

Meet Anne Wakefield

Introduction by John Kilpatrick

President Mark, fellow Rotarians,
Honored Guests....

You know, in these tumultuous times, Rotary is one of the great beacons of light for good in the world and so it is a very real honor and privilege to introduce new members. And these really are tumultuous times. Just the other day, I was watching one of your evening news reports on marijuana, and I've come to realize that's the ONLY way to watch an evening news report. But I digress...



The world's newest Rotarian is Anne Wakefield, who was proposed by Laura Rehrman and seconded by Diankha Linear. Annie comes to us with a designation of Law Practice – Family Law.

Anne Wakefield is the Managing Partner of Wakefield Penny, a family law firm here in Seattle. A native of this neck of the woods, Annie earned her undergraduate degree in Spanish from Central Washington University, where she was on the Dean's List and studied abroad in Spain. She went on to study law at the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific, where she was a recipient of the Barrister's Scholarship.

During law school, she had the opportunity to study abroad, in Austria, and studied under Supreme Court Justice Kennedy. Also during law school, Annie was part of a team of law students who worked on Project Justice in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. As you might be aware, a lot of public records were destroyed during Katrina, including many arrest and incarceration records. The indigent, without resources, were left in a legal limbo. Annie and her fellow law students volunteered to work on their behalf to straighten out paperwork and help see that justice was fairly applied in these cases.

After law school, Annie worked with the Sacramento District Attorney's office and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Since her undergraduate degree is in Spanish, it's not surprising she volunteered to lobby on behalf of Spanish speaking farm workers for better job site conditions.

After law school, Annie returned to the Puget Sound region to practice criminal defense law, first with the Associated Counsel for the Accused in Everett, and later in private practice. After a few years of that, she realized her true passion was family law. She formed her own law firm nearly seven years ago.

Annie is on the Family Law Executive Committee and is a member of the Junior League of Seattle and Toastmasters. Her husband, David Penny, is also her law partner, and they and their son Jack – and soon to be daughter – live in the Rainier Beach neighborhood of Seattle.

I asked Annie to define a common thread running through her career, and she told me that it was helping people. She likes having an individual client that she can be there for during a difficult time. And you know, I wish more people had that attitude!

So, President Mark, it is my privilege and honor, in these times of ours, to introduce the world's newest Rotarian, Anne Wakefield.