

Get to know... **Eileen Letts**, Co-Managing Partner, Greene and Letts

Starting a firm with her law partner was something Eileen Letts never contemplated, and something she even tried to avoid, but that's exactly what she did in 1990 when Greene and Letts was founded.

More than 20 years later, the firm is still thriving and Letts continues to balance her very busy work and personal lives.

Q. How did you decide to start your own firm?

A. My partner and I were at another law firm when we decided to leave. I never envisioned being an entrepreneur, but my law partner really encouraged me down that path. When we started, my first son was 18 months old. I agreed to start the firm with the understanding that I'd be leaving the office at 6 p.m. each day and would not be working on weekends — except of course when I was at trial.

Q. How old is your son now?

A. My oldest son is 22 and my youngest is 18. My oldest has been studying at Morehouse, but is transferring to Auburn to finish his engineering degree. My youngest is starting this fall at the University of Iowa, so my husband and I will be empty nesters.

Q. Where did you go to school?

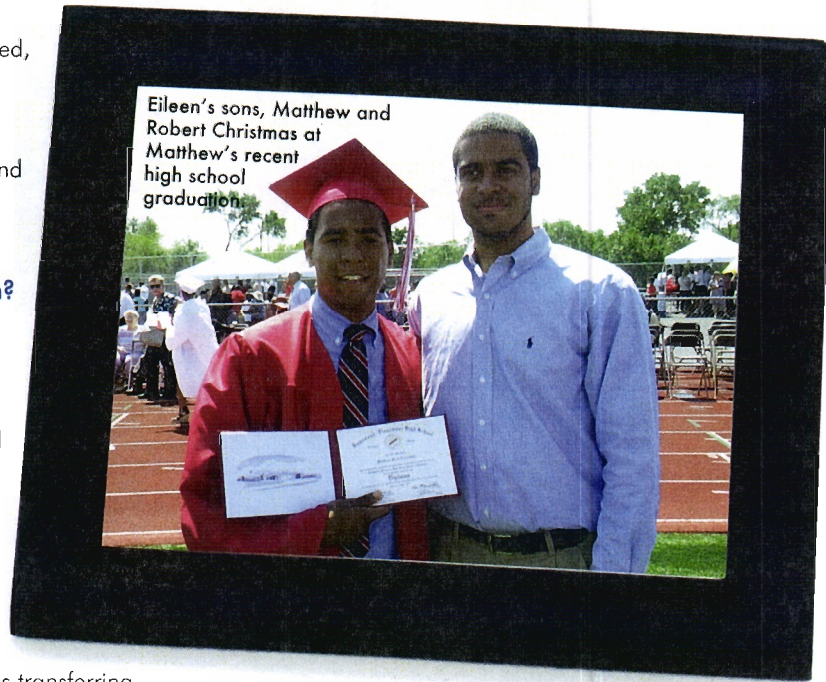
A. Even though I grew up in Michigan and my family members are huge supporters of Michigan State University, I didn't want to go to school so close to home, and so I went to Ohio State. I then went to Kent Law School, which is how I ended up in Chicago.

Q. How did you meet your husband?

A. We met at an event in Chicago. I'm pretty tall, 5'9", so I was probably the tallest woman in the room. My husband is 6'4" and he was the tallest man in the room, so we caught each other's eye. We've been married now for 25 years.

Q. How do you keep a balance in your life?

A. It's sometimes a struggle, but I make my family a priority. Both of my sons played baseball as children and my youngest now plays lacrosse. I made it to about 90 percent of their games. I realized that my kids would grow up and leave the house, but work would always be there. So, I made it a priority to spend time with my sons and support them in their activities.



Q. What other activities are you involved in?

A. Well, my partner says I'm a bar junkie since I am involved in so many Bar Association activities. Right now I'm on the American Bar Association Commission on Women. I'm also president of our local chapter of Jack and Jill, which is a national organization of families.

Q. Tell me more about your work with Jack and Jill.

A. Jack and Jill has been around since 1938, and it's a group of mothers with children between the ages of two and 19. The organization focuses on providing social, cultural and educational opportunities for the children. We also do a lot of philanthropic work to raise money for our scholarship fund and for other charitable causes. In the spring, I spearheaded a huge fundraising event. My youngest son is also really involved. He's the regional teen president this year, which takes a lot of his time. He has regular meetings with the other regional leaders and planned their regional meeting this summer in Dearborn, Mich.

Q. Do you have any time for yourself?

A. I love to walk. I walk every morning for about an hour. I'm also in a book club. This fall our book club is taking a weekend trip to Miami to relax and meet with an author of a book we are reading. It will be a nice break as my husband and I adjust to empty nester life.