

TULSA LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN JUNE ATTORNEY PROFILE

The attorneys at Conner & Winters have impacted the success of Tulsa Lawyers for Children (TLC) since its beginning in 1993. Many of the attorneys who first saw the need for robust representation for abused and neglected children are still volunteering for TLC and more importantly, they are recruiting the younger attorneys at Conner & Winters to do the same. R. Daniel Carter, Ryan Scharnell, and Chris Warzecha--all young attorneys--were recruited to TLC by Anne Sublett and Lynn Moore. Anne has volunteered with TLC since the nineties. Without the enthusiasm of these young volunteers, TLC could not support the high demand for legal representation for the children of Tulsa County. Ryan says the invitation for a free breakfast with Elizabeth Hocker at the Dilly Diner didn't hurt either!

All three young attorneys have been practicing law less than ten years, yet all recognize the importance of giving back to their community. Ryan and Chris said having children of their own greatly influenced their decision to join TLC. "I know the children I am helping could be my sons' classmates, friends, and future colleagues...it is disturbing to know some of the behaviors I read about could be happening to my sons' classmates, friends and future colleagues," says Ryan. Daniel, who practices in the area of Native American law and who occasionally works on Indian Child Welfare matters, realized the need for children to have adequate representation. He says that volunteering for TLC gave him an opportunity to work directly with children and ensure their voices are heard.

TLC is particularly grateful to these young volunteers who take time out of their regular practice to represent their young clients. Chris, whose practice focuses on construction law, says it is heartbreaking to be confronted with the reality that so many children, right where we live, are forced to face extreme adversity early in their development. Ryan, who practices in the areas of energy law, employment law, and insurance defense, feels rewarded when witnessing a child/client get adopted into a family who loves, cares, and supports the child and gives his client a sense of belonging. Daniel says despite the challenges of representing a child not getting the care and services they deserve, it is rewarding to watch a child's development improve as a child's conditions at home improve. Daniel says that he also enjoys getting to play Nerf guns with his client as a TLC Volunteer!

In their free time, away from the practice of law, all three enjoy the outdoors. Ryan is a coach for his seven-year-old son's baseball team; Chris enjoys cycling; and Daniel just likes anything that gets him outside and away from the office.

Funny facts: Chris, who has been with Conner & Winters since he was fresh out of law school in 2011 actually did not ONCE consider becoming a lawyer until three months before he applied to law school. Lucky for TLC he did! Also, Ryan is an identical twin--his twin lives in Mississippi!

[Click for more information about how you can volunteer.](#)



Attorneys Daniel Carter, Chris Warzecha and Ryan Scharnell

 **CONNER &
WINTERS**


**TULSA LAWYERS
FOR
CHILDREN**
Protecting Rights of Abused Children