



JAMES LANDRUM

“Find what speaks to your heart, and get involved.” That saying has framed James Landrum’s outlook on life and on work—in his case, as executive director of the Harry S. Truman Children’s Neurological Center. Which is something of a misnomer; some of the clients at TNC Community, which provides care in group homes to adults diagnosed with intellectual-development disabilities, haven’t been children for quite a while. Several have lived in those settings for 25 years, and one resident for 47 years. The security they enjoy from something as simple as a place to live is a tribute to the work Landrum took on when he joined the center in 2000 amid trying circumstances and fears that the center might have to close.

“Over the past 10 years, the organization I have had the privilege of serving has come a long way,” he says. In that span, Landrum has worked with a strong board and dedicated staff to address the challenges, and today, the number of individuals served is twice what it was when he started, and TNC has earned the highest levels of accreditation from national regulatory bodies. The 38-year-old Landrum, who earned his masters in social work at KU, says his outlook on life is shaped by faith, family and friends, and he counts on all three during difficult times, particularly after the deaths of his father and three close friends in recent years. “One’s legacy is established upon what we do and how we treat those we interact with every day on this journey we call life,” he says.

MAT LARSEN

Seven years after moving to Kansas City to become a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Mat Larsen has one eye on today’s caseloads, and the other on the next cohort of lawyers needed not just at Shook, but throughout the nation. He’s deeply engaged in efforts to attract and retain talent that will lead to a more qualified, diverse and inclusive profession, working with the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, a national organization; helping establish an individual mentoring program for diverse students from area law schools, organizing the first group-mentoring event in Kansas City, and serving as a member of Shook’s search committee and the diversity-writing program committee. And, in 2008, he notes, “I worked with Operation Breakthrough to form a high school mock-trial competition team composed of students from Kansas City’s urban core” and coached the team in competitions for several years.

That’s a lot to take on, but he still has to help the firm represent clients, and does that by specializing in toxic tort and environmental litigation. He’s well-versed in legal issues relating to the Clean Water Act, state environmental statutes, regulatory compliance and environmental audits and air and water permitting issues pending before state and federal agencies.

He’s an active youth sports coach as a partner in the family concern you might call Larsen & Larsen: He and his wife, Lindsay, are parents of Derek, 8; William, 6; and Sophie, 4.



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