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THE HUGO L. BLACK LAW CLINIC

Where Education and
Service to the Community Meet



In the Spotlight: Meghan Stein-Webster '01

Meghan Stein-Webster, L'01, is not your traditional lawyer; she's a designer as well. Jeanine DeBor, Director of Law Alumni Relations, recently had the opportunity to talk with Meghan about her children's line of clothing, eco-generation.

■ **Where were you born?**

Pittsburgh and I grew up in Mt. Lebanon.

■ **Where do you live now?**

Charleston, S.C.

■ **Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I'm a trust officer with U.S. Trust, Bank of America's private wealth management. I'm married to my husband, Jeff, have a 3-year-old daughter, Clare, and a long-time yellow lab companion, Lily.

■ **What is eco-generation?**

It's an eco-friendly line of children's t-shirts with powerful environmental messages. The mission behind the line is to bring awareness to the environment, but also to demonstrate how the decisions we make today will ultimately impact our youngest generation. Eco-generation can be found locally at Ona Boutique in Mt. Lebanon, Whole Foods, and www.eco-generationkids.com.

■ **What was the inspiration?**

There were two distinct turns in my life that inspired me to take action.

One, my father was diagnosed with Leukemia while I was in law school in 1999. His illness was determined to be caused by external environmental factors. After enrolling in a medical trial with other similar patients, gardening was found to be the common thread. In 2001, I lost my father to the carcinogenic fertilizers and pesticides he used to bring the gardens of my childhood home to life.

Two, the birth of my daughter in 2005. While pregnant, I was warned against eating a variety of foods, especially fish because of the high concentration of Mercury. Surprisingly, I was also told by my physician not to garden due to the levels of unknown chemicals in the dirt and the potential threat of exposure to unborn children.

During this time I realized just how damaged our environment is and vowed to try and shelter my child and her generation from shouldering the effects. And so eco-generation was born.



Lily, Meghan and Clare (wearing an eco-generation t-shirt)

■ **How does eco-generation fit in with your practice of law?**

Starting a clothing line was a lot more involved than I ever imagined as you are taking a piece of cotton, turning it into a garment and selling it on a shelf. My legal education shaped my thought process in a way that enabled me to drill down into what was important both on a contractual and economic basis.

■ **What drew you to the Duquesne School of Law?**

The biggest draw for me was Duquesne's reputation in the city and the University's genuine interest in the good of the community.

■ **What would you like to tell fellow alumni and law students about the education you received at Duquesne?**

The education I received was invaluable. It not only prepared me for my "day job" but also my other business endeavors, including eco-generation.

■ **Are you planning anything special for Earth Day?**

No, everyday is Earth Day in my world.

■ **What do you like to do in your spare time (if you have any!)?**

I love to run and practice yoga, but my most favorite thing to do is spend the entire day at the beach followed by drinks at my most favorite local beach bar. 🍹