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IP litigator takes aim at connecting women in law, business and finance

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Whether it's at the archery range or in the courtroom, Amanda J. Hollis has to make sure she's always on point.

The intellectual property litigation practice the 40-year-old partner has built at Kirkland & Ellis LLP builds off of her interests in science and medicine. Part of Hollis' practice involves explaining complicated IP legal concepts and science to judges and juries.

Hollis' clients include Abbott Laboratories, whom she successfully defended from a patent infringement lawsuit.

In a written Q&A with the Daily Law Bulletin, Hollis discussed how she got into archery and her role in co-founding Big Careers Little Kids, which seeks to connect women who work in law, finance and business.

CDLB: What led you to becoming an IP litigator? Is there anything different or unique about your practice that separates it from other kinds of commercial litigation?

Hollis: I've always been interested in science and medicine. In fact, I paid for school working at a pharmacy and studied biology and chemistry in college. I also really enjoy competition. I competed in track and cross-country through college, and I liked the adrenaline and seeing the payoffs for long, hard work in that. As an IP litigator, I use



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science to compete for a win. It seemed like a great job when I first heard about it and sitting here over 15 years later, I still think it is.

IP litigators have to be good litigators, first and foremost. But on top of that you need to have a special skill for making complex IP legal concepts and science understandable.

CDLB: How did you get into archery?

Hollis: Luck. As a birthday present one year, my sister suggested that we take my mom out for an archery lesson — something none of us had really tried. I took a big liking to it.

CDLB: Archers are featured prominently in movies and TV shows. Are you bothered at all by how archery is depicted in movies in popular media? Is there anything they miss?

Hollis: I wish I was good enough to criticize other archers. All I can say is that they make it look a lot easier than it is. Check back with me in a few years and I hopefully will be in a better position to provide critiques!

CDLB: Tell me about your role in Big Careers Little Kids. How did you end up co-founding that group and what are your goals for it?



Amanda J. Hollis

Hollis: I'm a member of BCLK's advisory board, and I co-lead the membership committee. Our goals are to provide meaningful connections between senior women professionals during the most exciting and challenging time of their lives — when they are approaching the peak of their career and have little kids.

CDLB: What are your long-term goals for your legal career?

Hollis: Win as many cases as I can and help as many people as I can along the way.

CDLB: What is the first app you use on your smartphone when you wake up in the morning?

Hollis: Aaptiv, an on-demand exercise app.

CDLB: What TV show did you just finish binge-watching?

Hollis: John Oliver episodes I missed while I was really busy these last six months, and "Working Moms."