

**A**nne E. Ross, managing partner of the Madison office of Foley & Lardner LLP, has worked in the field of business law for more than 25 years. Her practice reflects the growing intellectual asset-based economy of the Upper Midwest, including extensive work with technology-driven companies and their investors, insurance companies, and tax-exempt organizations. In 2007, Ross was named managing partner of Foley's Madison office, honored by the Madison YWCA as a "Woman of Distinction," and recognized by Madison Community Foundation's A Fund For Women for the distinction of being named the first female partner in a national law firm in Madison.

### What was your first job?

Starting when I was about 10 years old, my sister and I ran a very successful lemonade stand. We also sold zucchini and sweet corn from our family garden, took on babysitting jobs, and did everything else we could think of to raise enough money to buy a horse and pay for his board. So, I guess you could say that my first job was as a self-employed entrepreneur.

### Which of your career accomplishments makes you proudest?

I take great pride in the trust and confidence my clients place in me on a daily basis, and my track record of helping my clients to accomplish their goals. It's not a single event or accolade, but rather the sustained effort over the course of the past 30 years.

### What is the best advice you have ever received?

I try to take heed of my Mother's advice to "make hay while the sun shines." I love the imagery, and it's an approach to life that has worked well for me.

### What book are you currently reading?

Most of my recreational reading takes the form of downloading books from audible.com and listening during drive time. I particularly like science fiction and historical fiction. Right now I am listening to *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon, which involves a heroine who time travels back to the Scottish Highlands in the mid-18th century.

### What is your favorite way to unwind?

I like spending time outdoors with dogs and horses. I also enjoy fly fishing, cross country skiing, and watching Packers games with friends — especially this year! On the more sedentary end of things, I enjoy shooting and editing digital video and still photos, and generally exploring the Internet and the latest developments in e-commerce and information technology.

### What do you like most about Madison?

I love the combination of the down-to-earth Midwestern approach to life; the large number of brilliant and creative people who are attracted here by the University of Wisconsin and the health care, technology and service sectors; and the beautiful natural setting with easy access to parks and open space.



### What is your favorite Dane County charity?

That's a bit like asking a grandmother to name her favorite grandchild. I'm personally involved with a number of very fine nonprofit organizations, and Foley and our attorneys and staff in Madison are involved in supporting many, many others. So as not to waste the P.R. opportunity, I would highlight the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, the Madison YWCA, A Fund for Women and the Henry Vilas Zoo as organizations that are doing effective work on vitally important issues.

### If you had more time, what would you add to your schedule?

How much more time do I get? I'd like to spend more time visiting with my far-flung family. I'd also like to write a great novel.