

Ramona Carhart

PRICE, MCCLUER & PLACHECKI

Ramona Carhart didn't intend to enter the legal profession, until she was threatened with cows.

After high school graduation, she first worked as a bank teller, then transitioned to an attorney's office when one of the bank's board members brought her into his legal practice to help with clerical work. When she had children, Carhart's mother told her that women with families didn't work, so she left and soon received a very different job offer: Her husband suggested getting a herd of cows for her to milk daily, and her father offered to build a chicken coop as well.

"I started applying for jobs right after that, because I did not want to be a farmer," she recalled. After another spin through banks and legal offices, she landed at Price, McCluer & Plachecki in 1974, where she's been a paralegal ever since.

Carhart believes that being caring and patient is a significant part of her role at the firm, especially with divorce cases, when emotions are running high on both sides. "Getting divorced is more traumatic than if the person experiences the death of a spouse," she said. "Sometimes they need consoling, and sometimes the emotions are overwhelming to all of us."

Her background in banking has helped as well, she added, since it's enabled her to understand the financial aspects of law. Nominator Angela Lallemond, an attorney at the firm, noted that Carhart is a whiz when it comes to real estate, estate planning, guardianships, probate, and bankruptcy. Carhart also manages daily law firm functions such as supply ordering, payroll, retirement accounts, health insurance, and accounts payable.

Although she's now past traditional retirement age, and still without a cow in sight, Carhart continues to work seven days a week, often putting in 10-hour days.

"She is truly a one-of-a-kind woman, and a huge asset to our firm," said Lallemond.

—Elizabeth Millard

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