



## \*\* MEET THE PRESIDENT \*\*

# Kate Lacy Crosby

### Early years

**Tell me about your childhood – where did you grow up? Do you have siblings? Did you have any childhood interests or hobbies?**

I grew up here in Louisville. I attended Coleridge-Taylor and St. Matthews for elementary school, Highland Middle, and then Manual.

I have two younger brothers, Drew and JohnBen. They both live in town and we've stayed close. Drew is a carpenter and JohnBen does film, so we're sort of a "diversified" set of siblings.

My mom, Ann Lacy, recently retired as director of Highland Presbyterian Nursery and Weekday School. My dad, Dan Lacy, is a now-retired CPA who worked in healthcare.

I had a great childhood – lots of bike riding, playing with friends and splashing around at Lakeside. I took piano and ballet through early high school and remain grateful for the many hours my mom devoted to shuttling me to rehearsals and lessons.

**Looking back, what about your family and/or childhood had the greatest impact on you?**

That's a hard one. One thing that comes to mind is that when I was ten, our family hosted an exchange student from Normandy, France named Sophie. More than thirty years later, we're still in touch. She's also a lawyer and a prominent politician in Normandy. The early exposure to someone from a different part of the world was transformative. When I was in high school, I was lucky to do two short stints as an exchange student in France. Being immersed in another culture taught me how much I could learn from people whose experiences are different from mine.

**You attended Centre College, as did your husband, Jason Crosby. What did you study there? What was appealing to you about Centre, and what was your college experience like?**

I was a French and international relations major, but I also really enjoyed math and economics. I was familiar with Centre from having studied there in the Governor's Scholars Program and I was drawn to the sense of community and close relationships between students and faculty. I had a wonderful experience at Centre, not only because of the friends I made there, but also because of the quality of teaching and the encouragement to spend time trying to understand the world around us.



### Legal beginnings

**Did you always know you wanted to be a lawyer? If so, what brought you to that conclusion? If not, when and why did you decide to pursue a career in the law?**

I didn't seriously consider being a lawyer until I worked at the Tennessee Justice Center (TJC) in Nashville while my husband Jason was in graduate school. TJC is a public interest law firm that represents vulnerable Tennesseans, including through impact litigation. The founders, Gordon Bonnyman and Michele Johnson, are incredible advocates who showed me what a powerful role lawyers can play in effecting positive social change. Their work inspired me to apply to law school.

**You went to the University of Michigan for law school. First of all, who's the bigger Michigan fan, you or LBA Immediate Past President Seth Gladstein?**

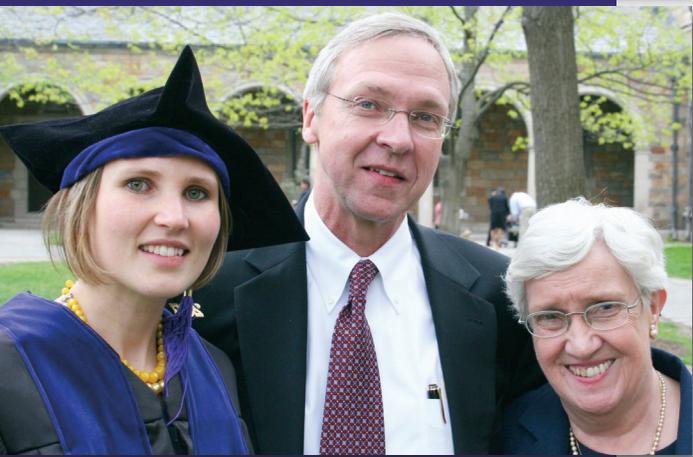
Ha! I own exactly two pieces of Michigan apparel. I've never seen Seth not wearing at least two pieces of Michigan apparel on any given day.

**What was your law school experience like?**

Sometimes magical, sometimes overwhelming and mostly very enjoyable. I got married a few months before law school started. I was the first person called on in Contracts the first day. I wasn't used to responding to "Ms. Crosby" and had a bit of a delayed reaction! But that was a good lesson – you should always take a second or two to think before you speak. I felt well-prepared coming from Centre, but the contrast between a school of 1,000 students and a Big 10 school was striking. I loved the excitement of the campus, but was also grateful to live in a cozy apartment a few miles off campus.

**You clerked for two federal judges after law school. What attracted you to those clerkships? What did you learn from those judges that you still use in your career today? How did those clerkships prepare you for your career?**

Jason and I knew we wanted to return to Kentucky and many mentors had shared with me how much they learned by clerking for judges. I was very fortunate to work for Judge Heyburn and Judge Martin. Of course, they had very different styles, but they both took the role of mentoring very seriously. Clerking was like a sampler and I think that the exposure to the variety of cases helped me understand that I needed to become an expert on the facts, including the details of whatever was before me.



### Career today

**Who would you consider to be some of your mentors in the Louisville legal community?**

My most important mentors in the legal community are my law partners – David Tachau, Dustin Meek, and Jon Salomon – who have been patient and thoughtful for the thirteen years that I've been lucky enough to work with them.

**What do you think most people misunderstand about being an attorney?**

I think sometimes people believe that lawyers just love fighting. While I enjoy the competitive aspect of our job and work hard for my clients, a big part of what lawyers do is try to find practical ways to resolve tough situations – often with challenging personalities and high stakes.



## Bar Association

### Why did you decide to get involved in the LBA?

Amanda Main asked me to serve on the Board several years ago and I enjoyed my service so much that I asked Gerry Toner if he would use one of his Presidential appointments to extend my term. He very graciously agreed. It's been important to me to stay involved in the LBA primarily because the sense of community.

### What do you think are the top benefits of being an LBA member?

What immediately comes to mind is the programming – including high quality CLEs, as well as social events that provide some of the only opportunities for lawyers from all walks of the legal community to build relationships.

### How has involvement in the LBA impacted your career?

I've met so many wonderful folks whose paths I wouldn't have crossed if not for the LBA. It's given me an opportunity to think strategically about how we can improve the community and camaraderie between local lawyers, and also how the legal community can serve the broader community.

### What are some of your goals for your year as President of the LBA?

I hope to build on the momentum we have going, especially thanks to the staff's hard work and the recent Board leadership. I'd like to be helpful in executing the vision for the renovation of the Bar Center. And I'd like to see the LBA further define the mission of our new tagline: "Law. Community. Education."

### What are you most excited about as you begin your year as the LBA's leader?

I'm most excited for the opportunity to collaborate with other stakeholders – including at the courts, the law school, Legal Aid, and organizations like the Women Lawyers Association and Charles W. Anderson, Jr. Bar Association – to continue to build a community where our members feel well-supported and connected.

### What do you think are the LBA's greatest strengths? What are our biggest challenges?

Without a doubt, the LBA's greatest strength is its staff and members. Between the staff and our members, there is an extraordinary amount of talent and passion. One challenge we face is keeping members feeling connected and willing to invest energy in improving the LBA – especially as post-pandemic work habits have scattered the legal community.

## Personal interests

### Tell me more about your family. How did you meet your husband? What profession is he in? Do you have children?

I met my husband in college at Centre. He was the RA for my dorm. We signed up for the same study abroad trip to Strasbourg, France, which was an excellent place to nurture a young romance. He is now the Chaplain at Centre (which involves a lot of driving for him!).

We have two kids: Our son Brooks is 12 and attends Noe Middle School and our daughter Millie Lou is 9 and attends Bloom Elementary.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

Hang with friends and family.

### What other community organizations do you support or volunteer with? Why are they important to you?

I am honored to serve on the Board of the Louisville Story Program (LSP), which works with members of our community whose voices and stories we don't hear often enough to document the lived experience in Louisville. LSP's work is important to me because it promotes community conversations and highlights parts of Louisville's culture that are often overlooked.

### What are some of your current hobbies or interests?

Driving kids to activities and doom scrolling.

### If you weren't an attorney, what other career path do you think you might have pursued?

I think I would have enjoyed pursuing more studies in French and teaching.

### What's something not a lot of people know about you?

For a very brief time many years ago, my husband tricked me into running enough that I qualified for and ran the Boston Marathon. These days, I'm happy if I make it three miles around the park.

### What's your favorite movie – and your favorite guilty pleasure movie?

Favorite movie is the Sound of Music. Not so guilty pleasure is Legally Blonde.

### If you could go anywhere in the world for a vacation, where would it be? Where is your favorite place that you have traveled so far?

I can't wait to take my kids to France. My favorite place is probably a tie between France and Northern Michigan.

### What is your favorite restaurant in Louisville?

Mayan Café

### What would your best Louisville day look like – where would you go, what would you do?

Wake up before the family, early morning run with a friend, come home and fix pancakes, go for a bike ride in the Parklands with my family, head to Lakeside with a good book, and then dinner with friends in Nulu or on Bardstown Road.

### What do you do to relax?

I love to go hiking. For the last couple of years, our family has taken a few days in the spring at Red River Gorge. It's incredibly restorative to spend time outside and away from "incoming missiles" (emails).

But if I'm being honest, I also get antsy when I'm out of cell coverage long and so sometimes, I'll bring my laptop and quickly check email before we head out on a long trail. My kids jokingly call my briefcase my "hiking equipment."

