

Dana Brooks

Attorney

Before Dana Brooks became an attorney, she was a paralegal, law firm administrator, mental health counselor and Florida Supreme Court certified family law mediator. Working full time, first as a young adult and then as a young, married mother, Dana attended Pensacola Junior College and Tallahassee Community College before graduating Florida State University, cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. She later earned her Masters of Social Work from Florida State in 2003. Dana earned her law degree from Florida State, magna cum laude, in December 2007 and is a member of the Order of the Coif. Dana was admitted to the Bar in 2008.

Her experience and reputation during her 14 years as a paralegal in medical malpractice defense combined with her law school performance provided the basis for the exceptional opportunity Dana was offered from Vinse Barrett, founding partner of Fasig | Brooks. Dana was sworn in as an attorney in the morning and made a named partner of a thirty-year-old revered plaintiff's law firm that same afternoon.

Dana is a member of The Florida Bar, Capital City Justice Association, Tallahassee Women Lawyers Association, and serves on the Board of Directors and Medical Malpractice Committee of the Florida Justice Association. She is a Charter Member of the Democratic Women's Club of Leon County and currently serves as Second Vice President. She is a contributing columnist to the Tallahassee Democrat, writing about legal issues that affect our community.

Her awards and recognition are many. She was honored to be given the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from the FSU College of Social Work in 2013. In 2014, she was awarded the Alumni Service Award from FSU College of Law. 2015 found Dana being recognized by her peers for her excellence. She was named in the Top 100 Trial Lawyers from The National Trial Lawyers, a Florida Legal Elite by Florida Trend, and a Million Dollar Advocate from the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. She enjoys a 10.0 rating on Avvo, the highest attainable.

Dana is committed to giving back to the community. She currently serves on the board of 2-1-1 Big Bend and is a former board member of America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend. She is a frequent – and winning – coach of the FSU Law School's Mock Trial Team. Under her direction as managing partner, Fasig | Brooks has become a well-recognized sponsor of free taxi rides after community events, as well as supporting Jazz for Justice, the Tallahassee Memorial Foundation, The Heart Association, Springtime Tallahassee, the Ronald McDonald House, The Tree House, The Wakulla County Senior's Center, and other local and national charities. With her support and encouragement, attorneys and staff at Fasig | Brooks combine to give thousands of volunteer hours back to the community every year.

Helping people thrive in spite of their health issues has given Dana a unique perspective when advocating for her injured clients. Her experience in social work strengthened her desire to help at-risk persons and those most in need of an effective legal advocate. She continues to be inspired and excited to work for justice for her clients.

Fasig | Brooks has won the Tallahassee people's choice "Tally Award" for "Best Law Firm" in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, and the "Best in Tallahassee" for "Best Law Practice" in 2015.

Presentations and Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, “Deposing the Defense Standard of Care Expert—Six Hot Tips and Things You Need To Know”, Florida Justice Association, Continuing Education Program, March 2016.
- Co-Chair and Presenter, “Medical Malpractice Case Law Update 2015”, Advanced Medical Malpractice Seminar, Annual FJA Masters of Justice Meeting, October 2015.
- Presenter, “Medical Malpractice Statute of Limitations and Statute of Repose,” Florida Justice Association, Continuing Medical Malpractice Education Program, April 2015.
- Featured Speaker, FSU College of Social Work Women’s Forum “Non-traditional Paths You Can Take With a Social Work Degree,” March 2015.
- Presenter, “McCall Going Forward – Recent Florida Supreme Court’s decision overturning noneconomic caps in medical malpractice wrongful death cases and its application in personal injury malpractice cases,” Annual Meeting of the Florida Justice Association, 2014.
- Panel Guest, “Was There, and Is There Now, a Medical Malpractice Crisis in Florida?” Annual Conference of The Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law, Florida State University College of Medicine, 2014.
- Recurring Guest Lecturer, “Tort Practice in the Real World,” FSU College of Law, Torts Class 2013, 2014, 2015
- Recurring Speaker, FSU College of Law Panel Discussions
- Featured Speaker, Tallahassee Paralegals Association, “Making the Transition from Paralegal to Attorney,” 2009.

Organizations

- Board of Trustees for the Florida Democratic Party, 2015
- Charter Member and Second Vice-President, Democratic Women’s Club of Leon County
- Committee Chair, Judicial Reception Development Committee, Tallahassee Women Lawyers Association, 2015
- President-Elect, Capital City Justice Association
- Board of Directors, Florida Justice Association
- Nominating Committee and Medical Malpractice Committee, Florida Justice Association
- Tallahassee Bar Association
- Florida Bar Association

Media

- Contributing Columnist, Tallahassee Democrat.
- Recurring Guest, Will Dance Show on 93.9 FM, Tallahassee, Florida. Volunteer
- Board member, 2-1-1 Big Bend (a social services hotline and referral service)

- Former board member, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend
- Coach, FSU Law School Mock Trial Team, 2010 Award Winner
- Judge, Second Judicial Circuit's Teen Court (a diversion program where teens admit responsibility for their actions and are penalized by their peers in lieu of going through the court system)
- "Souls to the Polls", a program designed to assist potentially marginalized voters in exercising their constitutional right to vote.
- Mentor, FSU College of Law women students through Tallahassee Women Lawyers
- Pledge Drive Host, WFSU for National Public Radio

Pro Bono Work

- "Law for All," Leon County Courthouse
- Ask A Lawyer," Free Legal Advice Workshops around the Big Bend Area for underserved communities
- Family Law pro bono cases