DBusiness | Top Young Lawyers

JENNIFER GREEN MEMBER || CLARK HILL, DETROIT

Total Lawyers: 147



|| COMMERCIAL LITIGATION ATTORNEY JENNIFER GREEN

first discovered her interest in law as a young girl growing up in Gladwin, north of Midland. There, she and her best friend would spend time after school in the library of a local law firm playing lawyers in a pretend trial. "I kind of knew from a very young age that I wanted to be a lawyer," she recalls.

Leading up to her admission to Wayne State University Law School, Green worked to gain as much knowledge and experience in the profession as she could during her time as an undergraduate, where she was a member of the Western Michigan University Mock Trial program and an intern with the late Justice Elizabeth Weaver of the Michigan Supreme Court. She also had the opportunity to work for Clark Hill in Detroit, as a legal assistant.

"There was no such thing as a (large) law firm in the small town I grew up in, so I never really saw myself working for one," Green says. "But once I started working at the firm, I immediately felt comfortable and could see myself making a career there. I saw myself staying there for the long haul."

Green continued to work at Clark Hill as a legal assistant, as well as a summer associate, while attending law school. After graduating from Wayne State in 2005, she was hired as an associate attorney.

Now, as a member of Clark Hill's litigation practice group, Green focuses her practice in the area of commercial litigation, including contract

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disputes, business torts, employment-related disputes, lender liability, and a broad array of banking and financial institution disputes.

"To me, the best part about being a lawyer is getting a really challenging set of facts and finding a way to make them work in your client's favor," she says. "It's about finding a way to argue your client's position even when the facts, upon first glance, appear to present an unfavorable outcome. There's always something challenging that you get to learn in the course of a case."

So far, Green's greatest challenge as a litigator has been her involvement in Detroit's Chapter 9 bankruptcy proceeding, when Clark Hill represented the city's retirement system — the largest creditor in the case. Green gave the initial opening statement on behalf of all the creditors at the eligibility hearing in October 2013. She says it was also her first time being involved in a case with such intense media coverage.

"Looking back, I'm glad I didn't have time to fully appreciate how much media coverage this case would generate," Green says. "Had I known that a sentence I would say from the opening statement would be in The New York Times or the Chicago Tribune, there would have been even more pressure."

Green, who has three children, considers her involvement with the case a major triumph not only in her professional life, but in her personal life,

"It definitely goes down as one of the biggest cases that I've ever worked," Green says. "I'm proud of the fact that I was able to do it with two kids at home and (while) being pregnant. I'm proud I was able to balance those personal circumstances through the case."