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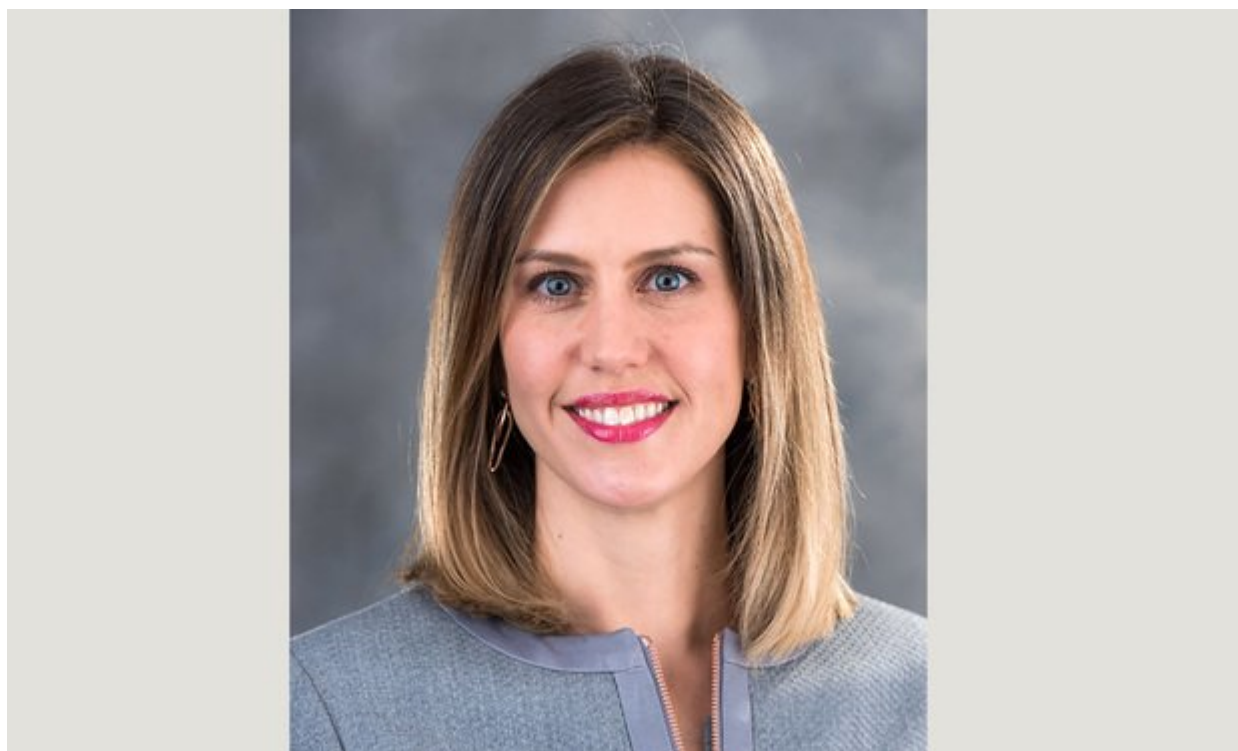
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## In-House Legal Department – Community Service: Broward College, Lacey Hofmeyer

After taking on pro bono assignments for years, the college general counsel said, “There’s a lot of need, so we should be stepping up.”

By Catherine Wilson | October 12, 2020



**Lacey Hofmeyer of Broward College. Courtesy photo**

Broward College General Counsel Lacey Hofmeyer gets “a good six hours” of sleep a night, which sounds pretty good considering how much she jams into her days.

Hofmeyer, who also serves the school as vice president of public policy and government affairs, has chaired a Florida Bar grievance committee, serves on multiple nonprofit boards, is active in voluntary bars, took two pro bono immigrant asylum cases to trial for Americans for Immigrant Justice and handled uncontested divorces through Dade Legal Aid.

But working as an attorney ad litem since 2008 sounds like her most satisfying community service pursuit, working one on one and one at a time for a child’s best outcome.

“I’ve probably helped I would estimate 10 to 15 foster children get to a permanent outcome, whether it’s reunification with their parents or into an adoptive home and being adopted,” she said. “All the children that I’ve helped have been in a situation of abuse or born into a situation where parents could not care for them.”

The former Greenberg Traurig shareholder serves as an intermediary with child protection case workers and as a trial witness.

“You keep saying something. You keep speaking up,” she said. “You just keep telling the judge what’s going on.” One of her strengths is articulating a child’s needs “in a very descriptive way. It’s strange but sometimes just using the right words at the right time is a skill in and of itself.”

She finished her latest guardianship assignment in January, weeks before COVID-19 came to dominate life, triggered an abrupt transition to remote learning at the college and generated unique new tasks under the CARES Act and public health reporting requirements.

The mother of three young children dialed back her outside work but took her first leadership role on a Florida Bar committee as vice chair of the education law committee.

She has some advice for anyone thinking about community service.

“When the economy is bad and when there’s a lot of people hurting, that’s the time you really have to do more and to dig in,” she said. “There’s a lot of need, so we should be stepping up.”

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