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‘Future star’ remembered for work ethic

Salvi Schostok & Pritchard’s Olszewski died Sunday in car accident in Wisconsin

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Salvi Schostok & Pritchard P.C. partner Tara R. Devine was a mentor to colleague Elizabeth R. Olszewski, but Devine considered herself the lucky one.

“Anyone would want to be her mentor,” Devine said. “She had raw talent, smart intellect and passion about what she did. She was someone that ultimately did not require any mentoring from me, we ended up becoming a team.”

Olszewski, 32, began working as an associate in the firm’s Waukegan office after graduating from The John Marshall Law School in 2013. Only seven years into her legal career, Olszewski was seen by her colleagues as a “future star,” amassing several multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements for her clients.

On Feb. 9, Olszewski was killed in a two-car crash on Highway 20 in Yorkville, Wis.

She was on her way home with family after attending a performance of “The Lion King” in Milwaukee. Ten people were injured in the crash, according to a (Racine) Journal Times report.

From the first time Patrick A. Salvi, Salvi Schostok & Pritchard chairman and managing equity partner, met Olszewski he was impressed by her intelligence, people



A photo of Salvi Schostok & Pritchard P.C. attorney Elizabeth R. Olszewski, who died in a car crash Sunday in Wisconsin. Olszewski was seen by her firm’s colleagues as a “a future star” and had great people skills and meticulousness while handling cases, including getting multimillion-dollar settlements for her clients. She was also active in many bar associations and in the Waukegan to College mentorship program. Photo provided by Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.

skills and meticulousness with regards to how she handled a case from beginning to end.

“I’ve gotten fairly good at being able to recognize legal talent when I see it and she just so impressed me from the first time I met her, got to know her and saw her work product,” Salvi said. “Just year-by-year as she gained experience and more responsibility she always met the challenges.”

Olszewski’s first trial resulted in a \$1.6 million verdict in March 2016 in Stephenson County in north-west Illinois. The lawsuit alleged the group home where a 40-year-old woman with a mental disability lived was negligent after she fell and sprained her ankle in November 2010 and then fell several times after that, including the fall that led to her death.

The Salvi, Schostok &

Pritchard trial attorneys were recognized by the Jury Verdict Reporter, a product of Law Bulletin Media, for that result in 2017 for the highest reported Stephenson County wrongful death award.

In July 2016, Olszewski won a \$6.6 million bench verdict on behalf of a man with a mental disability who was severely injured in a 2011 hit-and-run crash.

Devine said Olszewski possessed a skill set many

litigators don't — the ability to research and write compelling motions and then argue them effectively in court.

"She really was tenacious and meticulous about her work products, and I think she made such an impact in such a short amount of time," she said.

remain close to family.

Devine said while Olszewski loved her work she was "completely devoted to her family."

Olszewski was actively involved in the American Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association,

a senior at Waukegan High School in the far northern suburbs.

The nonprofit program focuses on providing assistance to students as early as fifth grade and continues to coach them through the time they apply, receive financial aid and enroll in college.

When Olszewski was a

others.

In an October 2019 interview with the Law Bulletin about the program, Olszewski said her relationship with mentee Aliyah Plummer has "been so very rewarding" and the two learned from each other.

"She didn't just come to work everyday and do what

“ She really was tenacious and meticulous about her work products and I think she made such an impact in such a short amount of time.”

Salvi enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside Olszewski on a case and often quipped that he wished she would move to their Chicago office, all the while understanding she worked in Waukegan to

the Lake County Bar Association, the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and the American Association for Justice.

In addition to her legal work, Olszewski became involved with Waukegan to College, where she mentored

Wisconsin high school student she navigated the process largely alone as, aside from her sister who was one year older, no one in her immediate family had attended college. It was for that reason she decided to fill that mentor-type role for

she needed to do for her clients. She stepped outside of that," Devine said. "She was a wonderful lawyer and more importantly an amazing person."

No funeral arrangements have been made at this time.