

# JANE (Dall) WILSON

## Where Is This Stellar Student Now? Jane Dall Wilson's Life as an Attorney

Graduate: Class of 1996 Occupation: Attorney By Lauren Niehaus, Spring 2010

From performing on a high school stage to defending in a court room, Jane Dall Wilson embraces the challenges thrown at her. She advises others to do the same, “You never know the true limits of what you can accomplish until you make a solid effort.” To exceed the limits, Jane uses self-motivation and hard work in everyday tasks.

This small town girl who grew up with a fondness of literature, art, and academics shares her loves with her husband, Bradley Wilson. Recently married, in October 2009, Brad “inherited” Jane's laboradoodle, Darcy. The name came from Mr. Darcy, a character in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Jane remembers “the close support of high school friends and teachers during both difficult and exciting times.” When hearing Oklahoma, you think of the state shaped as a frying pan. While true for Jane, she also associates stage lights, spinning wheel, and Aunt Eller to Oklahoma. One year participating in the spring musical, *Oklahoma!*, remains one of Jane's unforgettable school activities. Splendid school spirit showed through the decorative halls gearing up for sectional competitions, she recalls. Her senior art display reflected dedication, creativity, and an assiduous individual. Jane achieved the BETA state officer title and attended the National Panasonic Academic Challenge as an Indiana team member. With the “educational excellence,” teachers presented many academic opportunities to Jane. Teachers and staff today remember Jane as self-motivated and humble.

Graduating in 1996 with the knowledge of future plans-Jane attended Hanover College for four years. Majoring in English and political science, Jane earned a bachelor's degree. Jane studied Shakespeare in Stratford, England, for one month on a class trip; Jane saw a number of plays there and in London. Traveling independently with a friend in Rome for a week, Jane studied and compared ancient winged figures with Christian angels in art and architecture. Later, she attended Notre Dame Law School for three years and graduated with a JD (Juris Doctor) degree. Coming from a strong academic background, Jane earned scholarships from local, state, and national organizations to make her future possible. Jane never imagined as a high school student that attending Notre Dame was possible, but now she says, “I am now very proud to be a Notre Dame alumna (regardless of our football season record)!”

After law school, Jane worked as a clerk with Judge Ripple, an accomplished judge. Jane evaluated legal arguments and writing styles, observed oral arguments in Chicago, and had an opportunity to meet other judges and clerks, which all helped her prepare for her current work.

Working as a business litigation associate at Baker and Daniels LLP in Indianapolis, Jane and a group of 300 professionals share a mission to provide quality integrated legal services to clients. Jane has the responsibility of coordinating the work of a lawsuit for clients: mainly corporations, but also occasionally individuals. Five and a half years at Baker and Daniels LLP has presented Jane with diverse tasks: researching legal issues, writing briefs for legal arguments in front of the court, corresponding with opposing counsels, and interviewing witnesses. Included in the criteria of an attorney, Jane gets to prepare for the occasional trial. To Jane, the trials were an experience different than what she saw on TV.

Stage lights, senior art displays, interests inspired by Ferdinand Elementary and Forest Park Jr.-Sr. High School, and a life as an attorney would not have been possible for Jane if she had not challenged herself. Jane said, "You never know the true limits of what you can accomplish until you make a solid effort."