

LITIGATION PRACTITIONER AWARD

Rose H. Stout

**Smith Debnam Narron Drake
Saintsuing & Myers, Raleigh**

Law School: Norman Adrian Wiggins
School of Law, Campbell University
Undergraduate: Campbell University



Rose H. Stout was described by the colleague who nominated her for a Women of Justice honor as "a model of integrity and sincerity, with intimate knowledge in all areas of family law." Stout was also the first member of her family to complete college and attend law school.

After Stout graduated from Campbell Law School in 1985, she began her career practicing family law at the law offices of Sullivan & Pearce. After leaving that firm, she continued to practice family law at the law offices of Stratas & Weathers until 1989, when she accepted a position as a family law attorney at Smith Debnam Narron Drake Saintsuing & Myers, where

she is now a partner.

According to the colleague who nominated her, Stout "sees, cares, then acts." An example of this occurred about 15 years ago when she was in court waiting for a case to be called. Before the judge called her case, Stout was listening to an emergency hearing that involved a child custody dispute between a husband and wife. The husband was represented by an attorney, but the wife was not. Although she did not represent her, Stout was convinced the wife was in the right, but she was having some trouble articulating her position. Stout asked the judge for a recess, and during that recess she asked the wife if she could represent her at the hearing free of charge. With Stout's assistance, the wife was successful in getting custody of her son. Recently, that client contacted Stout to thank her.

Why did you decide to become an attorney?

I decided at the early age of 9 that I wanted to be a lawyer and I never strayed from that goal. I was

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the first in my family to graduate from college and the first to complete graduate school. The only experience that I had with attorneys was watching "Perry Mason," I loved "Perry Mason" or perhaps I just loved the music.

What advice do you have for recent law school graduates?

Stay true to who you are and do not compromise your principles. It also helps to laugh at yourself and look at the world through eyes of goodness.

What is your favorite aspect of your job?

I feel a great sense of accomplishment when a client who has come to me feeling sad or angry over his or her domestic situation is able to start a new chapter with restored self-worth and optimism.

Stout is married and has two daughters.

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