

Terry Milne Osgood

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Osgood specializes in the appellate aspect of business litigation and leads the firm's Appellate Department. Osgood often works with trial attorneys in complex motion practice. She has been admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court and several federal circuits. She is a member of Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Osgood earned her undergraduate degree in Canada and has studied several foreign languages.

What does practicing law mean to you personally and professionally?

Practicing law means more than simply acting as a client's advocate in a dispute. In complex commercial litigation, most of my clients are highly sophisticated, but they may not understand litigation or appellate strategy. I work hard to communicate strategic nuances to clients, and to learn their business so that we can jointly make winning decisions.

To me, being an attorney brings a special responsibility to give to others. One key way I do this is by mentoring junior attorneys — they

need to be supported by their own team.

Where did you grow up? Please provide one memorable anecdote about your childhood.

I was born in northwest Missouri, and moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada when I was 7 years old. I moved to Victoria, B.C. at age 15.

My father was a law professor and, as a child, spending "quality time" with him meant a trip to his office to update looseleaf statutes and pocket parts. By the time I was in high school, he had me reading students' law school exam answers out loud to him — he claimed he could not read bad handwriting.

What do you consider your biggest professional accomplishment and why?

Restoring a client's faith in the fundamental fairness of the legal system and the rule of law. Over the course of a six-week jury trial in 2010, one of the opposing attorneys and his client persistently violated court orders not to testify about inadmissible topics, despite the judge's imposition of sanctions against the offenders. Unfortunately, the verdict revealed that the jury had been swayed by the inadmissible evidence. I crafted a motion asking the judge to set aside the verdict based on the cumulative effect of six weeks of misconduct and, after the judge granted the motion, I successfully defended the ruling at the Sixth Circuit. After weeks of watching an opponent ignore court



orders, the client needed to see that the system works.

Describe the biggest challenge you've had to face in your legal career.

I have had to cancel and alter planned vacations with my family multiple times at the last minute due to work emergencies. It is difficult to explain to a non-lawyer spouse, children, and extended family why the cancellation is necessary, particularly when the lost vacation cannot be made up.

What is the best advice you've ever received that you've actually used?

An attorney mom of school-age children told me that on nights when she had to work late, she would buy pizza and salad for her children on the way home, so that her kids would not associate something negative with the message that "mom is working late."

How would you describe yourself in one word?

Pragmatic