that a deliverable you promised is overdue.

## **If I were not practicing law...**

I would want to be a nurse. Not a doctor... a nurse. Nurses are more consistently and closely involved in day-to-day, minute-to-minute patient care, and that's what I'd find satisfying.

## **How I achieve work/life balance:**

I make an effort not to be glued to email when out of the office. When I vacationed out of the country a few years ago, I did not check email once and did not even take a cell phone. Pure disconnect!

## **My favorite vacation spot:**

Kiawah Island, SC. To me, walking the beach and listening to the ocean is the perfect way to relax.

## **Place I've never been but would most like to visit:**

Northern Italy. Part of my mom's side of the family is from there. In addition to learning more about my heritage, I want to find out if my homemade tomato sauce (a secret family recipe) is the real deal.

## **People may be surprised to learn that I...**

ski black diamonds. I learned how to ski when I was pretty young and still love it. I should probably be a bit more cautious now, but I can't help myself.