

TRICIA SCHAFFER
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Seasoned wordsmith with extensive legal background delivers compelling advocacy with diplomacy, integrity, precision, and enthusiasm.

EXPERIENCE

Arizona's Finest Lawyers Foundation, Inc. - Scottsdale, AZ

Executive Director, April 2017 - present

Chief Operating Officer, August 2013 - March 2017

Manage operations of statewide merit-based validation authority and related nonprofit founded by Phoenix ethics counsel Gary L. Stuart. Register and protect intellectual property, supervise administrative support contractors and vendors, create and maintain digital platforms, handle bookkeeping and banking, and oversee professional development, mentoring, networking, and wellness programs.

Vitality Law PLLC / Falbe Law PLLC – Scottsdale, AZ

Attorney, May 2011- present

Handle transactional and litigation matters for individuals and businesses, and periodically serve as local counsel for national corporations in Arizona courts. Advise clients on intellectual property filings and other transactional matters. Practice has transitioned from Falbe Law PLLC to the single-member Vitality Law PLLC due to the January 2017 death of Falbe Law's founder. Vitality Law has also engaged in short-term contract arrangements with other firms in the Phoenix metropolitan area. www.vitalitylaw.com

LATZ Negotiation – Scottsdale, AZ

Program Director, April 2015 – June 2018

Coordinated logistics for executive education seminars worldwide. Reviewed and edited contracts for speaking engagements. Handled bookkeeping, marketing, advertising, and promotion. Interacted with existing and prospective clients, including international corporations, law firms, small businesses, bar associations, and organizations. Maintained quality through rigorous attendee feedback and evaluation processes.

ExpertNegotiator LLC – Scottsdale, AZ

Director of Accounts, May 2016 – June 2018

Managed the academic and commercial software accounts for the web-based digital component of the LATZ Negotiation brand. Collaborated with software developers and investors to grow and improve the software and web application. Interacted with negotiation professors worldwide to customize products to their pedagogical objectives, and provided online training to new and prospective users. Solicited and implemented feedback from existing clients, and marketed to new professors.

The Night Run, Inc. - Scottsdale, AZ

President and Event Co-Director, January 2012 – December 2016

The Night Run, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity devoted to wellness event consulting and nonprofit fundraising. Duties included nonprofit formation, soliciting monetary and in-kind sponsors, budgeting, publicity, collaborating with city and traffic control personnel to create safe and suitable race courses, purchasing equipment, provisions, and insurance, recruiting and training hundreds of volunteers, and overseeing every aspect of USATF-certified road races for 500-2000 participants in Scottsdale, Phoenix, Tempe, and Mesa, Arizona.

Mariscal, Weeks, McIntyre & Friedlander, PA - Phoenix, AZ

Associate, January 2005 – June 2011

Handled all aspects of commercial litigation in state and federal court, mediations, and arbitrations, including bench and jury trials, motion practice, discovery, and disclosure. Served as the Firm's electronic discovery resource to ensure compliance by all attorneys and clients with rapidly-evolving procedures and protocols. Advised employers of rights and responsibilities under state and federal employment laws.

Allen, Price, Padden & Sanders, PC - Phoenix, AZ

Associate, September 2003 – December 2004

Same responsibilities as described immediately above (firms merged).

Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One - Phoenix, AZ

Staff Attorney, October 2002 – September 2003

Conferenced with judges and drafted opinions and memorandum decisions.

Frazer, Ryan, Goldberg, Arnold & Gittler, LLP - Phoenix, AZ

Associate, June 2002 – October 2002

Defended businesses in employment and commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Counseled employers on preventive measures. Prepared and responded to pleadings, discovery, motions, and briefs in state and federal court. Advised employers regarding discipline, termination, hiring, documentation, disability compliance, evaluations, and reductions in force. Updated handbooks and policies.

Coppersmith Gordon Schermer Owens & Nelson, PLC - Phoenix, AZ

Of Counsel, October 1998 – June 2002

Same responsibilities as described immediately above (practice group changed firms).

Jaburg & Wilk, PC - Phoenix, AZ

Associate, 1998

Advised employers of rights and responsibilities under state and federal employment laws. Counseled employers on the prevention and resolution of disputes. Prepared pleadings, motions, memoranda, disclosure statements, and discovery materials.

New York State Public Employees Federation - Albany, NY

Associate Counsel, 1994 – 1997

Represented employees and the union in arbitrations, mediations, and administrative proceedings. Argued motions and petitions in trial and appellate court. Negotiated and executed contracts and settlement agreements. Researched and wrote briefs for litigation in all levels of the New York state court system. Prepared memoranda and analyzed legislation pertaining to state and federal employment laws.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center – Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, 1994

Honors: Legal Research and Writing; Dean's List

Law Review: THE TAX LAWYER

Clinic: DC Street Law Project - Taught high school class and mock trial competition

University of California – Berkeley, CA

Bachelor of Arts with Honors, Economics, 1991

MEMBERSHIPS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES

- Manager and Certified Personal Trainer, Starting Now Fitness LLC, 2003-present. Empowering friends, colleagues, and their referrals to achieve and maintain physical fitness, flexibility, and endurance, thus improving their stamina in their professional and personal endeavors. Certified by the American Council on Exercise since 2002.
- Adult Learn-To-Swim Instructor, US Masters Swimming, 2016-present
- TRX TEAM Training Certification, 2014-present
- Marketing Consultant, The Training Room PHX, 2015-2017
- Schwinn Indoor Cycling Instructor, 2013-present
- Institute of Flexibility Sciences, Fascial Stretch Therapist, 2005-present
- Arizona Road Racers, member, 2006-present
- US Masters Swimming, member, 2006-present
- IDEA Fitness Association, Member, 2004-present
- Editor, Arizona Masters Swimming Newsletter, 2013
- Arizona Women Lawyers Association (AWLA), member, 1998-present
- AWLA PERSPECTIVES, Managing Editor, 2000-01; Fitness Columnist, 2003-04
- Chair, U.C. Berkeley Scholarship Committee, Arizona Division, 2001-2009

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- How to Protect Yourself and Your Firm from Ransomware, ARIZONA ATTORNEY, 10/2015
- Risk Management Columnist, IDEA FITNESS MANAGER, 9/2011 – 1/2013
- The Runner's Body, interview and feature in RUNNER'S WORLD, 12/2012
- Cover story author, ATTORNEY AT LAW magazine, featuring Charles S. Price (6/2012) and Gary L. Stuart (7/2012)
- Women In Law feature, ATTORNEY AT LAW magazine, 4/2012
- "A Personal Trainer's Practical Guide to Risk Management." Glendale Community College ("GCC") guest lecturer, 11/2011 and 11/2012
- "Overview of a Private Law Firm – Professional Development" – panelist for presentation to minority and women law students, 1/2010
- "Legal Issues in the Fitness Industry," GCC, 9/2009
- "Avoiding Legal Pitfalls – Growing Your Business and Reducing Liability Exposure," IDEA World Fitness Convention, Anaheim, CA, 8/2009
- "Ease Into Stretching," extensive interview and photographs featured in ARIZONA REPUBLIC, authored by reporter Mary Beth Faller, 9/13/2005
- "What's a Serious Health Condition under the FMLA?" Council on Education in Management ("CEM"), 12/2004
- "An Introduction to the Family and Medical Leave Act," CEM, 12/2004
- "Minimizing Organizational and Personal Liability Risks Arising From Employment Terminations," CEM, 11/2004
- "Using Fitness to Reduce Stress in Your Career and Your Life," Maricopa County Bar Association Annual Paralegal Conference, 11/2004
- "Workers' Compensation, OSHA and Ergonomics: Maintaining a Safe Work Environment," CEM, 10/2004
- "Privacy and Confidentiality Issues in Public Sector Employment," CEM, 10/2004
- Columnist on fitness and wellness topics, AWLA PERSPECTIVES, 2003 - 2005
- "Handling Your Most Perplexing ADA Cases," CEM, 7/2002
- "The Americans With Disabilities Act," Lorman Education Services, 2000 - 2002
- "Practical Strategies for Terminations and Reductions in Force," Lorman Education Services, 2001 - 2002
- "Protecting Supervisors and Managers - Including Yourself - From Individual Liability for Violation of the FMLA," CEM, 2001
- "Introduction to Employment Law," AAUW, 2001
- Co-author, "U.S. Supreme Court Establishes New Sexual Harassment Standard," EMPLOYMENT & LABOR LAW NEWS, vol. 8, no. 1, Spring 1999