

# In Memoriam: Jean M. Olson

Firm Administrator, Simpson & Deardorff



“What I’ll always remember about Jean was our banter back and forth, about something in the news or some running joke. Near the end, I’d give her a call just to check in, thinking it might be raising her spirits. What I’ve now realized, is that even then, she always went out of her way to raise mine.”

*Arthur Simpson, President,  
Simpson & Deardorff*

It’s a little quieter at Simpson & Deardorff SC in Milwaukee these days. It’s probably going to be that way for a long time.

That’s because Jean M. Olson is gone.

As a civil-litigation defense firm where cases often involve terrible tragedies, occasionally everyone there needs to laugh about something completely unrelated. They could always count on Olson for help with that.

Olson joined the firm in January 2008, hired initially to work as a receptionist. Her duties expanded rapidly due to her wide range of skills and willingness to take on new projects.

So the firm-wide e-mail last December announcing that she may need more flexibility with her hours, because she’d be receiving chemotherapy, was met with great sadness. Everyone knew she’d had serious health issues in the past, but they also believed, as she did, that they were only in her past.

She’d stay into the evenings on her chemo days, to make up for her hours in treatment, despite everyone’s urgings to the contrary.

She was convinced she’d win her second fight against cancer, and therefore everyone around her was convinced, too.

Jean Olson left the firm in September and passed away at her home surrounded by friends and family on Oct. 2. She was 47. She left her husband, Mark, and children, Alexandra and Samuel.

“What I’ll always remember about Jean was our banter back and forth, about something in the news or some running joke,” said firm President Arthur Simpson. “Near the end, I’d give her a call just to check in, thinking it might be raising her spirits. What I’ve now realized, is that even then, she always went out of her way to raise mine.”

The firm nominated Olson for recognition due to her dedication and skill. In her honor, the firm participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in September, and will likely do so for many years to come.