**Lauderdale Profiles**





**Whitney Maddox Dyer RHS ‘03**

Attorney Whitney Dyer, Attorney at Law

Juris Doctor, Master’s in Secondary Education, Bachelor’s in Political Science

Samford University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Miles College

**Q: How did you select your college major, certification program, or career path?**

**A:** Initially, I chose political science because of my interest in government and politics. During college, I suspected that I might decide to apply to law school, but after graduation I instead chose to accept a position with a large insurance company. After working for that company a few years, I realized that I felt unfulfilled in my corporate job, and wanted to do something that mattered more in the world. I knew that I would need to go back to school to gain the tools necessary to achieve my goals of making a difference in society.

**Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of career path?**

**A:** I relied heavily on the advice of my close family members, and mentors. I asked them to give me their honest opinions on my strengths and weaknesses, and I would use this information to set my own personal goals. Listening to reliable advice was important to helping me avoid making costly mistakes.

**Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college/career, what would it be?**

**A:** Probably something related to communications or public speaking. Many people struggle with both verbal and non-verbal communication, and it is an essential skill in whatever career you pursue. Furthermore, one might say that it is directly tied to earning capacity.

**Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?**

**A:** I enjoy helping people while working for myself

**Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?**

**A:** I serve on a local park board that supports community youth sports teams, and I also volunteer a regional natatorium (indoor pool) assisting with teaching swimming classes to adults of all ages.

**Q: What’s the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your professional career?**

**A:** I wouldn't be able to single out one thing, everyday provides its own new and interesting events.

**Q: What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?**

**A:** As my own boss, I get to be as successful as I want to be every day. If I don't like something about my work, I have the power to change it.

**Q: What advice would you share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?**

**A:** Work on your verbal and written communication skills, and if possible join a debate team. Debate teams are excellent preparation for the critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in law school and beyond.

**Q: What were some of the jobs you held as a young person (summer jobs, part time work, etc.), before you were on your career path? Did they play any part in your future occupation?**

**A:** I was a cashier at the dollar tree in Ripley, and a shift manager at Krystal's in Dyersburg. I held these part-time jobs during and right after high school. These jobs taught me two things: 1) what type of job I did not want to have as an adult, and 2) that I needed to find a career that provided financial security.