Alumni Profile—Sarah Duniway, ('91)

I am an attorney specializing in working with nonprofits, and I live and work in Minneapolis. My practice involves both general advising of nonprofits, as well as assisting them with regulatory compliance – as nonprofits, they are highly regulated by the tax laws. Because my clients include a number of social justice and issue advocacy organizations, I also have a specialty in election and campaign finance law. I love being able to combine my technical expertise on the tax, nonprofit and election law side, with giving practical advice to organizations whose missions I care passionately about. I am a partner at Gray Plant Mooty, a large, full-service business law firm in downtown Minneapolis. It's a wonderful place to practice law because I am surrounded by smart, interesting and kind people.

After I left Carleton, I spent two years working as a grassroots political organizer for a nonprofit that works on women's reproductive health issues. I then went to law school at the University of Minnesota. While in law school, I clerked at the Minnesota Attorney General's office as well as at Gray Plant Mooty, and had a one-year judicial clerkship following graduation. I've been at my firm ever since.

Math is not the typical pre-law major but it has served me extremely well. As a math major, I developed strong analytical, reasoning and logical skills, all of which are crucial to success in law school and as a lawyer. Of course, having gone to a liberal arts college where I also gained valuable writing skills, as well as exposure to a wide range of other substantive topics like history, economics, literature, art, etc. is really important as well. And, it made me stand out when I went through job interviews!

As for advice, I recommend taking advantage of the wide variety of classes and experiences that Carleton has to offer. Not everything has to be "useful." At no other time in life will the doors to such a diverse set of experiences be so wide open, and you never know what talent you'll discover, or skill you'll gain, or little tidbit of knowledge you'll retain, that will come back to serve you in the future. Besides, it's important to have fun along the way.