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Denise Gosnell | 30

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Denise Gosnell said she's always been a computer geek. She used her own allowance to buy a Commodore 64 computer when she was only 12. She started writing software for it immediately.

But what she calls "geek," other people might refer to as "great aptitude" accompanied by an amazing work ethic. At age 30, she is recognized globally on technology topics, both as an author and a patent attorney.

She joined the local law firm of Woodard Emhardt Moriarty McNett & Henry in 2002 after working eight years in computer software development. She worked for Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft Corp. locally in consulting services, helping government clients implement high-tech solutions. Her goal was to work for Microsoft in its legal division, but she would have had to move west and was firmly rooted in Indiana, she said.

She has also worked for Ambassador Consulting in Indianapolis; Indianapolis-based CMG Worldwide, which manages intellectual-property rights; locally based Key Benefit Administrators; and Texas-based Electronic Data Systems.

As a lawyer at the intellectual-property firm, Gosnell helps corporate and entrepreneurial clients protect and capitalize

on their patents, trademarks and copyrights.

"I love working with people on the cutting edge of technology and helping them protect their ideas," Gosnell said. "And as a technologist, I love tinkering with how things work."

She has written or co-written seven books about computer technology. The latest will be published in April and provides insights into using Google, Amazon, eBay, PayPal, Microsoft MapPoint Abbreviation and other application program interfaces.

She's been a speaker at the international Microsoft Professional Developer's Conference. Gosnell was co-aledictorian of her high school class and obtained her bachelor's degree in less than three years while working full time. She also obtained her law degree while working full time. "I'm very passionate in whatever I'm involved [in]. I hate to waste time," Gosnell said.

Serving others is important to her in arenas outside patent law. For example, she volunteers as a pro bono attorney. "I enjoy that. Public service is one of the reasons I became an attorney," she said.

She also has given her time and expertise to help Indy Jazz Fest, Elegant Vintages Wine Auction and Indy Opera.

She and her husband, Jake, love to travel. She has visited more than 19 countries and looks forward to making that list grow. •

