

1152 Armorlite Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069
P: 760.752.6789
F: 760.752.6785



Karen Black and Stacy Edwards, from left, at their Escondido law firm of Black & Edwards.
Heather Anderson photo

Like mother, like daughter

Escondido legal team keeps business in the family

By Heather Anderson | Special to Today's Local News

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

ESCONDIDO — All mothers and daughters have their disagreements.

Escondido mother and daughter Karen Black and Stacy Edwards are no exception, but the two insist they never let it interfere with work.

Black and Edwards both are attorneys and work together in their firm Black & Edwards, located at 144 E. Washington Ave. in Escondido.

“I think I have been fairly objective and not colored by the fact that she’s my daughter as far as what I expect out of her as an attorney. I have a reputation for being a mentor to young attorneys, and I’ve brought Stacy along the same way,” Black said.

Edwards said she makes a point to call her mother at the office, to keep things professional and to create the separation between home and work.

“At work, she’s totally professional. I couldn’t ask to work for someone better,” Edwards said.

However, both women admit they have their typical mother-daughter moments after business hours.

“Now, at home, she can irritate me,” Edwards said.

“And that can run both ways,” Black countered without missing a beat, causing both women to break into a laugh.

Black, 68, earned her law degree from the University of San Diego law school and was admitted to the California bar in 1983. She set up her own practice, specializing in estate planning, probate and trusts, and later received a master’s degree in tax law from George Washington University.

“I never wanted to do family law because there’s too much hostility. Little did I know how much hostility is involved in dealing with someone’s money after they’ve died,” Black said.

The youngest of Black’s four children, Edwards, 43, worked in her mother’s law firm as a teenager, helping out with general office work. Edwards never wanted to be an attorney while growing up, but at age 28, she found herself a single mother looking for a way to earn more money.

“I asked mom for advice, and she suggested I go to law school. I had worked with her off and on for several years and liked it, so I decided to go for it,” Edwards said.

Edwards attended Thomas Jefferson law school in San Diego, taking classes at night and on the weekends. She graduated and was admitted to the California bar in 1995.

Despite the fact that Black is nearing retirement, neither woman thinks Edwards will take over the law firm.

Black explained that as managing partner, she is responsible for the management of the office and its employees. Altogether, the office has three lawyers — Toni Taylor Buck recently joined the firm — and six support staff, all of them female.

Being managing partner means working at least 60 to 70 hours a week, and as a former single mother herself,

Black knows that Edwards doesn't have that much time to devote to the office.

Additionally, both women agree that Edwards is a stronger attorney than business manager.

"I know what my shortcomings are. I don't have a big ego, so I wouldn't mind if someone came in as managing partner," Edwards said.

Reach reporter Heather Anderson at heathera@tlnews.net.
