

MEET MICHELLE MARVEL, 2023 PRESIDENT

Where do you work and what do you focus your practice on?

I am a founding partner at Cannezzaro Marvel. We are proud to be one of the few personal injury law firms, both in the Midwest and nationwide, to be owned and led by women. We represent individuals who have suffered serious injury or wrongful death in a variety of practice areas, including dangerous products, dangerous property and dangerous drivers.

What made you want to be a lawyer?

I never experienced a profound “Aha!” moment, but always gravitated toward the law. I was a journalism major, which allowed me to do a lot of writing and work on my communication skills. I also learned to think on my feet, work under pressure and work efficiently. When I gave up my dream of being the next Barbara Walters, it translated nicely to litigation.

What do you do outside of work for fun?

Spend time with my husband and children. I have two active little boys – Patrick (9) and Daniel (7), so currently my free time is mostly consumed by watching youth sports.

What made you join AWL?

Denise Henning told me to. She started a mentorship program for AWL members in 2009. I was a new lawyer at the time, and she encouraged me to join and apply for the program. It is now named in her honor and run by the charitable arm of AWL (AWL Foundation). I spent a decade in the Connections program (five years as a mentee and five years as a mentor) and loved every minute.

What are your goals for 2022 in terms of AWL?

So. Many. Goals. I want to continue offering programs that focus on supporting lawyer wellness, creating social opportunities, advancing members' professional development, and providing members with opportunities to give back. We plan to give members more opportunities to get involved with active committees. Lastly, we're really excited to fully launch our Women in the Profession “WIP” committee, which is working on some exciting ideas and resources to help advocate for women in the judiciary, women's involvement in bar associations, government boards, civic boards and commissions. Stay tuned for more details.

What is your favorite AWL memory?

Winning the Louis Vuitton bag at the golf tournament raffle.

Just kidding, that never happened. But more important than a fancy purse, I have been lucky to celebrate many personal and professional successes with good friends I have met through AWL.

Tell us one thing about you we wouldn't find on your LinkedIn page :)

My birthday is Flag Day. It is not the most exciting holiday, but I grew up in a military family and have a patriotic spirit, so it is fitting.