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Deb Swenson has achieved an important goal: to simply be considered a strong legal advocate; not someone who has a disability AND happens to be an attorney. For someone who personally prefers to fly under the radar, the last few months have been a whirlwind.

The whirlwind began this spring when Ryder Systems, Inc., with the guidance of Deb, their attorney, made a donation to Guide Dogs for the Blind in the amount of almost \$28,000. The funds were *de minimus* funds remaining at the end of a large commercial chapter 11 bankruptcy case where Kevin Sauntry of Ryder Systems was chair of the unsecured creditors' committee. Ryder asked that the donation be made in honor of Deb's guide dogs, Perro, Janson and Kudo. (Read more about the donation to [Guide Dogs for the Blind](#).)

Shortly after that, in May of this year, Deb was selected as one of the 25 Women Industry Leaders by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal for her work as a national bankruptcy litigator. In an article written to feature those selected for the Industry Leader honors, Deb noted that people have "attempted to put limits on me that I didn't want on myself." She praised Lommen Abdo, stating that at Lommen Abdo, "It doesn't matter what you look like or where you came from; it matters that you're a good attorney." (Read more about Deb as one of the 25 [Women Industry Leaders](#) and [check out the ad](#) highlighting Deb's bankruptcy practice that ran in the same edition.)

And then in early June, Minneapolis Star Tribune columnist, Jon Tevlin, wrote a column on Deb's achievements entitled: "Great American Success Story Includes a Dog." That article talked about Deb's desire to pay back those who have helped her, including Guide Dogs for the Blind. (Read the [Star Tribune column](#).)



Richard Tsoeng-Taatari, Star Tribune

Deb Swenson and guide dog, Kudo. "He takes his work very seriously and likes to be of service," said Swenson, who likens Kudo to a good lawyer.

After all of this media attention, the organization Guide Dogs for the Blind recently asked her to help them raise visibility and funds by telling her story. And even though the media flurry was just dying down, Deb said "absolutely, I will" and explains that she'd do anything to help Guide Dogs because of the difference each of her three Guide Dogs has made in her life.

All of these articles and tributes say something about Deb: she's intelligent, determined and a force to be reckoned with. In her national litigation practice that often occurs over phone lines and the internet, most adversaries and co-counsel never even know Deb's story. They have no idea that she is legally blind and uses a Guide Dog. And that is exactly how Deb wants it. While honored by the recognition, her real achievement is to be considered for who she is: one heckuva great attorney and a fun-loving colleague!

If you ever need help with a bankruptcy issue, including preference defense, give Deb Swenson a call. You'll see why she received all the accolades she has this year. And why Lommen Abdo is so proud to have her as one of its shareholders.

NOTE: Along with all of the above, Deb Swenson co-authored an article for Upsize Magazine this spring on how to avoid some of the pain when your vendors or other creditors file for bankruptcy. Read the article, [How to Dodge Financial Pain When Others File](#).)

