

FROM THE EDITOR

In business, the most successful people don't follow trends — they set them.

That's the case with the honorees of the *Dallas Business Journal's* 40 Under Forty awards program for 2010. This year's program includes a list of Dallas' business brightest from across every major industry in the city. Our diverse honorees include an international social networking guru, a frozen yogurt entrepreneur, a commercial real estate developer carrying on his family tradition, and a researcher working to cure breast cancer — all under 40 years old. You'll find much more in their expanded Q&As online at dallasbusinessjournal.com.

Katherine Cromer Brock

40 UNDER FORTY



SARAH LINK SCHULTZ

PARTNER, FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING SECTION
AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

What are your current job responsibilities? Supervise and manage representations in the financial restructuring arena.

How long have you been in your current position? September 2001 to the present

A BRIEF BIO: Born in Grand Fork, N.D. and raised in Wahpeton, N.D.; Received bachelor's degree with a major in political science and honors, minor in public administration and economics, from the University of North Dakota in May 1998; Received law degree from University of Minnesota Law School in May 2001; Began working at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in September 2001

Why did you get into this industry? After a 2000 summer clerkship with Akin Gump, I received an offer to join the firm as an associate in fall 2001. When I accepted the offer, I thought I would be in the labor and employment section. Fortunately for me, there was not enough room in the labor and employment section. I was instead asked to join the restructuring section. I have never looked back.

Who is your business idol? I am fortunate to work with some of the most talented restructuring lawyers in the country. At different points in my career, several members of my section — Charles Gibbs, Phil Dublin, David Botter and Mike Stamer — have taken a specific interest in my career. Each of these partners has different business qualities that I admire and hope to emulate.

What is the best advice you've ever received? You only lose your integrity once. Hang onto it.

What has been your greatest challenge? As a working mother who travels a great deal, I am constantly struggling to balance family and work life. Absent the support of my amazing husband, I would never be able to make it all work.

What is the craziest business situation you've been in? At the conclusion of the Edge Petroleum confirmation hearing, Chuck Gibbs and I were racing to catch the last flight from Corpus Christi to Dallas so we could make a dinner he and his wife were hosting. Less than 20 minutes before the flight was departing, the court confirmed the plan. We asked the court to dismiss us and started running. As we left, one of the bailiffs tossed my coat, which I had left in the courtroom, over the railing. We ran to the car, called the airline and begged the agent to hold the flight. We arrived at the airport in less than half the time it usually takes and barely made our flight. Although not necessarily a "business situation" it was definitely my craziest work moment.

What is your business motto? The practice of law is a service industry.

What are your keys to success? I try to treat everyone I work with honestly and with respect and try to give them my full attention when we are speaking. As a result, I believe that people treat me fairly and do not doubt my integrity.

What are you most known for? My work ethic.

What's something about you that your colleagues would be surprised to find out? I run three to five mornings a week. This is my quiet time when I do my best thinking.

How do you give back to the community? I am active in my church, King of Glory Lutheran Church. We participate in some unique community service including reverse trick-or-treating at nursing homes (children dress up in costumes and deliver goody bags to nursing home residents).

What's next for you? I plan to continue my legal career at Akin Gump.

If you were a ringtone, what would you be and why? "Galvanized" by the Chemical Brothers because the definition of "galvanize" is to stimulate to action.

Company name: Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP | **Number of employees:** 1,664 (firmwide) | **Annual revenue:** \$718.8 million (2009)
Ownership: Private | **Web site:** www.akingump.com | **Industry:** Legal | **Address of headquarters:** 1700 Pacific Ave., Ste. 4100, Dallas 75082